

- Jesus loved the church and showed it by making the members of the church holy.
- The word 'holy' here means to set apart to be God's sole possession.
- The wife is to 'submit', the husband is to 'love'. Does this suggest that the husband's aim is to build up his wife?
- How can the husband help the wife to be 'Holy'?
- What really showed you that Jesus loves you?
- Men, How could you demonstrate that attitude to your wife?

“He and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies...”

Ephesians 5:27,28

- Jesus aims to present the church, His body, to himself, as something beautiful.
- Husbands are to aim for the same thing :- to present his wife to Jesus as holy and blameless
- How would a husband learn to do that?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 39

HUSBANDS AND WIVES

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Ephesians 5:21

- The basic relationship of all Christians is to submit to each other.
- The background to this is that there is to be no superiority in the church.
- The reason for such submission is out of our reverence for Christ
- Does submission to Christ involve obeying Jesus in all areas of life? Could you give some examples of how we submit to Jesus?

“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:22

- The word 'submit' is actually not in the verse, it is carried on from the previous verse. It tells us that the same kind of submission we all have to each other is the kind of submission wives should have to their husbands.
- 'As to the Lord' suggests the idea of a legally binding contract of marriage made in heaven.
- The submission is that in obeying her husband the wife is obeying the Lord.
- The submission does not suggest that the woman is in any way inferior to the husband. Why? Because her submission is to our Lord.
- Does this mean that there is a strong call for the husband to be a Christian?

“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.”

Ephesians 5:23

- The husband is the head of the wife.
- He is to be the same kind of head as Jesus is the head of the Church.

- How does Jesus get to be the Saviour of the Church, which He describes as His body?

“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

Ephesians 5:24

- All of the Church is to submit to Jesus.
- We are to submit to Christ in everything.
- Wives are to submit to their husbands just as much as the Church, and her husband, is to submit to Jesus.
- In what ways do we submit to Jesus? Why do we submit to Jesus?
- As we submit to Christ how does He treat us?

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.”

Ephesians 5:25,26

- Husbands are to love their wives just as much as Jesus loved the church.