

The Real World or Facing the Realities of Good Marriage Series: Relationship Realities: Getting Real About Marriage

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

1. IN THE REAL WORLD, A GREAT MARRIAGE UNDERSTANDS MUTUAL SUBMISSION.

v. 21 *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

Galatians 3:28 (CEV)

Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman.

- Mutual submission comes from an understanding of equality before God.
- Mutual submission comes from recognizing the value each partner brings to the marriage.
- Mutual submission comes from acknowledging that God is the centerpiece of the relationship.

2. REAL WIVES SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS OUT OF RESPECT.

v. 22 *"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord."*

Genesis 3:16 (TEV)

And he said to the woman, "I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him."

Colossians 3:18 (NIV)

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

1 Peter 3:1 (NIV)

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives . . .

- Submitting to your husband speaks to order in the relationship, not value.
- Understanding roles in the marriage promotes harmony and prioritizes responsibilities.
- Few wives have a problem with submitting to a husband that loves her the way Christ loves the church.

3. REAL HUSBANDS LOVE THEIR WIVES UNCONDITIONALLY.

v. 25 *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..."*

Colossians 3:19 (NIV)

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.

- Loving your wife the way Christ loved the church demands intentionality and purpose.
- Responsibility for the direction of the home falls on the husband's shoulders.
- Husbands cannot expect their wives to submit to them until they have submitted themselves to Christ.