

Family: Investing in Something That Lasts | Part 3

Lesson 5

Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7

May 5, 2024

A Home Where Children Can Thrive

INTRODUCTION

We see in Ephesians 5:21 that the foundation of a marriage is mutual submission to each other in Christ. In other words, it is respecting and listening to one another as if respecting and listening to Christ. This sometimes means obedience, but it does not mean blind obedience. It's a voluntary position and demonstrates equality of each spouse's worth and value in the marriage and in the entirety of the body of Christ.

We live in a universe ordered by God. God has authority over man. Man has authority over nature. A husband leads his wife and household, and parents have authority over their children. Mutual submission is needed to maintain the health and unity of a marriage (Ephesians 5:31-33).

Husbands and wives need this oneness to work together (such as in a three-legged race) to succeed in marriage and create a home for their children that is Christ-centered and filled with truth, love, joy, grace, peace, service, Bible study, and prayer. Both Apostles Paul and Peter addressed the issue of submission and its importance for Christian households. Let's find out what they had to say.

Memory verse: "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."—Ephesians 5:33

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. To whom shall wives submit themselves?
(Ephesians 5:21-22; 1 Peter 3:1)
2. How should husbands love their wives?
(Ephesians 5:25)
3. What does one (typically) do for his/her own body that Christ does for the church? (Ephesians 5:29)
4. How might unbelieving (or disobedient) husbands be won over by believing wives? (1 Peter 3:1-4)
5. How should a husband treat his wife? (1 Peter 3:7)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. What do you think it means to submit? (1 Samuel 16:7; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 2:21-24)

2. What do you think it means that a husband should give himself up for his wife? (John 13:34, 15:12-13; Ephesians 5:28-29)

3. What does it mean that Christ feeds and cares (Ephesians 5:29) for the church? (Psalm 119:160; Ephesians 4:2-3, 11-13, 15-16)

4. Do you think that a believing wife should submit to her unbelieving (or disobedient) husband? Why or why not? (Genesis 12:10-20; Acts 5:9, 29; Colossians 3:25)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. How have you observed (or experienced) a wife submitting, or not submitting, to her husband? How do you think this affected their relationship and their children?

2. How have you observed (or experienced) a husband giving himself up, or not giving himself up, for his wife? How do you think this affected their relationship and their children?

3. How does what you've learned in this lesson encourage you to follow Jesus and contribute to the feeding and care of your family and the church?