

**Small Group Lesson – Week of March 27, 2022**  
**Mutually Submitted Part 2 (Ephesians 5:25-33)**

**Introduction:**

If you are married and were counseling a young couple for marriage, what would you tell them is the biggest surprise you've experienced in marriage thus far?

Are there any marriages you look up to or admire? What is it about those marriages that makes them admirable?

**Ephesians 5:25-33**

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, **love your wives**, just **as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[a]</sup> her by the washing with water through the word, <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. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, **husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, 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>[b]</sup> <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.*

**Going Deeper Study Questions:**

- Is this passage teaching about marriage or about the church? Or both? (v.32) Why is marriage, and especially the role of the husband so important to Jesus?
- Is this role of the husband describing his headship or submission? Or both?
- What did Paul intend husbands to think and do in v.25? Husbands, on a scale of 1 to 10 rate yourself on how you measure up to this.
- Why did Jesus do what He did (v.v. 26-27)? How can/should a husband do this same thing? List some intentional steps that would be necessary for a husband to do this.
- If you are a young man or unmarried, what are you doing, or what will you do to obey: v.v. 26-27?
- Why do you think Paul says what he does about a man's body? How could/should a husband apply this?
- How would a husband know if he is loving his wife “as himself”? How would a wife know if she is respecting her husband?

### **Application Questions:**

- How are you challenged to treat your spouse with more respect and love this week?
- What elements do you believe are vital to a good, godly marriage? Which of these needs the most attention in your marriage? What is something you can do to focus on it this week?
- Does biblical marital love involve romantic feelings? If so, how can it be commanded? How can lost feelings be rekindled?
- Paul's description of marriage in this passage centers around the idea of mutual submission. What are some of the biggest obstacles to biblical submission that exist in our marriages today?

### **Pray for One Another:**

- Pray for your marriage and the marriages of the other couples in your small group.
- Pray for specific areas of marital conflict to be resolved biblically.
- Pray that your marriage will be a positive influence on others.

### **Assignment:**

- Commit to praying as a couple every day this week.
- Think of a man you can pray for and be victorious in applying this Scripture passage.
- If you need assistance with your marriage, please reach out to a trusted Christian friend or seek out one of CFC's elders/pastors.