

The Best Lovin'

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

Ephesians 5:21

New International Version

"(v.22) Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. (v.23) The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. (v.24) So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.

(v.25) Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. (v.26) Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, (v.27) dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. (v.28) And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.

(v.29) No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, (v.30) since we are part of his body. (v.31) And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh." (v.32) This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. (v.33) And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband."

Ephesians 5:21-33

The Message

Submission is **NOT** weakness, nor being a door mat!

- Submission **is** a crucial ingredient in Christian living. Read I Peter; I Cor.16:16;
- Submission was so important for New Testament writers because it described the self-giving love, humility, and willingness to die that are demanded of all Christians.
- In Philippians 2:3 Paul rejects selfishness and asks that in humility people consider others as "surpassing" themselves.

The supreme example is Jesus Christ—Philippians 2:5-11

" . . . have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself

nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Submit out of reverence for Christ!

What is **reverence** ? "Deep respect, mixed with wonder, fear, and love;
The outward manifestation of this feeling—to give reverence!"

Submission to one another comes out of our deep, growing, reverence for Christ who loved us, who died for us, who conquered sin and death for us, and who shares with us the secret to submission in any and all relationships—**reverence** for him!

Men—being very practical—how do we, in love, submit to our wives?

Philippians 5:25-28 . . ."go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting."

What is **YOUR** wife's love language?

Arrange the following in order of her preference.

- _____ Words of Affirmation
- _____ Quality Time
- _____ Receiving Gifts
- _____ Acts of Service
- _____ Physical Touch

Word to the wise—Use all 5 of her love languages, but first concentrate on her first and second languages.

Wives—what are your husbands love languages?

Arrange in order of preference.

What are God's love languages?

Arrange in order of preference.

Enjoy your week!