

AN INTERPRETIVE TRANSLATION OF EPHESIANS 5:22-33

- 5:22 Wives, participate in mutual submission by willingly placing yourself under the leadership of your husband, considering this as a way for you to serve the Lord,
- 5:23 Because the husband is the God-appointed leader of the wife in the same manner as Christ is the God-appointed leader of the church (Christ alone fitting this position since He willingly laid down His life for us to be the Savior of the church).
- 5:24 Though husbands are not capable of the same selfless, saving love of Christ, nevertheless, in the same manner that the church willingly places itself under the leadership of Christ, wives should willingly place every aspect of their lives under the leadership of their husbands.
- 5:25 Husbands, participate in mutual submission by sacrificially loving your wife, because in the same manner Christ loved the church and gave up all of Himself for her benefit,
- 5:26 And Christ showed this kind of love in order to give the church a special identity in the present, setting it apart for Himself and removing its impurities by means of the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit and the transforming power of the Word of God,
- 5:27 And in order to give the church a special destiny in the future when He will bring her in all her radiance to be united with Him eternally in heaven, not having any of the disfiguring marks of sin, but rather being morally pure and perfectly beautiful.
- 5:28 With this same type of sacrificial, edifying love, husbands are obligated to love their wives, seeing them as part of their very being. Indeed, the wife is so closely tied to the husband's being that the husband who loves his wife is, in effect, loving himself.
- 5:29 Thus, it is the wise thing for husbands to love their wives, because only a foolish man would hate his own being. Instead, a wise man is sensitive to his own needs and diligently acts to meet those needs. In this same way, Christ was sensitive to the church's needs and lovingly acted to meet those needs.
- 5:30 He did this because we, as members of the church, are members of His body, connected to His very being.
- 5:31 I can make this comparison between the union of the church to Christ and the union of the wife to the husband on this basis: "A man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the result will be the uniting of two people into one."
- 5:32 The following truth is a profound one, hidden from the ages before and revealed only by God, but here it is — God's design of the marital union was, in His eternal wisdom, patterned after the union of Christ and the church.
- 5:33 But let me bring things down to the bare essentials: husbands, let each and every one of you, without exception, sacrificially love your own wife, seeing her as an integral part of who you are. And wives, let each one of you hold your husband in the highest esteem, seeing him as the embodiment of the Lord's loving leadership over your life.