



Eph 5:25–33

Read, the passage below...

Ask the Lord to open your eyes, that you may behold wonderful things from His Word (Ps 119:18), and that you would receive His Word with humility—putting it into practice in your daily life (Jas 1:21–22).

Passage:¹

- 25 ^aHusbands, **love** your wives, just as Christ also **loved** the church and ^b**gave** Himself up for her,
- 26 ^aso that He might **sanctify** her, having ^b**cleansed** her by the ^cwashing of water with ^dthe word,
- 27 that He might ^a**present** to Himself the church ¹in all her glory, **having** no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; **but that** she would be ^b**holy** and blameless.
- 28 So husbands **ought** also to ^a**love** their own wives as their own bodies. He who **loves** his own wife **loves** himself,
- 29 for no one ever **hated** his own flesh, **but nourishes** and **cherishes** it, just as Christ also does the church,
- 30 because we **are** ^amembers of His ^bbody.
- 31 ^a**FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**
- 32 This **mystery is** great; **but I am speaking** with reference to Christ and the church.
- 33 **Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to ^alove his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she ^{1b}respects her husband.**

Context:

According to 5:21, to be Spirit-filled among other things, means being involved in relationships of mutual submission in the fear of the Lord.

Beginning in 5:22, all the way to 6:9, Paul is going to focus on different spheres of relationship in order to flesh out what such lives of mutual submission require

In 5:22, Paul begins with the relationship most central to the family unit, and thus to the church and society as a whole—the relationship between the husband and wife.

In verses 22–24, we saw the role and responsibilities of the wife. Now, in vv25–33, Paul will focus on the role and responsibilities of the husband.

Exploring the Text:

As you answer the following questions, please take the time to read all the **cross references** at the end of the questions. These are provided to enrich your study experience.

1. According to v25, what are the husbands told to do?

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2. According to v25, how was the love of Christ displayed?

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3. Practically, what would this look like in terms of husbands loving their wives?

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4. What can a husband rightfully expect from his wife in light of his sacrificial love for her?

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5. According to v26, what is the goal behind the husband's love?

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6. What is the practical instrument that the husband should use to administer his love to his wife? (26)

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7. What moment is being referred to in v27?

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8. What is one of the practical ways (relevant to this passage) in which Christ carries out this work? (cf. 2Cor 11:2)

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9. In v28, Paul changes the emphasis of his imagery slightly. Complete the following sentence in order to capture the heart behind vv28-30: "When a husband shows love for his wife then..."

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10. What is the implication for husbands who do not love their wives in the way that Christ loves the church?

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11. Do these verses promote the idea that it is good and healthy for Christians to develop a measure of self-love and acceptance? Why, or why not?

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For Further Reflection:

12. Read 1 Pet 3:7. What are the three ways in which Peter says that a husband should express his love for his wife?

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13. What will be the result for husbands who do not love their wives in this way? What is the implication?

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14. What does it mean to live with your wife in an understanding way?

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15. What does it mean/look like to live with your wife "as with someone weaker?" (lit. *as with a weaker vessel*)

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16. Practically what does it look like to show your wife honour? When and where should husbands show honour to their wives?

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Suggestion for Prayer:

Thank the Lord for His design in marriage. Thank God for His perfect love that is ours in Christ. Pray for yourself and also for your spouse that God would transform you into the kind of marriage partner that these verses picture. Pray for your children that God would grant them to wisdom to choose their future marriage partners with wisdom.

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Notes:

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