

The Mystery of Marriage > Ephesians 5:22-33

5:22-24 *The challenge for wives.* Clear away all of what our culture says and hear what the Lord says: submission to your husband is a picture of how the church responds to Christ!

5:25-30 *The challenge for husbands.* Men: your authority is not for yourself or about yourself. Instead, it has been delegated from the Lord, and it looks like responsibility and sacrifice in the same pattern as how Jesus died, cares for, and nourishes His church. Your love for your wife is to be of the same kind and pattern as Christ!

5:31-33 *The joy for us all.* Together, husbands and wives are called to reveal a deep truth in their marriage: they are to show a picture of Christ's love for His church. In this, marriage is all about Jesus and His gospel.

The Point: Chapter 5 has called all Christians to be imitators of God and to walk in love and wisdom; one way we do that is by displaying Christ's love for His church in marriage.

Prayer: Lord, these verses are so often dismissed or undermined – but we don't want to be a part of ignoring what you say is best! Help us to believe your words and ways. Help us to then live according to Your pattern, that we would glorify you and have greater joy in Jesus as a result.

Application: Believe and hold to what God says, not to what our culture says. Wives: will you trust the Lord's plan more than what our world tells you? Husbands: will you believe that God's way is better than what our world offers?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
