



Last week, we kicked off a new series called “Help! My Family is Crazy.” The title is a bit of a wordplay because the truth is, many of us are navigating some level of craziness in our families. But it’s also a reminder that when we choose to do things God’s way, the world often thinks we’re the crazy ones. In a culture that sees biblical principles for marriage as outdated or even extreme, God calls us to live in a way that reflects His will and Christ’s love. Today, we’re going to talk about the countercultural call for wives to submit and for husbands to sacrificially love. We’ll see how these commands are designed to reflect the gospel to a watching world and how unity, selflessness, and mutual respect are essential to building a thriving marriage.

Key Passage: Ephesians 5:22–33

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the main commands given to wives and husbands in today’s passage?

The main command to wives is to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. The main command to husbands is to love their wives as Christ loved the church. These two commands mirror the relationship between Christ and the church.

2. Why does Paul instruct wives to submit to their husbands?

Paul teaches that submission reflects God’s created order and mirrors the church’s relationship with Christ. It’s not about inferiority but willingly trusting the husband’s leadership under God. This kind of submission is ultimately an act of obedience to Christ.

3. What are some common misconceptions people have about submission?

Submission is not silence, loss of opinion, or blind agreement. Wives are called to be trusted counselors and partners in decision-making. True submission allows for healthy dialogue, sharing of wisdom, and mutual trust.

4. How can a husband practically live out sacrificial love toward his wife?

A husband can live out sacrificial love by seeking his wife's highest good above his own desires, just as Christ did for the church. This may mean prioritizing her emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being through daily acts of kindness and service. It calls for active, intentional choices that demonstrate commitment and care.

5. How does a husband's leadership differ from worldly concepts of domination?

A husband's leadership, according to Scripture, is not about domination or control but about sacrificial service. He is called to nourish, cherish, and protect his wife as Christ does for the church. True leadership is marked by humility, love, and responsibility before God.

See Matthew 20:25-28 and 1 Peter 3:7

6. How does selfishness undermine marriage and lead to various struggles?

Selfishness is identified as the root cause behind most marriage problems. When either spouse prioritizes "me" over "we," it creates division instead of unity. When both spouses focus on empowerment, marriage becomes a battleground for personal rights instead of a covenant of mutual service. True oneness requires both partners to embrace humility and selfless love toward each other. God's design for marriage calls husbands and wives to lay down their lives for one another in love and respect.

7. Why can doing marriage God's way seem "crazy" to the world around us?

Marriage God's way seems crazy because it runs counter to the world's message of self-empowerment, independence, and personal happiness at any cost. Biblical marriage calls for mutual submission, sacrificial love, and putting another's needs before your own. God's call to selflessness appears radical and outdated in a culture focused on self.

8. How can couples intentionally build spiritual, emotional, financial, sexual, and practical oneness in marriage?

Couples can build spiritual oneness by praying and worshiping together regularly. Emotional oneness can be fostered by open communication and actively pursuing each other's hearts. Financial, sexual, and practical unity come through making decisions together, practicing transparency, and being intentionally connected in everyday life.

9. What warning did our Pastor give about dating relationships from Ephesians 5?

Single women are warned not to date men they cannot respect or trust spiritually, as submission would be nearly impossible later. Single men are warned not to date women who are unwilling to be humble or women they do not intend to marry. The foundation of marriage is built long before engagement through choices about who and how to date.

Additional Note: Leaders, this may be a good opportunity to remind your group members about the Cross Church Counseling Ministry (www.crosschurch.com/counseling).