



## THE MARRIAGE MYSTERY DESIGN

Ephesians 5:22-33

**READ THE TEXT** - What phrases, words, or instructions stick out to you?

### THE WIFE (vv. 22-24)

1. What are some words you would use to describe a wife's role in relation to her husband?
2. What does "submit" mean in this context? How has the biblical idea of submission been abused? How has it been neglected?
  - Share what was going wrong in these situations, and how a healthy understanding of biblical submission would have helped.
3. What is the foundational basis for a wife's submission to her husband? Is this a difficult task? Why or why not?

### THE HUSBAND (vv. 25-33)

1. How would you describe a husband's role in relation to his wife?
2. How is a husband called to "love his wife" according to these verses? Read 1 Peter 3:7. What is the warning given to husbands who fail to love their wives and live with them in an understanding way?
  - How would a wife's understanding of her husband's role (as defined by Scripture) impact her in a struggle to submit to her husband?
3. According to verses 28-30, what role is the husband called to mirror? Is this a difficult task? Why or why not?

### THE LORD (vv. 22-33)

1. How does Christ model true leadership? How should this affect a couple's trust when things are difficult in a marriage?
2. How does Jesus display perfect submission to the Father? How was Jesus's submission on earth different than a wife's submission to her husband?
3. Reread verse 26-27. How has Christ lived out this verse for us? How did Christ do this for his Church in ways that are different than what a husband is able to do for his wife?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. What is a wife?
2. How is the wife different than a husband?
3. Think of some married couples you know who love Jesus. How do they act toward each other? What ways do they show their love for Jesus to each other and to others?

## **APPLICATION**

1. Find a dedicated time each day this week to pray for marriages. Pray:
  - For those around you who are married, that God would be the center of their marriage
  - For those who desire marriage, that God would answer this desire according to his goodness, wisdom, and sovereignty. Pray also that these individuals would find ultimate contentment in Christ.
2. Make a list of the areas in which you are called to submit (Ex. work, church, etc.). Ask your spouse or a close friend to help you follow Ephesians 5:21, which calls us to “[submit] to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

**For additional Marriage Mystery Discussion Guide content & resources, visit [yourchurch.com/marriagemystery](http://yourchurch.com/marriagemystery).**