

### III. God's Plan for Spouses

#### I. Review:

Ephesians 5:21 <sup>21</sup> **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

18. To whom is Paul speaking?  
 What does submit mean?  
 Why do it?

**John 13:12-17** <sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. <sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

**Mark 10:42-45** <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

#### I. A word to wives

<sup>22</sup> **Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.**

1. Who is addressed?
2. What are they to do? Submit as to the Lord.
3. Who is to do this?
4. Why?
5. How is this ?
6. What does the word *your* emphasize in the sentence?

<sup>23</sup> **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.**

7. What is another point God adds to reveal why a wife wants to do this?

*As the church submits to Christ and worships him, he gives his church infinitely more than the church has ever given him.*

8. T or F It is easy to submit to Christ. It is difficult (at times?) to submit to my husband.

<sup>24</sup> **Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**

9. When will a wife not submit to her husband?
10. Without completely saying it, Paul helps us understand the way Jesus deserves and desires to be served. What would be disgraceful to Christ?

**II. A word to husbands**

**<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her**

11. The word for love is the highest word Paul can choose. Why would he select that particular one?

12. To what lengths will this kind of love go?

13. Even outside of Christianity, why should it be surprising when husbands don't love their wives?

14. Paul doesn't tell husbands, "Be heads." He does tell them, "Love your wives." Paul does not tell wives, "Love your husbands." He does tell them to submit and to respect their husbands. What are reasons for the commands being given this way?

15. Is it ever appropriate for the husband to say to his wife, "You are to submit to me?" Or, is it ever understandable for a wife to say to her husband, "You are to love me"?

**<sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,**

16. This verse is talking about baptism. What does our baptism have to do with what God is directing men to do?

**<sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**

17. Because of Jesus' selfless love, what does the church have?  
What doesn't the church have?

18. What did Jesus' love make the church?

**<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

19. Paul really had been caught up in describing Christ's love. Now he makes an application: Loving your wife is really loving yourself. How is this true? Then when does it mean when a husband mistreats his wife?

**<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—<sup>30</sup> for we are members of his 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."**

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

**<sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**