

"Roles and Duties in Reciprocal Marital Relations"
Ephesians 5:21-33

The Purpose: To instruct spouses as to their roles in the family, and the relationship of Christ and the church that the husband-wife relationship illustrates to the watching world.

I. Umbrella Principle: Mutual Submission is for Both Spouses

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

So far we have a general principle, but what are the specifics of mutual submission?

II. Under the Umbrella of Mutual Submission: Wife Submit to Husband As Church to Christ

²²**Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**

Now we know the wife's role; but how must the husband live out mutual submission?

III. Under the Umbrella of Mutual Submission: Husband Love Wife As Christ to Church

²⁵**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰for we are members of his body.**

The case has been stated for the wife's and husband's roles; let us now explore a big secret.

IV. "Mega Mystery:" Christ and Church are Illustrated by Husband and Wife

³¹**"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**

We have traveled from under an umbrella, through a mystery, and now to a capsule.

V. Summary Principle: Husband Love Wife and Wife Respect Husband

³³**However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Husbands and wives have specific roles and duties to live out in reciprocal relations with one another; when spouses do their part it beautifully reflects "Christ and the church."

The Big Question: Are you sure that your views and practices on marital roles are in keeping with God's Word?

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