

HUSBANDS AND WIVES, CHRIST AND THE CHURCH
EPH. 5:21-33

Introduction:

- A. There is an order to everything.
 - 1. God is a God of order, not chaos.
 - 2. There is order in the physical.
 - 3. There is order in the meta physical.
 - 4. There is also a social order.

- B. The order of human relationships or the social order.
 - 1. I Cor. 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God."
 - 2. head = kephale - the head of man or beast, the head or chief part of anything.
 - 3. God made man. Gen. 2:7.
 - 4. God made woman of man. Gen. 2:21-24.
 - 5. God made the woman subject to the man. Gen. 3:16.
 - 6. Children obedient to parents.

- C. Many times God uses physical things to illustrate spiritual truths.
 - 1. "I am the vine, ye are the branches."
 - 2. "As a mother her doth gather her brood."

- D. Sometimes God uses social phenomena to illustrate spiritual truth.
 - 1. "Our Father which art in heaven."
 - 2. "For ye are all children of God by faith."
 - 3. This is what Paul does at this point in his letter to the Ephesians. v32

- E. This divine order or ranking is to be achieved by voluntarily seeking one's place. v21.
 - 1. submitting = hupotassomai - to line one's self up under, to submit, Used in a military sense of

soldiers submitting to their superiors or slaves submitting to their masters. The word has primarily the idea of giving up one's own right or will.

F. In the church, the husband and wife are an illustration of Christ and the church. v32

1. If the wife usurps authority and begins to boss the husband, this divine picture is distorted.

Illustration: An absurd girl may hate her father and thus find it difficult to think of God as loving & caring.

Illustration: Moses distorted spiritual truth by striking the rock.

I. THE WIFE'S SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND IS A PICTURE OF THE CHURCH'S SUBMISSION TO CHRIST. V22-24

A. "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

1. submit - (see above).
2. own = idiois = andrasin.
3. This "own" may indicate that some wives were being subject to other men in the church but not to their "own" husbands.
4. "as you do to the Lord."

B. Why should the wife be subject to her own husband?

1. The man got here first! I Tim. 2:12-14
 - a. "For Adam was first formed, then Eve."
2. v23-24.
3. This presents a true picture.
 - a. Christ is head of the church and the Savior of the body.
 - b. The church is subject to Christ.
4. Saviour = soter - deliverer, preserver.

II. THE HUSBAND'S LOVE IS A PICTURE OF CHRIST'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH. V25-33

- A. "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it."
 - 1. husbands, love your wives."
 - 2. Christ loved the church."

- B. v25, Christ gave His body for the church that He might have a body on earth.
 - 1. v26, He sanctified and cleansed it.
 - a. sanctify - agiazo - to make holy, to set apart.
 - b. cleanse = katharizo - to cleanse.
 - c. washing = loutron - bath, water/word.
 - d. "ye are clean through the Word."
 - 2. The kind of body he presented to himself.
 - a. present = paristemi - to cause to stand nearby, exhibit, to place near by.
 - b. to Himself = glorious = endoksos.
 - c. spot = spilos - fleck, stain.
 - d. wrinkle = ruti - fold on the face.
 - e. without blemish = amomos - blameless.
 - 3. Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. v28
 - a. ought - opheilo - to owe someone a debt, to be obligated.
 - 4. No one hates their own flesh. v29
 - a. nourish - ektrephei - to nourish children to maturity, leading to a goal.
 - b. cherish = thalpei - to show affection and tender love.
 - c. This is the way Christ loves His own body.
 - 5. The church is His body. v30
 - a. members = melos - a limb or member of a body.
 - b. body = soma - the body as a whole.

III. THEY TWO SHALL BE ONE FLESH. V31

- A. It is the desire of man. v31
 - 1. "for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife."

- a. cause = anti toutou - for this cause, denoting the principle or reason.
- b. leave = kataleipo - to quit wholly, utterly forsake.
- c. joined = proskollao - to glue one thing to another, to become united with anyone.

B. It is a mystery. v32

1. "this is a great mystery."
 - a. mystery = musterion - "That which is incapable of discovery by human wisdom but is revealed by God."
 - b. This is a great truth hitherto kept secret."
2. "but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
 - a. "But I am speaking of something deeper still, the relationship of Christ and the church."

IV. THE IMPORTANT TRUTH TO LEARN. V33

A. "nevertheless."

1. plen = in any case, however. The word is used for breaking off discussion and emphasizing what is important."
2. The important thing is to maintain a scriptural relationship as husband and wife.

B. "let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself."

1. particular = kata ena ekastos = each of you individually.
2. Showing love for "sisters" is not sufficient.

C. "and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

1. reverence = phobeomai = to show respect.
2. Respecting, "brothers" is not sufficient.

V. SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

- A. The relationship of a man and his wife is symbolic of the relationship that exists between Christ and the church.
- B. This relationship has to do primarily with the "headship" of Christ and the "submission" of the church.
- C. When a woman (wife) is not submissive to her own husband the truth is distorted.
- D. When a man (husband) does not display fervent love for his wife the truth is distorted.
- E. A man (husband) and wife should live the perfect union in order to show the perfect union of Christ and His church.
- F. The church, this church, each church, is in a figure the Bride of Christ.

