

Sermon Outline

WIVES AND HUSBANDS ... | Geoff Lin

Bible reading: Ephesians 5:21-33

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

The God who is rich in mercy
(Chs 1-3)

The God who prepared good works in
advance for us to do (Chs 4-6)

1. What this passage says to everyone (v21)

Eph 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Eph 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Relationship #1: wives and husbands (5:22-33)

Relationship #2: children and parents (6:1-4)

Relationship #3: slaves and masters (6:5-9)

2. How wives live a life worthy of the calling they've received (vv22-24)

i. what Paul IS saying ...

ii. how can this be good?

i. because Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which He is the Saviour (v23)

ii. because Christ Himself submits to His Father

1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Eph 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

iii. what Paul is NOT saying ...

1800RESPECT

Podcast: <https://leslievernick.podbean.com/e/men-who-abuse/>

3. How husbands live a life worthy of the calling they've received (vv25-33)

=> if wives are to submit, husbands are to _____

Q. HOW are husbands to love their wives just as Christ loved the church?

i. lay down your life for your wife

ii. help her to be "holy and blameless"

Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

"People with the greatest expectations for their marriage usually wind up with the highest quality marriages. This suggests that by holding your relationship to high standards, you are far more likely to achieve the kind of marriage you want than you are by looking the other way and letting things slide." (John M. Gottman, *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*)

Marriage Enrichment Night on Thu 29th September: "Intimacy in Marriage (it's so much more than sex!)"

4. Why marriage matters to everyone (v21)

Marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. So Saint Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband. (An Australian Prayer Book, 1978)

Rev 21:1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.