

## Ephesians

### Lesson #21, Chapter 5:22-33

Stop. Pray. Begin.

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 is tightly linked to the preceding verses. Briefly list the main thoughts from 5:1-21.
2. After Paul's general statement that all believers are to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ, Paul provides extra teaching for wives. What does he tell them they need to do (verse 22)?
3. Define *subject* (ESV, KJV, NIV *submit* [Strong's #5293]).
4. List what you learn from the following Scriptures about *submission*. Be sure to note who is to submit and any specific guidelines for submission. See Luke 2:51; Rom. 13:1; Ephesians 5:21; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5, 9; 3:1; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13, 18; 3:1, 5; 5:5.
5. What do the phrases, *to your own husbands* and *as to the Lord*, teach you about a wife's submission from Ephesians 5:22?
6. What is the husband/wife relationship compared to in verses 23-24?

7. From verses 23-24, list any specifics you learn about the relationship of which husbands and wives are compared.
  
8. What do your observations from verses 23-24 teach you about God's plan for the marriage relationship?
  
9. If you are married, consider how and in what manner *you* submit to *your* husband. Are there any areas you need to work on? If you are feeling really brave, ask your husband if he thinks there are any areas you need to work on.
  
10. If you are not married, what are some ways you can encourage married friends to give glory to God in submitting to their husbands? What are some ways you can practice submission, just as Jesus did?
  
11. Why is it good for all believers to practice submission?
  
12. In the Spirit-filled life, husbands also receive exhortations about their role in the marriage relationship. What are the husbands commanded to do in verse 25?
  
13. Paul cites Jesus as a husband's example for loving his wife. List what you learn about Jesus's example of loving from verses 25-27.



21. The Amplified Bible expounds on verse 33 in this way: *However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly.* If you are married, consider how you “respect” your husband. Is your respect for him to the level that this verse reveals? What are some specific ways you can implement some of these ideas this week?
- a. If you are not married, what does this verse teach you about the focus and commitment needed in the marriage relationship, especially in light of 1 Cor. 7:32-35?
22. There may be some of you whose husband does not love you as himself and you find it extremely difficult to respect your husband. God has some words of encouragement and help for you too. What do you learn from the following verses? See 1 Pet. 3:1-6, now read 1 Pet. 2:21-25. See also Ps. 103:13-14; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 5:7-11; 1 Pet. 5:6-7.

“I wouldn’t give up my Katie for France or Venice—first, because God gave her to me and gave me to her; second, because I have often observed that other women have more shortcomings than my Katie (although she too has some shortcomings, they are outweighed by many great virtues); and third, because she keeps faith in marriage, that is, fidelity and respect.” ~Martin Luther<sup>1</sup>

As God by creation made two of one, so again by marriage He made one of two. ~Thomas Adams<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Heritage of Great Evangelical Teaching: Featuring the Best of Martin Luther, John Wesley, Dwight L. Moody, C.H. Spurgeon and Others.* 1997, c1996. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup>Adams, Thomas. *A Puritan Golden Treasury.* Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989. 178.

“To My Dear and Loving Husband”  
by Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672),  
wife of Gov. Simon Bradstreet

If ever two were one, then surely we.  
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;  
If ever wife was happy in a man,  
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.  
I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold  
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.  
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,  
Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.  
Thy love is such I can no way repay,  
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.  
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere  
That when we live no more, we may live ever.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Bradstreet, Anne. “Anne Bradstreet.” Wikipedia: the Free Encyclopedia. 8 Nov. 2006  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne\\_Bradstreet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Bradstreet)>.