

EPHESIANS 5b

LOVE & RESPECT

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

- **Chuck Smith** – This is only half of the truth about submission... Half-truths can be dangerous.
 - This submission and loving scenario work best when both submission and love are present.
 - IE, because the husband loves his wife so well, she is pleased to submit to him.
 - When the wife respects her husband, he is all the more eager to love her well.



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

- Jesus never bullies the Church, He never berates, terrorizes, or browbeats His church...
- He does however expect His church to behave a certain way, right? Remember His letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 & 3? AND...
- **1 John 4:19** We love Him because He first loved us.

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

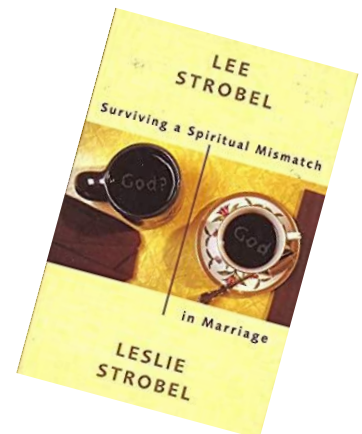
- THAT is a tall order for sure.

- Chuck Smith – God intended for marriage to be a duet... NOT a duel.

HOW TO ATTRACT SUBMISSION

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- Jesus loved His church so much that He sacrificed His life for us... We love Him so much that we joyfully submit to Him.
- THAT is the model for Love and Respect in marriage.
- Men – Love your wife so that she will enjoy submitting to you. (It works!)
- Ladies – Respect your man so that he will enjoy serving you. (It works too!)
 - When he doesn't deserve your respect? Respect him in every way you can...
 - When she doesn't seem to want to be loved... Love her in every way you can!



When Lee Strobel began to hassle his newly saved wife, Leslie, she determined to love and respect him until he got it...

- **1Peter 3:1** Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.
- **Eventually, her faith became undeniable. Lee accepted Christ.**

THE RESULTS OF RECIPROCAL

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

- **COURSON** - According to Paul, the best thing you can do for yourself, husband, is to love your wife. Loving your wife is actually better for you than playing racquetball, lifting weights, playing golf, or jogging. Love is a verb. It's an action, not a feeling. It's something you *choose* to do.
- **GUZIK** - We all know what it is like to neglect something – like a noise or a maintenance issue on an automobile – and it comes back to hurt us. Husbands, it is *even more true* regarding your wife, because *she is part of you*. Only a fool neglects his own broken arm or infected leg; yet there are some foolish husbands who hurt or neglect their wives and they do and will suffer from it.
- **Listen guys...** IF things in your marriage are starting to or have already cooled off... WE can rekindle the original flame (so to speak) with kindness, gentleness, and forgiveness.
 - **WE SHOULD GO FIRST when it comes to forgiveness. WE ARE THE Leaders, right?**
 - IE, Say "I'm sorry first!" TRY THIS!

MARITAL UNITY IS SPIRITUAL UNITY

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

- As Eve was from a part of Adam, we too are members of one another, spiritually speaking.
- Since we are all part of the Body of Christ...

31 "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." **GEN 2:24**

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs writes:

“Wives are made to love, want to love, and expect love. Husbands are made to be respected, want respect, and expect respect.”

“When a husband feels disrespected, it is especially hard to love his wife. When a wife feels unloved, it is especially hard to respect her husband.”

“Often, we focus on our own needs and simply overlook the needs of the other person.”

In his book Dr. Eggerichs compares this need for love & respect to a scuba diver needing an air tank. If you have ever tried to scuba dive with a faulty air tank, or regulator (**Mouthpiece**) you understand a marriage that lacks in love & respect.

In 2008 My Lynette and I were diving the R.M.S. Rhone wreck in the BVI's. A few minutes into the dive, at around 60 feet down she tapped me on the shoulder and with a panicked look began to shake her head and point to her regulator, or mouthpiece. I immediately grabbed her extra one and helped her to switch them.

She took a breath... Looked seriously disappointed and did two things. 1. She slashed her hand across her neck - In diving language this means we are BOTH ending this dive right now.

2. She reached towards MY extra regulator. THAE, with both of us breathing from the same tank, we ascended to 15 feet below, rested for three minutes and then surfaced...

THAT tank is a perfect example of love and respect in marriage.

Guys, your wives require love like oxygen.

Ladies, your men require respect in the same way.

Giving it even when it is not deserved is true Christ-like love.

CCSV, let us decide to love and respect one another like this,
Amen?