



GROUP QUESTIONS FOR **SEPTEMBER 6**

Church Life: Body, Temple, Family

Ephesians 5:22-33 | Husbands and Wives

Icebreakers!

1. What's some of the best advice on marriage that you've heard?
2. What practices and attitudes do godly couples have in common, from couple to couple?

Growing Together

3. **Study Ephesians 5:22-33 on the next page.** What's mentioned more: wives and husbands, or Christ and the church?
4. What other words come to mind along with "submit"? Why do so many of us—married and single—struggle with this as a command to us?
5. How does *respecting* someone show a submissive attitude?
6. How should the church submit to Christ in everything? How does our church live out that submission to Jesus?
7. In what ways can a husband love his wife that will regularly mirror the love of Jesus for the church? How can a husband work to make his wife more holy?
8. What prevents a husband from seeing his wife as part of himself—as part of his own body? How does his love for her increase the more he treats her as one with him?
9. How does this passage challenge an authoritarian view of marriage? How does it challenge an individualist view of marriage?
10. What do we all have in Christ as part of His church, whether we're married or single?
11. **From the message this Sunday: What questions do you have? What encouraged you? What challenged you? Where did you see the Gospel?**

Head, Heart, and Hands

12. Wives: how will you show your husband respect, not depending on whether he's earned it, but out of reverence for Christ?
13. Husbands: how will you love your wife, not because she earned it, but because you are one body, one flesh with her? How can you pursue your *wife's* holiness?
14. Single men: how are you serving others and working to make them holy, *before* you take a wife? What kind of wife should you choose, if this is the goal of marriage?
15. Single women: if you are looking for a husband, how can you tell if it's a man you can respect and joyfully submit to? Would you marry a man who doesn't have Jesus as his role model for marriage?

Ephesians 5:22-33

*but be filled with the Spirit ...
submitting to one another
out of reverence for Christ.*

Wives,
submit to your own husbands,
as to the Lord.

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**.

Now as the **church** submits to **Christ**,
so also **wives** should submit
in everything
to their **husbands**.

Husbands,
love your wives,
as **Christ** loved the **church**
and gave himself up for **her**,
that **he** might sanctify **her**,
having cleansed **her**
by the washing of water with the word,
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.

In the same way **husbands**
should love their **wives**
as their own bodies.
He who loves his **wife** loves himself.
For no one ever hated his own flesh,
but nourishes and cherishes it,
just as **Christ** does the **church**,
because we are members of **his body**.

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father
and mother and hold fast to his **wife**,
and the two shall become one flesh.”*

This mystery is profound,
and I am saying that it refers
to **Christ** and the **church**.

However, let each one of you love his **wife** as **himself**,
and let the **wife** see that she respects her **husband**.