

Sunnyside Church Study Questions

Series: Made for More

Sermon: Pursue a Spirit-filled marriage (& relationships) | **Date:** 3.8.25

Speaker: Pastor DJ Vick

Ephesians 5:21-33

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^[a] 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. 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.

Questions:

#1. For review, can you recall the 4 key identity statements for us in Christ for Eph. 1:1-14?

Hint: Chosen – Adopted – Redeemed - & Marked

Why are these significant for us to remember?

#2. What role do love and respect play in all the relationships in your life? How are love and respect similar and how are they different? Provide, if possible, an example with those your with.

#3. This passage has three times the content (expectations) for husbands than that of wives. Culturally speaking, in the Greco-Roman world this would have been radical teaching in a man **dominated** society. In summary, what are the instructions to husbands? (vs. 25-33). Please see foot note below of charge to husbands.

#4. This passage has **1/3 less instructions** for wives. In summary, what are the instructions for wives? Please see foot note below insight for wives.

#5. As you read the above passage together what stood out to you (personally)?

IVP Bible Background Commentary

Charge to husbands:

“Although it was assumed that husbands should love their wives, ancient household codes never list love as a husband’s duty; such codes told husbands only to make their wives submit. Although Paul upholds the ancient ideal of wifely submission for his culture, he qualifies it by placing it in the context of mutual submission: husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the *church, by willingly laying down their lives for them.

At the same time that he relates Christianity to the standards of his culture, he subverts his culture’s values by going far beyond them. Both husbands and wives must submit and love (Eph. 5:21).”

IVP Bible Background Commentary:

Insight for wives: “Most ancient writers expected wives to obey their husbands, desiring in them a quiet and meek demeanor; some marriage contracts even stated a requirement for absolute obedience. **This requirement** made sense especially to Greek thinkers, who could not conceive of wives as equals. Age difference contributed to this disparity: husbands were normally older than their wives, often by over a decade in Greek culture (with men frequently marrying around age 30 and women in their teens, often early teens).

In this passage, however, the closest Paul comes to defining submission is “respect” (vs. 33), and in Greek text, wifely submission to a husband (v. 22) is only one example of general submission of Christians (the verb of v. 22 is borrowed directly from v. 21 and thus cannot mean something different).”

“In Christianity, regardless of culture or other religions, it is clear that God values and loves all people equally (certainly: men & women). In other words, it is detestable, in God’s mind, for a husband to regard his wife as property that needs to obey him like her master.” – Pastor DJ Vick