

(22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church --- His body --- and is Himself its Savior. Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

(25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that He might present the Church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

(28) In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the Church, because we are members of His body.

“Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” (Matthew 19:5 from Genesis 2:24)

(32) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

(1) Children, obey your parents in the Lord --- for this is right!

“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise)

“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” (Exodus 20:12)

(4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, “but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Think on these things:

- 1) Consider v. 22. Are all women to submit to all men? Are all wives to submit to all husbands? What is the actual guidance?

Wives, submit to your own husbands.

- 2) With this guidance, what should all women consider before choosing if – and to whom – they will marry? This is a requirement of Christian marriages.

“Am I willing to submit to the decisions of this man for the sake of harmony in our family?”

- 3) Briefly look back to Genesis 3:16. There were two penalties for Eve’s disobedience that pass down the line of all womanhood. The first is difficult childbirth. The second is a source of strife in the home. What is the struggle that will plague the home?

Women will desire the leadership roles their husbands have in the family structure.

- 4) Since v. 24 says the example for wives to follow in “submission” is that of the Church to Christ, in what kinds of husband requests or decisions would it be appropriate NOT to submit --- because Christ would never ask this of His Church? (See Acts 4:16-20). For example, what if the husband says, “I don’t want you to go to church!”? (See 1 Corinthians 7:12-16).

Women should NOT submit to husband directions to do ungodly things -> they must do what is right in God’s sight. --- For this cited example in Corinthians, wives should go to church. Let unbelieving spouses divorce if they wish; the believing spouse is not to be “enslaved.”

- 5) What kind of love is a husband supposed to have for his wife (v. 25)? What are the evidences that he is loving her in this way (v.26-27)?

Type of Love? **A love that sacrifices to benefit his wife, as Jesus showed for His Church.**

Evidences? **Wives loved in this way can be sanctified and cleansed with God's Word, becoming holy and without (sinful) blemishes.**

- 6) How should a husband care and provide for his wife (vs. 28-29)? (NOTE: this is the minimum standard. God's standard is described in Romans 8:32 and Philippians 2:3-7). What description in v. 31 gives us God's perspective on a married couple?

How (minimally)? **A husband should love his wife as he loves himself (the Golden Rule).**

(God's standard?) **Romans – "Generously" give her all things; Philippians – In humility, serving her and looking after her interests.**

God's perspective? **Husbands and wives are as "one flesh" before God.**

- 7) Who do you think has the greater challenge, men measuring up to sacrificial love for their wives as measured by Christ's love for the Church (even 'willing to die?'), or women being submissive to and respectful (v. 33) of the man they choose to marry, as they would be for the Lord?

Women's roles may be harder to swallow; Men's roles may be harder to obey...!

- 8) When do children cease to have the obligation to obey and honor their parents? If parents disagree with the person you chose to marry, describe how you can still both honor them while clinging to your spouse in a new family unit. What is the promise associated with obeying and esteeming them (vs. 6:1-3)?

Children never cease to have an obligation to obey and honor parents. People leave home to marry and cling to each other as a new family unit. Parents can no longer demand obedience from grown children. Yet, even in strained relationships, children can honor parents by not talking back or talking bad about them.

- 9) There are two final thoughts here --- for fathers! What is the warning, and what is the parenting obligation (v. 4)? For further reading on disciplining children, see: Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:17; and Hebrews 12:7-11.

Warning? **Don't **provoke** children to anger. (ride them endlessly, needlessly?)**

Obligation? **Raise children by God's standards, instructing and guiding them in His ways.**

- 10) So, who has the requirement to be head of the household and train the family in God's Word?

The husband has this requirement. (Sadly, many fathers fail this obligation.)

People and situations I want to pray for this week: