

Biblical Pattern for Marriage

Christ and the Church

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians Theme: The Eternal Plan of God

Ephesians Outline

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| I. Position of the Christian | Ephesians 1-3 |
| II. Practice of the Christian | Ephesians 4-6 |

Ephesians Theme Verse: Ephesians 4:1 - ¹Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called

Passage Theme Statement: The biblical model for the marriage relationship is Christ and His Church. Just as the Church is subject to Christ, so the wife is to be subject to her own husband. And just as Christ loved the Church to the point of dying for her salvation, so the husband is to unconditionally love his own wife.

Passage Key Verse

Ephesians 5:32–33 - ³²This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

³³Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

How to walk in the Christian Life

Ephesians 4:1 - ¹Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk** in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Ephesians 4:17 - ¹⁷So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you **walk** no longer just as the Gentiles also **walk**, in the futility of their mind,

Ephesians 5:2 - ²and **walk** in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:8 - ⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk** as children of Light

Ephesians 5:15 - ¹⁵Therefore be careful how you **walk**, not as unwise men but as wise.

Beginning Bookend - Ephesians 5:15–16 - ¹⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because **the days are evil.**

1. Wives to Husbands and Husbands to Wives
2. Children to Parents and Parents to Children
3. Slaves to Masters and Masters to Slaves

Ending Bookend - ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil**

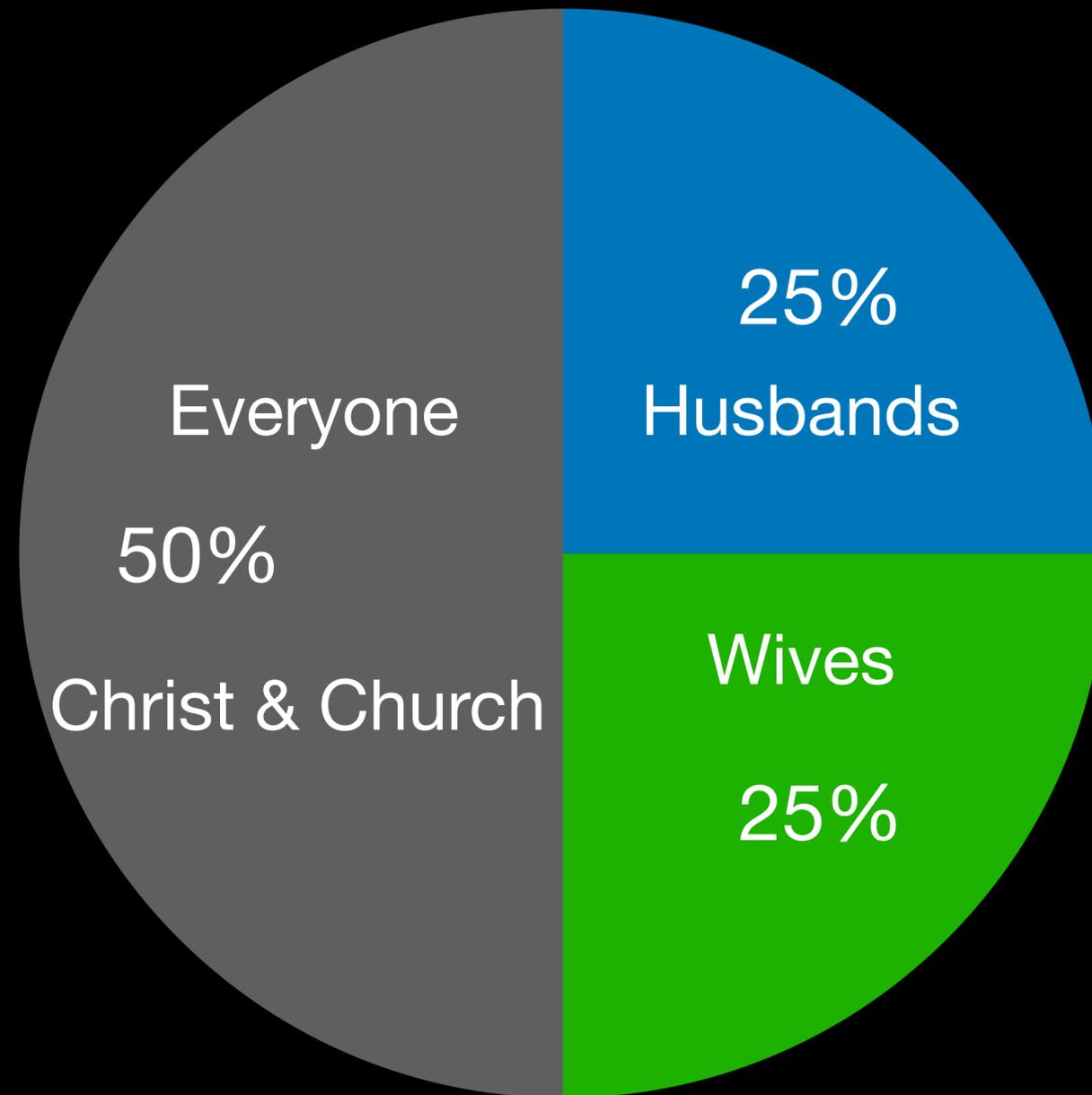


John MacArthur wrote - “Among the worst tragedies of our day is the progressive death of the family as it has been traditionally known. Marital infidelity, exaltation of sexual sin, homosexuality, abortion, women’s liberation, delinquency, and the sexual revolution in general have all contributed to the family’s demise. Each one is a strand in the cord that is rapidly strangling marriage and the family.”

“Yet confusion about God’s standard for marriage and the family has found its way even into the church. A generation ago only one in every five hundred couples in the church got a divorce. Today the divorce rate in the church is many times that figure and becoming worse, and the church must deal with the problem in its own midst before it can give effective counsel to the world.”

● Husband ● Wife ● Christ/Church

Ephesians 5:22-33



I. The first command - Wives *be subject* to your own husbands as to the Lord
Ephesians 5:22-24

“The idea of headship and submission never began (now you got to put on your thinking cap. Let me read that again. The idea of headship and submission never began). It has always existed in the eternal nature of God Himself. And in this most basic of all authority relationships, authority is not based on gifts or ability. It's just there. The relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one of leadership and authority on the one hand and voluntary, willing, joyful submission to that authority on the other hand. [Grudem goes on to say] We can learn from this that submission to a rightful authority is a noble virtue. It is a privilege. It is good and desirable. It is the virtue that has been demonstrated by the eternal Son of God forever. It is His glory, the glory of the Son as He relates to His Father.”



Wayne Grudem

Another Authority Structure Christ over the Church

Ephesians 1:22–23 - ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:18 - ¹⁸He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

I. The first command - Wives be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord
Ephesians 5:22-24

A. Fact - The husband is the head of the wife like Christ is head of the church -
v. 23

B. Action - The wife is to submit to her husband like the Church submits to Christ
v. 24

II. The 2nd command Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church Ephesians 5:25-32

A. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sacrificial Love - v. 25

John 3:16 - ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Romans 5:6–8 - ⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

II. The 2nd command Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church Ephesians 5:25-32

A. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sacrificial Love - v. 25

B. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sanctifying Love - v. 26-27

John 17:17 - ¹⁷"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1 Corinthians 6:11 - ¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 10:10 - ¹⁰By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

II. The 2nd command Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church Ephesians 5:25-32

- A. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sacrificial Love - v. 25
- B. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sanctifying Love - v. 26-27



“When a husband’s love for his wife is like Christ’s love for His church, he will continually seek to help purify her from any sort of defilement. He will seek to protect her from the world’s contamination and protect her holiness, virtue, and purity in every way. He will never induce her to do that which is wrong or unwise or expose her to that which is less than good.”

II. The 2nd command Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church Ephesians 5:25-32

- A. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sacrificial Love - v. 25
- B. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sanctifying Love - v. 26-27
- C. Christ's Love for the Church is a Caring Love - v. 28-30

1 Peter 3:7 - ⁷You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

II. The 2nd command Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church
Ephesians 5:25-32

- A. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sacrificial Love - v. 25
- B. Christ's Love for the Church is a Sanctifying Love - v. 26-27
- C. Christ's Love for the Church is a Caring Love - v. 28-30
- D. Christ's Love for the Church is a Unifying Love - v. 31

Genesis 2:24 - ²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.



The Fall itself involved a perversion of marital roles, and God's curse because of the Fall also affected marriage.

Eve sinned not only in disobeying God's specific command but in acting independently of her husband and failing to consult Adam about the serpent's temptation. Adam sinned not only by disobeying God's command but by succumbing to Eve's leadership, thus failing to exercise his God-given authority.

Genesis 3:12 - ¹²The man said, "The **woman** whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."

Application

- A. Husbands love your own wife even as yourself and as Christ loved the church - v. 33a
- B. Wives respect your own husband as the church respects Christ - v. 33b
- C. All believers in Christ are to live in submission to the head of the church, Jesus Christ - Ephesians 5:24
- D. Every unbeliever is called to repent and believe the gospel for salvation - Mark 1:15; Acts 4:12

