

## *Ephesians: Love & Submission in Marriage*

*Ephesians 5:21-33*

### **Submission**

- When understood biblically, it's an expression of love
- ὑποτάσσω (*hypotassō*): a Greek military term meaning “to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader”
  - In non-military use, “a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.”

### **God's Plan for Marriage (Gen 2:20b-24)**

- God created men & women to complement one another
  - Eve was made to be a “helper” for Adam
  - This is not to say she is of lesser value
    - The term is almost always used to refer to God Himself (Ex 18:4; Dt 33:7, 26, 29; Ps 9:9; 10:14; 17:2; 30:10; 40:17; 46:1; 62:8; 70:5; 71:7; 72:12; 77:35; 115:9-11; 118:17; 119:114; 146:5; Heb 13:6)
- It is in this context that Paul speaks (Eph 5:31)

### **Wives (5:22-33)**

- Wives are called to submit to their husbands
  - As if submitting to the Lord
    - Thus, there is an understanding that the husband is submitting to the Lord
    - It is based on an understanding of Christ's leadership role over the church
- Love is shown through respect (v. 33b)
  - Expressed in support of your husband

### **Husbands (5:22-33)**

- Husbands are called to love their wives, just like Christ loves the Church
  - Committing Himself to our needs
- Husbands, we are called to lay down our lives for our wives
  - Putting their needs before ours
  - Serving them in love like Jesus serves us

### **So What?**

- Christian marriage is meant to reflect the mysterious love between Christ and the Church
  - How we love our spouses displays to the world the love of God
- Are we reading our “own mail”?
  - Wives, how are you supporting your husbands?
  - Husbands, how are you serving your wives?

**Meditation Verse:** *Ephesians 5:21*