



GETTING STARTED

> *As your group time begins, use this section for very brief review prior to showing the video to help get the conversation going.*

Let's do life together!/Opening Discussion:

Last week in our next steps, you were asked to read *Ephesians 5* and *6*, did anyone do that and what did you get out of the reading? Someone share something special you did with your spouse; if not married, what is something you could do show your love to your future spouse?

Our Subject to Unpack Today: Men, when you love your wife God's way, she will follow you anywhere.

VIDEO NOTES/QUESTIONS

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY / OBSERVATION: *Acts 18* tells of Paul's visit to Ephesus. He stayed there three years. Later, Paul wrote to the Ephesians during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 60-62.

INTERPRETATION: See commentary located on pages 5 and 6.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

1) What are some of the main struggles men and women have in their marriage? Why is it important to have Christ in your marriage?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS / DIGGING DEEPER: From Pastor David - "Men, that's the key to submission...that's the key to having a rich, deep and passionate marriage...that's the type of love for a woman that will compel a wife to submit to her husband. Even when the world says otherwise because, men hear me today, every woman on the planet, IF they had a man in their life who - had the courage and the humility to love them, and serve them, and cherish them, and listen to them, and to put their needs above his own; there is not a woman on the planet who wouldn't follow that type of man & submit to him in the home. Can I get an amen ladies?"

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (cont.)**Look again at *Ephesian 5:22***

2) What does it mean to submit or be subject to?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS / DIGGING DEEPER: From Pastor David - "Submission does not mean that men are to control their wives and just sit around all day ordering them around. Submission is really not about you at all. Instead, submission is all about the wife and her willingness to obey God and to line herself up with God's plan for the family. So submission is not about control."

Read *Galatians 3:28-29* - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Read *John 8:1-11*

3) How did Jesus elevate the status of women? How can we overuse the principle of submission?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS / DIGGING DEEPER: From Pastor David - "So submission does not mean control, submission does not mean that wives are to submit to physical or verbal abuse or that they are to lower their convictions and beliefs and follow their husbands into sin. Submission also doesn't mean that wives are not to express their thoughts or feelings or that they can't have interest outside the home. Submission doesn't mean any of that because all of those things are contrary to what the Bible teaches."

Read *Romans 13:8 - A Great Marriage is a Race to be Last*

4) Do you often feel that your spouse owes you something? What if you looked at your marriage as a competition to submission, where you both race to the end of the line (what does that mean)? What if you both submitted to each other in your marriage?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS / DIGGING DEEPER: Many go into a marriage thinking the other one owes them something and "you must do for me". What if instead, we treated it as a race to see "what I can do for you" and we ran that race with endurance.

Hebrews 12:1-3 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

From Pastor Daniel - "Marriage is not a sprint to personal satisfaction, it is a marathon towards personal sanctification."

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (cont.)**Read / Peter 3:1-18**

5) How can the way we treat our wives hinder or prayer life? How will that affect your marriage?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS / DIGGING DEEPER: According to *1 Peter 3*, there are 5 things that hinder our prayer life: 1) An unharmonious relationship between husband and wife, 2) Selfishness, 3) An unforgiving spirit, 4) Unbelief, and 5) Known sin in the heart.

6) Last question is directed to you men: What is the most important thing in your life (other than Jesus)? Can you love your wife more than that?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS / DIGGING DEEPER: Ask these additional questions - Men, If you loved your wife as the most important thing in your life (other than Jesus), what would you change or do differently? Ladies, If you loved your husband as the most important thing in your life (other than Jesus), what would you change or do differently? What would the picture of your marriage look like?

Pastor Daniel - "Marriage is a picture. Christ is the reality of that picture!"

Gary Thomas - "Marriage is less about your happiness and more about your holiness."

SUMMARY (My Take-Away for This Week)**POSSIBLE SUMMARY:**

- A Great marriage is a race to be last
- A Great marriage is a competition to submission, where you both race to the end of the line
- What do I need to change so my wife/husband would be willing to follow me anywhere?

WORK OUT (This Week's Assignments)

This week I will...

- Work on my "Next Steps" listed below
- Invite someone to my Life Group
- Pray for my Life Group

MY NEXT STEPS FROM THE WEEKEND WORSHIP

1. This week, I will ask the Lord to fill me each day with His Spirit to live out my God-given role in my family.
2. This week, I will ask my spouse the question, "How can I serve you this week?"
3. This week, I will write a mission statement for my life/marriage.
4. This week, I will memorize Ephesians 5:31-32, " 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church."

HOW MY GROUP CAN PRAY FOR ME THIS WEEK

[> Record Group Prayer Request Here:](#)

COMMENTARY

Question 1

Ephesians 5:21-33. Conflict in husband and wife relationships is legendary. It has been going on ever since Adam and Eve baked their first apple pie. A certain amount of it is inevitable. Billy Graham is fond of saying, tongue in cheek, that in a husband-wife relationship, if two people agree on absolutely everything, one of them isn't necessary. Yet conflict is not the measure of a marriage. Love is. We may have fun looking at the foibles of married couples; still we recognize marriage's serious side. The quality of a married person's life is usually measured by the quality of his marriage. If he has a good marriage, he will say he had a good life. If he had a bad marriage, he will say he had a bad life.

A good or bad marriage usually boils down, in the end, to attitude. Certainly, specific problems must be dealt with, but the success in dealing with problems usually is traced back to how badly the couple wanted to solve them. Attitude! It is the basis of everything. If two people have the right attitude toward a marriage, there is nothing they cannot work out by the grace of God. (Max Anders, *Galatians-Colossians*, vol. 8, Holman New Testament Commentary [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999])

Ephesians 5:21 This verse serves as a hinge to connect what is prior with what follows.

5:22 "Submit" directs wives to be submissive to their own husbands (cp. *Col 3:18-4:1*). The distinctive feature here is that the relationship between husband and wife is compared with that between Christ and the church.

5:22-24 Paul addressed wives first. They are to be voluntarily submissive to their husbands. No external coercion should be involved, nor should submission imply that the wife is a lesser partner in the marital union. The submission is governed by the phrase "as to the Lord. A Christian wife's submission to her husband is one aspect of her obedience to Christ." Submission is a person's yielding his or her own rights and losing self for another. Submission is patterned after Christ's example (*Php 2:5-8*) and reflects the essence of the gospel. Submission distinguishes the lifestyle of all Christians.

5:33 "Love ... respect" concludes and restates this section's theme. The husband's ultimate responsibility is to love his wife with a Christlike love. (*CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax [Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017])

Question 2.

Submission: Voluntary placement of oneself under the authority and leadership of another (Gk. *hupotasso*). Submission is taught in the context of various relationships. In divinely ordained relationships, submission enables a unique Christian harmony, based on God's good design.

The Bible's teaching about the submission of wives to husbands begins in Genesis, which declares that God made man in His own image as male and female (*1:27*). The equality of men and women is the necessary foundation from which to begin the discussion of headship and submission in marriage. In the NT *1 Cor. 11:3-10* teaches the headship of the man in marriage and bases this instruction on the creation account. (Randy Stinson, "Submission, Subordination," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* [Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003])

Ephesians 5:22: While the cultural model for marriage in the Graeco-Roman world emphasized male patriarchal leadership, Paul's model is based on mutual love and respect (*Eph 5:28, 33*) and grounded in the OT creation story (v. *31* cites *Gen 2:24*). (John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* [Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016])

COMMENTARY

Questions 3

John 8:1-11. The Pharisees posed a dilemma. If Jesus agreed to stone the woman, he would incur the distrust of the sinners he came to save as well as break Roman law. But a refusal to stone her would make him vulnerable to the accusation that he treated the Law of Moses lightly. It is a sad commentary on the culture of first-century Israel that they brought in the woman but no mention is made of the man. The sin of adultery and its handmaiden, divorce, represent almost the norm in modern America. But at least in our day we recognize mutuality of responsibility. (Kenneth O. Gangel, *John*, vol. 4, Holman New Testament Commentary [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000])

Question 4.

Romans 13:8. Paul's overall emphasis in this chapter is to live submissively as living sacrifices in light of the coming end of the age. If there is a key word in *verses 1-7* it is "submit" (vv. 1, 5), which contains within it the range of words such as "honor," "respect," and "obey." When it comes to one's fellowman. Paul draws upon a range of words found in the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments given by God to Israel through Moses. He summarizes all those words in the operative word love.

Love (and its attendant synonyms) is the one sanctioned unpaid debt. Indeed, it is a debt that cannot be paid; it is a continuing debt. While it appears that Paul's words are church-related, his use of "fellowman" seems to broaden the intent of his instruction. In light of the previous verses dealing with society and governance at large, it would seem his focus is still on the wider scope of Christian responsibility. It is not Christian to love fellow church members while hating a pagan neighbor.

There is a certain paradox in Paul's words: in order to get out of debt to the law we have to go into debt to love—we fulfill the law when we love. The difference is a liberating one. Instead of focusing on what we could never do (perfectly meet the demands of the law), we are freed to focus on what we can always do (love one another). Kenneth Boa and William Kruidenier, *Romans*, vol. 6, Holman New Testament Commentary [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000])

Question 5.

1 Peter 3: 5-6. The most important comment in the verse is that these women "put their hope in God" (*hai elpizousai eis theon*). This comment is instructive, for it informs us that these women did not submit to their husbands because they believed their husbands were superior to them intellectually or spiritually. They submitted to their husbands because they were confident that God would reward all those who put their trust in him. A major theme of *1 Peter* is sounded here, for the eschatological hope brings consolation in persecution (1:3-9), and believers are to set their hope completely on the future revelation of Jesus Christ (1:13; cf. also 1:21; 3:15)

1 Peter 3:7. Husbands should honor their wives because they are coheirs of the eschatological gift of life. The seriousness of bestowing honor upon one's wife is evident, in that husbands who refuse to do so will find that their prayers are hindered.

Men should honor women because they share the same destiny—an eternal inheritance in God's kingdom. Any suggestion that women will receive a lesser reward is repudiated. The "life" in the phrase "gift of life" should be understood eschatologically (cf. 3:10), referring to the life that will be ours in the coming age. Husbands who ignore such a command will find that their prayers are hindered, which means that God will refuse to answer their prayers. God does not bless with his favor those who are in positions of authority and abuse those who are under them by mistreating them. Perhaps this verse anticipates v. 12, where the Lord attends to the prayers of the righteous but turns away from those who practice evil. (Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, The New American Commentary [Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003])

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