"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. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now 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 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for 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.” 32 This 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.

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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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