

The Truth About Our Life in Christ

A Study in the Book of Ephesians

“In Christ” At Home: Husbands and Wives

Ephesians 5:22-33

Study Questions

Opening Discussion

1. The most recent statistics indicate that marriages of believers are falling apart at the same rate as marriages between unbelievers. Why do you think this is true?
2. The various biblical roles at home are designed by God to teach us about Himself. If you grew up in a home where the biblical roles were carried out, you likely learned a right view of God. If you grew up in a home where biblical roles were not carried out, you may have learned a warped view of God. How do you think your home life has affected your view of God?
3. (For those who are married) Describe what you consider to be the traditional roles of a husband and wife. Are these traditional roles necessarily biblical roles? What may happen when we confuse the two?
4. (For those who are single) In what practical ways can a text like Ephesians 5:22-33 apply to you as a single person? Brainstorm some ideas.

Bible Study

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. (Verse 21 is a transition verse that continues to define the submission of a Spirit-filled person.)
2. Paul states that the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. What have we learned about Christ as the head of the church in Ephesians so far?

Have you thought of Christ's headship over you as a negative or positive thing in our study of Ephesians? Why?

3. Read I Timothy 2:11-13 and I Corinthians 11:7-10. What is the biblical basis for headship, according to these passages? How does this address those who say headship was merely a cultural thing? Notice also I Corinthians 11:3. Given that verse, could headship reflect any inequality?
4. How has Christ loved the church according to our study in Ephesians? What, then, does it mean to love as Christ loved the church?
5. How would you define headship and submission according to what we've learned in our Ephesians study?

6. In a home where biblical roles are followed, children learn in concrete ways how Christ loves His church and how the church is to respond to that love in submission. How does this line up with your experience growing up? How has your experience affected your view of Christ's love for us and our obedience and submission to Him?

(For marrieds) What are you currently teaching your children about Christ's love for us, and our submission to Him, through how you are responding to your spouse?

7. Notice 5:31-32. Verse 32 is a quote from Genesis 2:24. Compare with I Corinthians 6:16,17. Notice again the emphasis on how the sexual union ("one flesh") in marriage is a picture of the intimacy God wants with us or Christ with His church.

(For marrieds): What does God want you to learn about Himself from your marriage and your marriage partner?

(For singles): Marriage roles and the sexual union is a picture of the relationship Christ desires with us. As a single person you are not experiencing this picture, but you do have complete access to the fulfillment of this picture in a relationship with Christ. Longing for the picture more than the fulfillment would be like talking and staring at a picture of a friend, instead of going to see that friend. Rather than dismissing this passage as not relevant to your situation, how might you learn more about Christ's love for us and our response of submission to Him as a single person?

Application

1. Summarize the biblical role of a husband and wife according to the book of Ephesians.
2. (For marrieds) Evaluate how you are doing on a scale of 1-5 in fulfilling your biblical role. What 1 thing can you do this week to improve?
3. (For marrieds and singles) Evaluate your submission to Christ. Is there any area of your life you are holding back? If there is, that indicates you are holding a wrong belief about Christ and His love for you. The truth about Jesus should set us free to totally submit to Him. Given your definition of what the biblical roles should be, try to identify what incorrect view of God you may hold from your experiences that keeps you from total submission to Christ.