

God's Plan for Marriage (Part 1)

Ephesians 5:22-27

I. The Spirit-filled wife is submissive: God's plan is that wives submit to their husbands as they submit to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24).

A. A wife should submit to her husband's leadership as part of her submission to Christ (22).

- Submission – "to place oneself under" = Voluntarily follow

Each is responsible for his/her command only. Trying to make our wife *submit* is domination. Trying to make our husband *love* is manipulation.

B. Wives should submit because husbands are responsible for the marriage like Christ is for the church (23).

- Christ took responsibility for the church by becoming its Savior.
- The husband is the "head" not so he gets his way, but because he is especially held responsible for the marriage by God.

C. Like the church submits to Christ, wives should submit to husbands (24).

II. The Spirit-filled husband is loving: God's plan is that husbands love their wives like Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25-27).

A. A husband must love his wife at great sacrifice to himself like Christ loved the church by dying on the cross (25).

- Who starts? – Should husbands love 1st or wives submit 1st ?
Answer: Whoever is most spiritually mature *Emerson*
Eggerichs Love and Respect

B. The motive for a husband to love his wife sacrificially is to benefit her spiritually (26-27).

- Christ is the Savior, but also the Sanctifier of the church.
- A husband should be a spiritual leader who longs to help his wife be all God wants her to be.