

Life Group Homework

EPHESIANS 5:21-33

Let's Get Started:

Just like other New Testament doctrines, the issue of leadership in marriage has its foundation in Genesis. In Genesis 1:27 we see that God made both men and women in His own _____.

In Genesis 2:21 we see that God made woman from the man's _____.

What does Galatians 3:28 show us about the worth and value God places on men and women?

Scripture makes it clear that Jesus, the Son, is submissive to the will of the Father (John 6:38). And, in John 10:30, Jesus claims that "He and the Father one." Both the Son and the Father have different roles within the Trinity, but in their personhood, they are equally God, and neither is inferior to the other. Likewise, a wife and husband have different roles in marriage, but they are equally loved by God and equally bear His image.

One of the many misunderstandings about the term "submissive" (Ephesians 5:24) is that it means "inferior." Why do you think this misconception continues to be prevalent, even today?

Let's Dig In:

1. Jesus surrendered many of his rights in order to become our Savior. He had the right to enjoy all the riches, peace and joy of heaven, yet He confined Himself to the limited means of a carpenter's household. According to the scriptures below, what other rights did Jesus surrender to the good of all humanity?
 - a. Philippians 2:7

a. Matthew 8:20

b. Galatians 3:13

2. Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be “filled with the Spirit.” How would you describe what a “Spirit-filled marriage” looks like? In other words, what are the qualities and characteristics by which you could recognize a Spirit-filled marriage?

3. Read Ephesians 5:25-27. How did Jesus love and give Himself up for the church? Be specific.

4. If husbands are commanded to “love their wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her” what does that look like? What “rights” might a husband (or wife) have to give up to fulfill this scriptural command of Jesus in their marriage relationship?

5. What do the following scriptures show about how God loves the church (His bride) and how husbands and wives are to treat each other with the “purifying love” of grace and forgiveness?

a. Micah 7:19

b. Jeremiah 31:34

6. In ancient Greece, a bride-to-be would be taken down to a river to be bathed and ceremonially cleansed from every defilement of her past life. Whatever her life had been before, it was now symbolically purified, and she would enter the marriage without any moral or social blemish—the past was washed away (John MacArthur New Testament Bible Commentary, Ephesians, page 300). Ephesians 5:26-27 indicates that the Holy cleansing Jesus accomplishes in His bride (you and me) is through the Word of God. How do you think a husband could imitate this type of “Holy cleansing” as an act of care and protection for his wife?

Let's Live it Out:

Finally, in your group time together share what the “mystery” is that God is revealing in Ephesians 5:21-33? What awesome “mystery” is He magnifying and illuminating as He expounds upon the relationship between a husband and wife and Christ and His bride in this passage?