

**“God Is Able”**  
*Gleanings From the Book of Ephesians*  
Ephesians 3:20

**Lesson 6**  
**The Marriage Life**

In these verses, Paul continues his instructions on how to walk the worthy walk. He now speaks of how we are to conduct ourselves in the marriage relationship. Paul likens Christian marriage, the most precious relationship in life, to the relationship between Christ and the Church. As always, Jesus is our prime example of how we are to conduct ourselves in every avenue of life. This is another opportunity to consider whether or not we are living the abundant life as instructed in this important arena...the Christian marriage relationship.

**Read Ephesians 5:21-33.**

1. To apply the principle of harmony to husbands and wives, what admonition does Paul give in verse 21?
  - a. According to Philippians 2:3-4, what attitudes are necessary to live victoriously in this area?
  
2. Often *wives* question why they are commanded to *submit*. Ephesians 5:23 gives us an answer. What does it say?
  - a. Describe how you view *Christ as the head of the church*.

- b. Using what you have written above, describe the *husband's* role as *head of the wife*.
  
- 3. What conclusion does Paul arrive at in Ephesians 5:24?
  - a. In what ways/circumstances is the church *subject to Christ*?
  
  - b. Describe what the church's (your) behavior should be toward Christ.
  
  - c. In what ways should this be similar to a *wife's* behavior toward her husband?
  
- 4. *Husbands* are certainly not without their responsibility. Since the *husband*, like Christ, is the *head*, what instruction is given to him in Ephesians 5:25?
  - a. What is the example of Christ as recorded in this verse?

- b. The next two verses (26, 27) begin with the same word. The word *that* indicates the reasons why Christ *loved us and gave Himself for us*. What two reasons are provided?
  
- 5. Looking at the beginning of verse 28, how are *husbands to love their own wives*?
  - a. *For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife* (Ephesians 5:28b NLT). The *husband* should see his *wife* as an extension or part of himself. How does this relate to Christ's attitude toward His church?
  - b. Two ways that Christ expresses His love for the church are recorded in verse 29. What are they?
  - c. Isaiah 40:11 and Matthew 23:37 reveal God's desire toward His own. What picture comes to your mind or what feelings arise in your heart as you read these verses?
  
- 6. Because, according to the previous verses, *the husband and wife* should view themselves as *one*, what steps does Ephesians 5:31 tell the *man* to do?

- a. What, practically, do you think *leaving father and mother* entails?
  - b. What, practically, do you think *being joined to his wife* entails?
7. Jesus quoted this same reference (Genesis 2:24) in Matthew 19:5. What does He add in Matthew 19:6?
- a. From these verses, what do you think God wants us to understand about the marriage relationship?
  - b. How is the bond between *husband* and *wife* greater than the bond between parent and child?
8. What does Paul say about all of this in Ephesians 5:32?
- a. In what way is *Christ*, as head of the *church*, an example to the *husband*?

- b. In what way is the *church*, as subject to *Christ*, as example to the *wife*?
  
- 9. Whether or not we fully understand the *mystery* of the previous verses, Paul wants to be sure we understand the practical application. What instruction to *husbands* in verse 28 is repeated in verse 33?
  - a. What does 1 Peter 3:7 teach regarding the *husband's* attitude toward his wife?
  
  - b. What are the consequences for disregarding this?
  
  - c. Do these same consequences apply to a *wife* who disregards God's commands to her? Why or why not?
  
- 10. In verse 33, note the phrase *in particular*. Paul is reminding *husbands* that he is not referring to a group of people (the church), but is speaking to each and every *husband*. This phrase should also be applied to the instruction to *wives* in this verse. What does Paul instruct *each wife in particular* to do?
  - a. Describe the behavior of a *wife* who *respects* her *husband*.

- b. What advice would you give to a Christian wife who told you that her husband should earn her *respect*?

Share some ways this lesson has personally challenged you.





