

The background of the entire image is a photograph of ancient stone ruins. In the upper portion, there are stone walls and steps leading up a hillside. The middle portion is a dark, textured band containing text. The lower portion shows more stone steps and walls. A glowing orange cross is positioned on the right side of the dark band.

Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

**Submitting to One Another**

# Ephesians: 5:21-33



Series – Understanding and Becoming  
Outlining who we are – how we do life

- Walk in Love
- Walk in Light
- Walk in Wisdom

Today – walking in submission to one another, in particular as husband and wife



# Ephesians: 5:21-33



“<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

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<sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> 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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## 1. Submitting to One Another vs.21

### a) Culture and Submission

- message of our culture not the same
- rise of individualism makes this difficult
- abuses of the past hard to overcome

### b) Out of reverence for Christ

- 5:1 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”

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- Phil 2:3-8 “<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”



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- full submission to God
- posture of submission with one another
  - not unto sin – led astray
  - primary inclination & disposition

## 2. Important Information

- a) created equal in value distinct in role
- b) marriage designed by God
  - created with that in mind
- c) we will stand before God and give an account

# Ephesians: 5:21-33



## 3. Walking in Submission – Wives 22-24,33

- verses are instructional about God's design for mutual submission. They are not worth based, but role distinct.

### a) Submit to your Husband

- submission – recognition of your husbands responsibility to supply your protection and provision. Disposed to yield to his authority in Christ and inclined to follow his leadership

- remember the scope is limited



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b) respect your husband vs.33

- practical advice
- no manipulation
- careful speech & communication
- selective input & seeking wisdom
- looking to support & build up

c) when your Husband is not a believer

- looking to Christ to supply
- reflecting Christ to your spouse

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## 4. Husbands

- love as Christ loved the church
- biblical model – Matthew 20:25-28

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



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a) look at the list

- gave himself up to.....
  - sanctify her
  - cleanse her
- present her in splendor
  - holy, without blemish, spot or wrinkle
- nourish and cherish
- bound together as one

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b) practically this means

- loved as my own body – we are one
- re-orienting my:
  - time
  - priorities
  - posture of servanthood
  - investments
- remembering I will stand and give account



# Ephesians: 5:21-33



## So What?

1. Am I Willing to 1<sup>st</sup> Submit to Christ?
  - issue of Lordship – who decides?
2. Am I Willing to adopt a posture of submission?
  - put others 1<sup>st</sup>? Make this my inclination & disposition?
3. In our marriages, are we willing to embrace God's design as our creator and our Lord?
  - ask him to reveal area's we have believed lies or not followed his truth

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4. Commit to communication and investigation
  - talk as husbands and wives
  - seek God's leading in making changes
  - ask for his help in empowering changes
  - include Godly counsel in making steps and being accountable