

Family Matters

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 1 – THERE’S NO SUCH THING AS AN EASY MARRIAGE

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

– Ephesians 5:21

**Submission is the _____ setting aside of your _____,
_____, or _____ for the sake of someone else**

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

– Ephesians 5:22

**The submission of a wife to her husband is not _____ to
_____ on the planet**

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.

– Ephesians 5:23-24

**A wife’s submission acknowledges her husband’s _____
_____ God as the _____ of their _____**

²⁵Husbands, 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. 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.

– Ephesians 5:25-32

The husband is to reflect the love of Jesus for his church through _____ to his wife

The love that a husband demonstrates for his wife should be _____
_____ how he loves _____ in his life

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

– Ephesians 5:33

Marital submission isn't easy, because it requires thinking more _____
of _____ than you think of _____

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Why might some people cringe when they see the word *submit*?
2. What makes submitting difficult for you?
3. What might make submitting easier for you?
4. Why do some men treat women as inferior?
5. How is this at odds with God's plan for human beings?
6. What is the difference between function and essence?
7. How can that help us understand what these verses teach about submission within marriage?
8. What can we learn about submission from Jesus?
9. Why is there a greater burden upon a husband within marriage?
10. How might a proper understanding and application of these verses change the course of a marriage?
11. If you are married, what do you need to work on in light of these verses?
12. If you are not married, how can you encourage a married couple with these verses?