



*designed
to flourish*

GENDER IDENTITY IN LIGHT OF GOSPEL IDENTITY

STUDY
GUIDE

WEEK 5: WOMEN IN MARRIAGE

EPHESIANS 5:22-24, 30-33

Within marriage, the vision for husbands is the sacrificial love of Christ for the Church, while the vision for wives is the willing and wise submission of the Church. The complementary roles husbands and wives play in marriage put the message of the gospel on display.

Christ willfully submitted to the will of the Father and so wives, like husbands, find their model to be Jesus.

There are two words that will come up in this study that the modern mind views with disdain: submission and helper.

Submission is an attribute of Jesus. It is a unique attribute He possesses that the Father does not and yet it is not an inferior one as the world would tell us (because Jesus is not inferior to the Father). The Bible describes what submission looks like and doesn't look like for wives in marriage.

The design God created the woman in marriage for was as a helper suitable for him. The Bible helps us discover what that does and doesn't mean for wives in marriage.

The purpose of marriage is to reflect the gospel. The husband's call to lovingly lead and the wife's call to wisely submit reflect the relationship of Christ and the Church.

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 5:33

*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself,
and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

BIBLE READING PLAN

MONDAY GENESIS 2:15-25

TUESDAY GENESIS 3:1-16

WEDNESDAY PROVERBS 31:10-31

THURSDAY 1 PETER 3:1-7

FRIDAY EPHESIANS 5:22-24

SATURDAY EPHESIANS 5:30-33

POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

1. Ice Breaker: Share some “classic” descriptors of femininity.
2. Refer to 1 Peter 3:1-6, Ephesians 5:22-24, and Proverbs 31:10-31 and compare the descriptors of biblical femininity with those suggested by the group in Question 1. What’s consistent? What’s different?
3. Discuss what submission is and isn’t (use 1 Peter 3 and Ephesians 5 as primary references)
4. There are few greater insults than commenting to a stay-at-home mom, “Oh, you just stay at home?” What has caused this negative stereotype of women who give themselves exclusively to the tending to of family and home? In light of 1 Timothy 2 and Titus 2 is this right?
5. Read Ephesians 5:33. The husband is told to love his wife and the wife is instructed to respect her husband. While, generally speaking, the deepest felt need of a wife is to be loved by her husband in a way that shows he’s committed to her and cherishes her, the deepest felt need of a husband is to be respected by his wife (as well as employers/ employees, friends, and family). The way in

which he feels loved and appreciated is respect. Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, in his book, *Love & Respect*, describes the regular diet of love that a husband needs from his wife. Read them and discuss what challenges these present to women but are important in order to keep the command to respect our husbands:

- Appreciate his desire to work and achieve;
- Appreciate his desire to protect and provide;
- Appreciate his desire to serve and to lead;
- Appreciate his desire to analyze and counsel;
- And appreciate his desire for friendship & intimacy.

6. A difficult question many wives will be asking is, how can we stay true to our roles when our husbands are neglecting theirs?

7. Wives, how can you move from the sinful tendencies of Genesis 3 towards Christlike submission in marriage?

8. Husbands, how can you give yourself more to the flourishing of your wife in her life and faith (Eph. 5:26-27)?

