



## Eph 5:22–24

**Read**, the passage below...

Ask the Lord to open your eyes, that you may behold wonderful things from His Word (Ps 119:18), and that you would receive His Word with humility—putting it into practice in your daily life (Jas 1:21–22).

### Passage:<sup>1</sup>

- 22 <sup>a</sup>Wives, <sup>b</sup>be subject to your own husbands, <sup>c</sup>as to the Lord.
- 23 For <sup>a</sup>the husband **is** the head of the wife, as Christ also is the <sup>b</sup>head of the church, He Himself <sup>c</sup>being the Savior of the body.
- 24 But as the church is **subject** to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

### Context:

Because of the opportunity that we have, to be a testimony to others, by the way that we live, Paul exhorts believers to be careful how you walk (5:15). Such a life requires that we “understand what the will of God is” (5:17), and that we be “filled with the Holy Spirit” (5:18).

5:19–21 supplies a series of verbs that paint a picture of what the “Spirit filled” life looks like in practice. The last of these verbs explains that those who are “Spirit filled” will live lives of mutual submission to one another.

Beginning in 5:22, all the way to 6:9, Paul is going to focus on different spheres of relationship in order to flesh out what such lives of mutual submission require

Paul begins with the core relationship within the family unit—the relationship between husband and wife.

Verses 22–24 focus on the role and responsibilities of the wife, and vv25–33 focus on the role and responsibilities of the husband.

### Exploring the Text:

As you answer the following questions, please take the time to read all the **cross references** at the end of the questions. These are provided to enrich your study experience.

1. Who is being addressed in vv22–24? To whom are these instructions given?

.....

2. According to v22, what is it that they are told to do?

.....

3. According to v22, to whom are women supposed to submit?

.....

<sup>1</sup> Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.



4. What is the difference between submission and obedience?

.....

.....

5. According to v22, how are they supposed to submit? What is the implication behind the last part of v22?

.....

6. According to v23, why are they supposed to submit?

.....

.....

7. Practically, what does it mean for Christ to be the "head of the body?" (v23)

.....

.....

.....

8. Verse 24 supplies a second illustration of what the submission of the wife is supposed to look like. What is that illustration? What is its significance?

.....

.....

.....

9. What areas are excluded in the command to submit? (v24) In other words, in which areas of life does the wife not need to submit?

.....

.....

10. What is the stated limitation on the authority of the husband?

.....

.....

.....



11. Does that imply that the husbands authority over his wife is without any limitations? If there are any limitations how are such limitations to be effected? What protection / recourse does a wife have against tyrannical authority over her?

.....  
.....  
.....

12. Why do you think might Paul include the second half of v23?

.....  
.....  
.....

***For Further Reflection:***

13. How is the command for wives to submit to their husbands affected when the husband is not saved? (cf. 1Pet 3:1-2)

.....  
.....

14. Does submission imply inferiority? Why or why not?

.....  
.....

15. Is it acceptable for a wife to step into the leadership role if her husband refuses to lead, or even actively encourages her to fill that role?

.....  
.....  
.....

16. Is it acceptable for a wife to step into the leadership role if she is clearly more capable in a particular area?

.....  
.....  
.....



17. Is it acceptable for a wife to step into the leadership role if she is spiritually more mature than her husband?

.....  
.....  
.....

18. What is the husband's role (or responsibility) in terms of the biblical command for wives to submit?

.....  
.....

***Suggestion for Prayer:***

Thank the Lord for His design in marriage. Thank God for His perfect love that is ours in Christ. Pray for yourself and also for your spouse that God would transform you into the kind of marriage partner that these verses picture. Pray for your children that God would grant them to wisdom to choose their future marriage partners with wisdom.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

***Notes:***

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....