

2. Husband to his wife: *His body is his wife!* Remember, as we were made members of the body of Christ through baptism, *so a man and a woman become one flesh through marriage!* Therefore, **as** Christ showed extraordinary love for His body, *the Church*, **so** a husband – *out of reverence for Christ* – is called to show extraordinary love for his body, *thus his wife!*

Summary Statements

1. ³¹ **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast [be faithfully devoted] to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”** // God is calling us to think about unity:
- The ONE body of Christ, *which includes Christ and all believers!*
 - The ONE body of marriage, *thus ONE flesh, which includes a husband and his wife!*
2. ³² **This mystery is profound [great, deep], and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.** // So *one flesh in marriage* is easier to understand than *the deep and eternal relationship between Christ and the Church!*
3. ³³ **However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.** // As ones who are saved through Jesus,

let us believe, practice, and benefit from God’s Holy Word!

Conclusion

Wives are to submit; *husbands* are to love. However, many take this *negative* attitude: I will submit *as much as he loves* OR I will love *as much as she submits*.

Dearly beloved, that attitude is *not* God’s design for your marriage! Instead, God calls *each person*, *guided by His Word* and *empowered by His Spirit*, to do his or her own part – *regardless of the other person*. Doing so honors God and His Word!

Here is a more practical reason: As Christian wives *completely* submit, so Christian husbands will be *encouraged* to completely love AND as Christian husbands *completely* love, so Christian wives will be *encouraged* to completely submit!

May the Triune God transform every marriage into a one flesh relationship that knows and follow His wonderful design!

Pastor Green

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Husbands & Wives

God’s Design for Relationships

Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV

Introduction

Dear friends in Christ: How are YOUR relationships doing? We all have many... *between us and God*, *within the congregation to which we belong*, *between husband and wife*, etc. When we proceed in our relationships according to our **old sinful nature**, *they tend to be a mess*; for example: *“wives seek to rule their husbands and refuse [to lovingly submit]; husbands tyrannize their wives often to the point of enslaving them”* (Lenski, 628).


This brochure:

- ✓ It is for those who are in possession of God’s gift of eternal life, *which we have freely received by grace through faith in Jesus!*


- ## Four Things

- One of the four is **from Christ to us**; *it is certain because Christ has already fully accomplished it!*
- The other three are **commanded of us**, *but they are uncertain*: Will we do them or will we sin against God?

- Christ is the head →
- All believers are the body →



- The husband is the head →
- The wife is the body →



The Church to Christ

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A Wife to Her Husband

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22 Wives, submit to [volunteer to obey] your own husbands, as to the Lord. [Why?] ²³ For [Because] the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to [willingly obeys] Christ, so also wives should submit [willingly obey] in everything to their husbands.

1. Christ to His body: His body is the Church; in other words, *all believers*. He is not only the head of His body, *but also the Savior of His body!*
2. Wife to her husband: Her head is her husband; the Bible says “*that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God*” (1 Cor. 11:1 ESV). Therefore, **as** believers – *out of reverence for Christ* – should, *in everything*, willingly obey their head *who is Christ*, **so** a wife – *out of reverence for Christ* – should, *in everything*, willingly obey her head *who is her husband*. That is GOD’S DESIGN, *so let us be certain that His ways are truly best!*

Christ to the Church

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A Husband to His Wife

[illegible]

25 Husbands, love [be loyal to, highly regard] **your wives, as Christ loved the church** [all believers, they are His bride] **and gave himself up for** [on behalf of] **her,** ²⁶ **that he might sanctify her** [make her holy], **having cleansed her by the washing of [the] water with the word** [baptism], ²⁷ **so that he might present the church** [all believers] **to himself in splendor** [glory, wonder], **without spot** [stain, blemish] **or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.** ²⁸ **In the same way husbands should love** [ἀγαπᾶν] **their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.** ²⁹ **For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,** ³⁰ **because we are members of his body.**

3. Christ to His body: If we make an honest comparison between us and God's Word, *we will surely admit that we are all filthy sinners* 😊. Since that is true, Christ took radical action to live, suffer, and die for us! Then, *through Holy Baptism*, we were clothed with the righteous life of Christ. In other words, Christ, *our head*, demonstrated great love for us, *His body*!