

Overflow in Marriage - Meeting #2 *Submission*

Review: Part of our 'great mystery' is revealing in our marriage our love, respect and admiration for Christ. Our marriage 'health' is directly tied to our regard for Christ.

Focus Verse:

Ephesians 5:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Five Things:

1. Wives consider: Eph. 5.22

For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

2. Husbands consider: Eph. 5.25-29

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body.

3. The most obvious distinction is that the husband receives more instruction than the wife. Why is that?

4. What keeps women from submitting to their husband *in everything*? (Trust? Preference? Intelligence? Upbringing? The past?)

Life Verses for Wives: Psalm 103:6, Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 56:3-4, Psalm 40:4, Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 37:5. (Notice these verses direct our trust to be in God *not* our husbands)

5. What keeps men from loving their wife *just as Christ loved the church*? (Nag? Looks? Changed? Attitude? The past? Upbringing?)

Life Verses for Husbands: John 13:34, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 John 4:11, **1 Peter 4:8**, Proverbs 10:12 (Notice none of these passages are contingent on the receiver being "deserving.")

Homework: (To be done separately) Read 1 Peter 3:1-12 & revisit the Ephesians 5 passages.

Husbands identify additional facts for the roles of husbands and wives identify the roles of wives.

Do not devise facts for your spouse!

Facts from the Focus Verse:

1. BOTH parties are required to *submit* to the other.

2. Submitting includes, but is not limited to the following: comply, endure, acknowledge, agree, defer, surrender, abide, acquiesces, appease, bend, bow, buckle, capitulate, cave, concede, fold, humor, indulge, obey, relent, relinquish, succumb, give in, give way, tolerate, eat crow, kowtow, yield, put up with, grin and bear it, go with the flow... (notice all of these choices contradict our senses of entitlement.)

3. *Out of reverence* for Christ means adoration, admiration, loyalty, respect, awe, & devotion. (If you don't have reverence for Christ, you will not be able to submit to your spouse and enjoy a godly marriage.)

Close in prayer.