

4. In what ways can wives be more respectful and considerate of their husbands?



Lesson 22: The Mystery of Marriage
Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 5:22-23 | May 30-31, 2009

*This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the Church.
Ephesians 5:32*

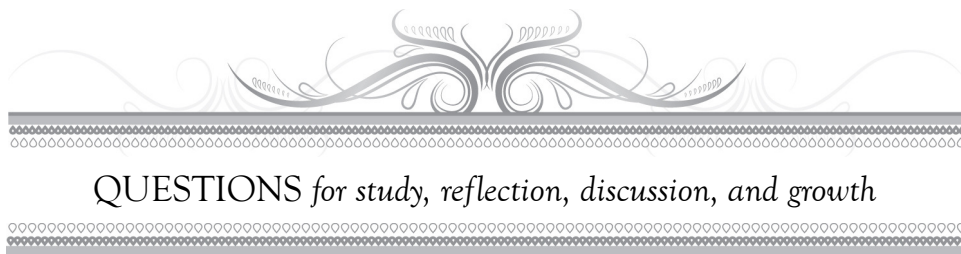
5. What have you learned about submission and authority in this lesson?

How does the Trinity help you understand the proper relationship between husband and wife?

How does Christ's relationship with the church help you understand this?

Have you ever heard of a household code? This is what we have in Ephesians 5:22-6:9. It's all about how wives and husbands are to get along, how children are to obey their parents, and how slaves are to be obedient to their masters (today's read, employees and employers). These household instructions can be found in various passages throughout the Bible, yet they are not unique to the Bible. Many similar codes can be found in secular ancient literature, including the writings of the early Greeks and Romans. What we have in the Bible, however, is remarkably different in many ways. In the Bible, both the one in authority and the one under that authority are addressed with respect, compassion, and understanding. This is not so in the secular literature—in which women are often demeaned and regarded as inferior to men in every way, and slaves are often considered stupid and better off in slavery than in freedom. In Rome, *patria potestas*: children could be killed by their fathers because the father had absolute control over his wife and children. Contrast this with the way Paul spoke, even of slaves. He encouraged slaves to win their freedom (1 Corinthians 7:21), and told a slave owner to consider his Christian slave as a brother (Philemon 16)! The instructions Paul gives to husbands are far more demanding than those given to wives. But of all the differences between the secular and biblical codes (and there are far too many to list here), the most significant is found in the motivation for ordering one's life in a specific way. The motivation for godly relationships always points to the example, sacrifice, and love of Jesus Christ.

- I. A. 1. Specific. I. A. 2. Lord. I. A. 3. Voluntary.
- I. B. 1. Different.
- II. A. 1. Sacrificial. II. A. 2. Nurturing, caring.



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

- I. Wives submit to your husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24).
 - A. The meaning of this submission (Ephesians 5:22).
 - 1. It is _____, not general.
 - 2. It is modeled after submission to the _____.
 - 3. It is a _____ yielding in love.
 - B. The order of this submission (Ephesians 5:23).
 - 1. "Equality of worth is not identity of role" (J. H. Yoder). Men and women are _____!
 - 2. The example of the Trinity.
 - 3. The order of creation.
 - C. The motivation for this submission (Ephesians 5:24).

- II. Husbands, love your wives (Ephesians 5:25-30).
 - A. The meaning of this love.
 - 1. This love is _____ (Ephesians 5:25).
 - 2. This love is _____ and _____ (Ephesians 5:29).
 - B. The example of this love (Ephesians 5:25b, 26-27, and 29b-30).
 - 1. Jesus' love and care for His bride.
 - 2. Jesus love and care for His body.
 - C. A challenge to all husbands.

- III. The Mystery of Marriage (Ephesians 5:31-33).
 - A. Creation and marriage.
 - B. Christ and the Church.
 - C. The perfect prescription: love and respect (Ephesians 5:33).

- 1. Read Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19, and 1 Peter 3:1-9.
- 2. How would you describe the spirit and overarching message of the above three passages?
 - 3. In what ways can husbands be more loving and considerate of their wives?