



# FOUNDATIONS

Relationships –  
Marriage





## Ephesians 5:21-33

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**21** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**22** Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



## Ephesians 5:21-33

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**28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—**30** for we are members of his body. **31** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” **32** This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.



## ***Three words that cause confusion:***

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submit, head, love -

- v22 wives **submit** to your own husband,
- v22 the husband is the **head** of the wife and
- v25 husbands **love** your wives.
- A bit about where I am coming from...



# ***Submit***

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- <sup>22</sup> Wives submit yourselves to your own husband as you do to the Lord... <sup>33</sup> and the wife must respect her husband.
- Nb. No command to obey
- Correct reading: <sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.  
<sup>22</sup> Wives... to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.





# ***Submit***

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- Paul's joining of the words 'submit' with the reciprocal phrase 'one another' is one of the most socially revolutionary linguistically creative teachings of Paul. (Philip Payne )
- Submission is a Christian principle for everyone... including the husband.



# ***Submit***

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Paul's repeated command:

- **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
- Paul describes an attitude not a servitude.
- What does it mean to go beyond what our culture demands?

# *Head*

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- <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the body
- <sup>31</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh.
- These two verses are about *unity* not *authority*
- The '*head*' metaphor... Western versus Eastern



# *Head*

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- 'head' can mean leader if the context allows but more commonly it meant 'origin' or 'life source' e.g. 'head of a river' or in Adam being the 'head' or 'origin' of the human race.
- Better picture - the Genesis 'one flesh' metaphor...
- <sup>33</sup> ...each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself.
- A call for unity and monogamy



# *Love... and sacrifice*

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- **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
  - **28** In this same way, (i.e. the sacrifice of Jesus!) husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
  - Love, love, love...
  - Agape - sacrificial, unconditional, selfless love

# *Love... and sacrifice*

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- Men are called to lead - if they are called to lead their wives in anything - in love.
- *Unselfishly...* <sup>33</sup> However(!), each one of you also must love his wife *as he loves himself*
- *Husbands if your want your wife to respect you more then make sure she knows how much she is loved!*
- Summary: respect not obedience, attitudes not roles, unity not authority, but mostly it's about Christ and the church...



# *Christ and the church*

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**23** ...Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

**24** Now as the church submits to Christ...

**25** ...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

**29** After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— **30** for we are members of his body.

**32** This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.



# *Christ and the church*

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- Wives are called to submit once, husbands to love their wives three times, the church mentioned 6 times!
- Satan hates Christian Marriage because of what it represents.
- Pray for your own marriage and of those that are in the church.



## *Prayer for marriage*

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- Pray for the institution of marriage and all it represents to the world
- Pray for the protection and strengthening of Christian marriage
- Pray for those who are struggling in their marriage relationship
- Rebuke all spiritual attack on marriages in the church