



PART OF SOMETHING BIG



INCREASING THE JOY OF MARRIAGE

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

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Paul tells us that marriage is a profound mystery. More fully understanding the profundity of the mystery of marriage will increase the meaning and joy we will experience in marriage.



²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.²⁸ In the way

husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.





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- This "one flesh" refers to being joined emotionally, spiritually, and physically.
- This unique relationship is designed to bring us deep joy.
- This relationship is designed for us to be more fully known and still fully loved... "naked & unashamed".



The purpose of Christian marriage is to be an inspiring illustration of the relationship that Jesus shares with all of us.



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Christian marriage is most successful when....



Christian husbands love like Jesus.



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Christian husbands love like Jesus.



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Key: Husbands being filled with the love of Christ.

• Listen actively.



Christian husbands love like Jesus.

- Listen actively.
- Initiate conversation.



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- Be vulnerable.



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- Assume responsibility.
- Live to increase her joy in Jesus' love.



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Christian wives submit as to the Lord.



²² <u>Wives, submit to your own husbands</u>, as to the Lord.
²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.



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- Allow yourself to be served & loved.
- Recognize the difference in roles, not value.
- Live fully in the gifts & strengths God has given you as you compliment your husband.



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Misunderstandings of submission:

• Wives are less important.



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- Wives are to turn off their brains.



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- Wives are not to use their gifts.



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- Wives are not to share their perspective.



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- Wives just do what they are told.



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- Wives are to never challenge their husband's thinking.
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- Wives just do what they are told.
- Women are to submit to all men.



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Practical ways to submit:



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- Celebrate husband's strengths.



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- Gently speak your mind.



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- Lovingly support your husband.

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How do you submit if your husband is not loving you like Christ loves the Church?

• Find security in Jesus' love.



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- Find security in Jesus' love.
- Don't speak ill of your husband.



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- Find security in Jesus' love.
- Don't speak ill of your husband.
- Connect with other wives that encourage you.



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- Find security in Jesus' love.
- Don't speak ill of your husband.
- Connect with other wives that encourage you.
- Live exemplifying Jesus' love.



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- Find security in Jesus' love.
- Don't speak ill of your husband.
- Connect with other wives that encourage you.
- Live exemplifying Jesus' love.
- Seek wise godly counsel.



Our challenge to you...

EPHESIANS

Our challenge to you...

• What do you most appreciate about your spouse?



Our challenge to you...

- What do you most appreciate about your spouse?
- Where would you like to see growth?

