

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

The Godly Submission of a Wife to Her Husband

Ephesians 5:22-24

This is the second of three sermons I am preaching on Christian marriage from Ephesians 5. This is, other than Genesis 1-3 the most important section in the Bible on Christian marriage, and it is so vital for us to absorb and live out obedience to what the Lord is commanding us here. The concept of a wife “graciously submitting” to her husband has come under severe and open attack in recent years. Feminists and other Bible-hating people have zeroed in on this teaching (along with the teaching on slavery and other topics) to discredit the Bible as an outdated book, one with antiquated views that we modern people have outgrown. The idea of a wife submitting to her husband is seen as a clear effort by a male-dominated patriarchal society to keep women in subjection and downtrodden, oppressed and effectively enslaved.

This is unspeakably tragic! And if Christian women and men buy into the spirit of the age, we will all be the losers for it. There can be no eternally fruitful, God-honoring, richly satisfying Christian marriage apart from obedience to God’s Word. If we think (like the Supreme Court did last year in the decision on gay marriage) that we modern people know better than God what marriage is and how it will bear eternal fruit for his glory, we are deeply deceived. And the more we buy into the self-exalting spirit of the age, the more miserable we will be.

This morning, I hope to unfold the Apostle Paul’s teaching to Christian wives in Ephesians 5:22-24. I hope to be both biblical and practical. I hope to feed your faith and give you hope. I hope to exult over God’s word as infinitely wise and delightful, and to set both women and men free from any of Satan’s chains that he may have slipped around your hearts.

I hope by the end of the sermon that what the Psalmist said about God’s Law in general, you will apply to this teaching about a wife’s godly submission to her husband:

Psalm 119:32 I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.

On Judgment Day, when Christ calls all of you wives to his Judgment Seat and calls on you to give an account of your marriages, he will simply ask you this: did you obey my commands by the power of the Holy Spirit? The more faithfully we do, the more delight we will have in giving him an account on that final day.

And this morning I will also speak a word to you husbands, stealing some thunder from next week's sermon to you. I will say this plainly: the more faithful you obey Christ's commands to you in Ephesians 5:25-33, the more delight your Christian wife will have in submitting to your Christlike leadership.

My goal here is the GLORY OF GOD in the HEALTH and FRUITFULNESS of the marriages of this church!

So, let us trust that Ephesians 5 is actually the WORD OF GOD for us here, not merely the "word of Paul", a flawed, outmoded, sexist teaching that oppresses women... but rather the most delightful way a Christian husband and wife can live in harmony.

Here is the text, with its clear commands:

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your husbands as 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.

From last week:

Biblical submission = a Christian willingly and gladly arranging himself or herself under God-ordained authority, obeying that authority from the heart as an act of worship to the Lord

We looked at the overarching command:

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

And we saw that many Christians teach the principle of "mutual submission", bringing in very valid biblical themes of mutual service, mutual love, mutual yielding that are taught in many places in scripture

BUT the Greek word translated here "submit" was originally a military term, and everywhere it is used in the New Testament it has to do with OBEDIENCE to GOD-ORDAINED AUTHORITY

This submission does not in any way DEMEAN the one who is submitting

We know this first and foremost because Christ is commanding this of us, and his commands are not burdensome!!

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

1 John 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome

Secondly, we know that submission is not demeaning to the person who does it because Christ submitted to His human parents... and to his heavenly Father

Luke 2:51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.

1 Corinthians 15:28 then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

It is of the essence of Satan's lie in the Garden of Eden and ever since, that obeying God's commands will rob us of joy

But wives and husbands who obey Paul's commands here will be deeply, richly blessed!

Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Yet, I am well aware of how challenging this command can be to obey... so let's start with the challenges...

I. The Challenges of a Wife's Submission

A. Simply Put: Indwelling Sin

1. It is hard for a wife to submit because of her own sin...
2. It is also hard to submit because of her husband's sin

Romans 7:14-20 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

3. Both the husband and wife are sinners... we don't yield easily to authority but tend to fight it; neither to we wield authority well, but tend to LORD IT OVER people
4. Pride makes submission very hard!

5. A wife knows her husbands failures and weaknesses; she studies him, probably more carefully than he studies her; it is easy for her to lose respect for the husband when he is inconsistent, or hypocritical, or harsh, or lazy, or sinfully angry, or anyone of a number of other sin patterns
6. BUT honestly, even if he were perfect, every wife still on planet earth would struggle with submission because of her own willfulness and pride
 - a. Proof of that is her own struggles in obeying JESUS... and he IS perfect and his commands are flawless!
 - b. We all know that struggle!

B. Even More Challenging if the Husband is Not a Christian!

1. I'll get to that more later, but there are some very practical difficulties that come for a Christian wife of a non-Christian husband
2. Peter writes very plainly to wives in that situation:

1 Peter 3:1-2 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

1 Peter 3:4-6 the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

C. Also Satan and the World Ratchet Up the Pressure

1. It is a challenge for a wife to submit to her husband because Satan is constantly ACTIVE, assaulting the wife's mind and heart... accusing her, tempting her
2. And the WORLD SYSTEM with its alluring messages (like feminism and self-actualization and psychology and living for today, etc.) make a constant assault on her resolve

D. SO... this command is CHALLENGING!!

II. The Power of a Wife's Submission

A. The Word "Submit" Does Not Appear in verse 22

1. It just starts in the middle of a sentence, carried over from verse 21
2. But most English translations supply the understood verb "submit"

B. Submission is a Subset of the Spirit-Filled Life

Holman Christian Standard Bible *Ephesians 5:18-24* And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and

making music to the Lord in your heart,

²⁰ giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of Christ. ... ²² wives, to your own husbands as to the Lord, ²³ for the husband is head of the wife as also Christ is head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

1. The submission of a wife to her husband flows from being filled continually with the Holy Spirit
2. It is part of the Spirit-filled life that Paul is teaching

C. Only by the Power of the Indwelling Spirit Can this Be Done!!

1. This whole section is based on saving work of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
2. God elected the wife from before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)
3. In love, God predestined her to be adopted as a daughter of God (Ephesians 1:5)
4. Jesus Christ redeemed her by his blood shed on the cross (Ephesians 1:7)
5. When she heard the Word of Truth, the gospel, she believed and was justified (Ephesians 1:13)
6. At that moment she was SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT (Ephesians 1:13)
7. This Spirit came to live inside her and now is available to FILL HER WITH POWER
8. That filling results in putting sin to death (Romans 8:13) as well as singing, worshipping , giving thanks to God... it also enables her to submit by faith to her husband
9. The Spirit MOVES HER to obey God's commands:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

D. Practical Application

1. Wives: if you are really struggling submitting to your husbands, draw close to Christ... ask Him to fill you again with the Holy Spirit
2. Let the Spirit move in you to walk in a manner pleasing to God
3. Let the Spirit calm your heart, allay your fears, sweeten your meditations, lift your burdens

III. The Pattern of a Wife's Submission

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your husbands as 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.

A. "As to the Lord"

B. "As the Church Submits to Christ"

C. So... a Wife's Godly Submission to Her Husband is PATTERNED in this way

1. Her submission to her husband is a SUBSET of her submission to Jesus
2. As we all do when submitting to governing authorities or to bosses, we are not saying that person is PERFECT or intrinsically better than we are... but we are BY FAITH SEEING BEYOND that person to the Lord invisibly behind them
3. So a godly wife will see Jesus' command behind every moment of her godly submission to her husband
4. AS TO THE LORD = Her submission to her husband is SIMILAR TO but not IDENTICAL TO her submission to Christ
5. So, there is a combination of INWARD HEART ATTITUDE and OUTWARD BODILY ACTIONS

D. True Submission to Christ is Heart-felt

1. We bend our necks under Christ's kingly yoke because we TRUST HIM... as we said earlier

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

2. We submit to the Lord gladly by faith... trusting that his wisdom and love are behind every command he gives us
3. So a wife's submission to her husband should be HEART-FELT, not grudging or reluctant, as under compulsion, but cheerfully
4. Then it flows outward into actions that comply with the husbands leadership... a pattern of obedience and submission to him that is a subset of her submission to Christ

E. This is the Key to the Gender-Based Roles

1. The wife takes her cue from the church's obedience to Christ
2. The husband takes his cue from Christ's headship of the church

IV. The Ground of a Wife's Submission

A. The Reason for the Command

Ephesians 5:22-23 Wives, submit to your husbands as 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.

1. The REASON WHY she submits is that her husband is her HEAD
2. That is the logical connector between verses 22 and 23
3. Some teach that "head" means source or something else
4. But there is a clear sense of authority here as in Ephesians 1

Ephesians 1:20-23 God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The headship of the husband is similar to Christ's headship over the church... it is a position of authority; the right to lead, the right to command and make decisions

B. The Headship is BENEFICIAL to the Body

1. Christ is the head of the church... HIS BODY... of which he is the SAVIOR
2. So this authority is not damaging to the body, but actually is used to SAVE the Church
3. The worldly vision of authority must be rejected:

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

C. Notice the Simple Assertion of Truth: the Husband IS the Head of the Wife

1. Not "ought to be" or "is expected to be"
2. This has nothing to do with his behavior, demeanor, personality, or anything... we'll get to HOW he should carry himself and what he should do in the husband section in Ephesians 5:25 ff
3. BUT the simple assertion of fact is the key to the wife's submission
4. The moment she said "I do", and he became her head...
5. From that moment in their wedding on, God saw that man as her head, and he expected submission from her
6. Nothing we do on earth will change how he will evaluate both of them on Judgment Day
7. So the moment of marriage is most certainly NOT merely a piece of paper... it is an essential CHANGE OF STATUS for the couple... from then on, they take these roles in each other's lives

D. Husbands: Embrace Your Responsibility

1. I often think of this in terms of the Garden of Eden, after the Fall
2. God went looking for the MAN, calling for ADAM, calling him to account
3. Though God certainly demanded an account from the woman, yet the man was FIRST accountable
4. So it is in this issue of headship and submission... it is a matter of spiritual fact in God's eyes... it is the reason WHY she submits to her husband

V. The Extent of a Wife's Submission

A. So... how far does this submission go?

Ephesians 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

B. "In Everything" = in all areas of life and marriage

1. Money and possessions; life management; scheduling; parenting; church involvement; career issues;
2. Any and every topic that might impact them in some way
3. Basically, there is no topic or area of life in which the wife can say, "That's off limits... headship and submission does not extend to that"

NOW... brothers... let's not be fools here: if your wife wants to organize the kitchen her way, putting the pots and pans in this drawer, and the cooking utensils in this drawer, and the spices in this order in the cabinet, she has the right to tell you "That doesn't go there... it goes here!"

There are reasonable areas of jurisdiction!

If your wife has a much more refined eye than you do for fashion, and tells you that outfit doesn't work for the occasion, it is not a violation of headship and submission for you to listen to her and change your clothes

Your wife has the right to rebuke you for sins, or to share some useful insight she's learned from the Bible; or to voice an opinion that a certain decision is not wise

C. Application

1. The wife should have a broad mind and willing heart toward her husband, yearning to live out godly submission IN EVERYTHING
2. As she willingly, gladly submits to his direction, the GOSPEL is being put on display
3. So if there is that "GENTLE AND QUIET SPIRIT" which Peter says is of great worth in the sight of the Lord, she will beautify not only herself, but the gospel of Jesus Christ... for she is showing an open, practical, daily delight in submitting to Christ in all things

Titus 2:4-5 [Older women] can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Titus 2:10 ... so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

A Christian home that follows carefully, by the power of the Spirit, the various roles given in this chapter and the next – husbands and wives, parents and children – it powerfully puts the gospel on display... people can see especially in the husband/wife relationship the awesome mystery of Christ’s loving relationship with the church

ALSO, in a world that is pathetically GENDER-CONFUSED, and people seem to have no idea what femininity and masculinity even mean any more, Christians who understand Ephesians 5 are NOT CONFUSED! The wife is given a role the husband does not have – church-like submission. And the husband is given a role the wife does not have – Christlike headship. From these cues, we get a strong sense of masculinity being servant leadership in the pattern of Christ; femininity being trusting, loving, joyful submission in the pattern of the church.

SO... the extent of the wife’s submission is given: “in everything”

VI. The Limits of a Wife’s Submission

A. BUT as with all human authority, it is not absolute

B. The first limit to the wife’s submission is in the intensive

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For some reason, the NIV left that out... but it is very clear; a wife need only submit as a wife to her OWN husband... not to all men in general.

Also, the words “YOUR OWN” husband implies a kind of reciprocal ownership that includes the sexual bond:

Song of Solomon 2:16 My lover is mine and I am his

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. ⁴ A wife does not have authority over her own body, but her husband does. Equally, a husband does not have authority over his own body, but his wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another-- except when you agree, for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again; otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

He does not have freedom to ROAM, to follow his sexual desires outside of the bounds of marriage; in some sense, she OWNS his body, as much as he in some sense OWNS hers. 1 Corinthians 7 is very reciprocal in the issue of marital relations

C. Nexy, even to her own husband, the wife's submission is limited

1. The wife should submit to her husband AS TO the Lord
2. BUT he is NOT the Lord
 - a. As we already said, he is a sinner
 - b. There may be times that his leadership will not be godly
 - c. She MUST NOT follow him into sin... EVER!!

Deuteronomy 13:6-8 *If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods that neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷ gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), ⁸ do not yield to him or listen to him.*

- d. The Apostles made the limits of authority plain as well

Acts 4:18-19 *Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."*

Acts 5:29 *Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused King Nebuchadnezzar's wicked command to bow down to an idol

- e. Ananias and Sapphira... they sold a piece of property and lied to the Apostles about some of the money
- f. The text makes it clear they were in full consent with each other to commit this fraud... and they each were asked alone, one at a time, what the amount was
- g. This is a small picture of Judgment Day, for both the husband and the wife must stand accountable for their own sins
- h. If the husband, Ananias, had commanded an unwilling wife, Sapphira, to lie, she would have been under no compulsion from HEADSHIP and SUBMISSION to sin against the Lord

D. The Wife's Submission to her husband is a SUBSET of her submission to Christ!!
"As to the Lord..."

E. What If My Husband is a Non-Christian?

1. First, stay married to him, if he is willing to stay married to you:

1 Corinthians 7:13-16 if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶ How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

The advice Paul gives there is, do life together... the husband is SANCTIFIED by having a godly wife; clearly Paul does not mean he is definitely going to be SAVED, for he says at the end that you don't know if you will save your unbelieving husband. BUT if he is WILLING to live with you, do so; try your best to follow whatever leadership he gives that is not ungodly. Clearly if the unbelieving husband forbids you to go to church or read the Bible or pray or raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, these things you must LOVINGLY disobey. But your overall demeanor should be one of loving submissiveness

2. Hear again the wisdom from Peter on that topic:

1 Peter 3:1-6 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

- a. When Peter says your “gentle and quiet spirit” is what makes you beautiful, he is referring to the same themes of submission that Paul discusses
 - b. To be “quiet” means to not be boisterous, argumentative, churning and roiling; OBEY WHATEVER YOU CAN
 - c. When he says you may win your husband over WITHOUT A WORD, he means don't use NAGGING or ARGUING or COMPLAINING or other bad verbal patterns; PRAY... PRAY... PRAY! Trust that God can change his heart
3. HONESTLY, the same principles go for a CHRISTIAN husband who is not behaving well on a given day, or is perhaps not leading wisely in a given topic; for the Christian wife to lovingly persuade is reasonable and good; but for

her to NAG or POUT or ARGUE or YELL or be carnal in any way is not the right approach

F. More Practical Advice

1. What about an ABUSIVE situation?
2. I believe physical abuse can be grounds for separation and divorce and others feel the same way

Matthew 10:23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another.

3. We are not commanded to stand there and take a beating
4. When it comes to emotional or verbal abuse, the same obtains but with this caveat; let's be certain of what "abuse" really is; just because you've had an argument, or your spouse raised his or her voice, that should be kept in perspective and covered with grace and forgiveness. If there is a regular pattern of sinful anger, that is a great place for godly men in the church to bring the man to account and hold him to repentance or face church discipline

G. The Godly Wife as a Counselor

1. Headship and submission does not mean that the wife can't make decisions; or that her input is not sought; or that the husband should regularly and independently make key decisions that will affect her and the children without her input or consent
2. Proverbs 31 implies that the best, most trusted counselor a godly man could ever have is his godly wife:

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

3. The wife's original calling was to be a helper suitable for him:

Genesis 2:18 "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him."

4. Ephesians 5: the sanctifying work of the husband in the wife's life

Ephesians 5:26-27 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... In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives... He who loves his wife, loves himself!!

- a. The more a husband trains his wife in the word, and washes her daily in the word, and prays for her and guides her, the better counsel she will give him daily down the road
- b. On key decisions, the husband should YEARN for input from his wife and listen to her carefully
- c. They should PRAY together as Peter implied in 1 Peter 3:7 “so that nothing will hinder your prayers”
- d. They should discuss things together and come to a wise, mutually agreeable decision
- e. There may occasionally be an absolute impasse, and the husband definitely has the right and responsibility to make the final decision
- f. BUT in generally there should be a beautiful harmony between them
- g. The husbands authority over his wife is of a different nature than his authority over their children; because she is a mature, Christian adult who can speak wisdom into situations

VII. The Delight of a Wife’s Submission

- A. Basic Idea: The More a Husband Obeys Ephesians 5, the more delightful will be a wife’s submission
- B. What Christian Wife Wouldn’t Want This?:

Ephesians 5:25-30 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 his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

1. Brothers: the more you love your wife... deeply love her from the heart; the more you cherish her; the more you lay down your life for her and serve her needs and feed her and clothe her and sweetly nurse her back to health... the more you wash her with the water of the word... the more you pray for her and walk like Christ in front of her... the more DELIGHTFUL will be her submission to you
2. Furthermore, the more you lead in a courageous way, boldly and wisely, the safer she will feel under your leadership, to follow your godly, decisive leadership

VIII. Applications

- A. Come to Christ
- B. Be Filled with the Spirit
- C. Wives: Ask God to Search Your Hearts About Submission
- D. Husbands: Ask God even now to prepare you to be searched next week by Ephesians 5; yearn to make your wife's submission to your headship a DELIGHT
- E. Couples: Make Ephesians 5 a major part of your prayer lives and daily lives together
- F. Single women: Seek to BE the right kind of woman; and seek the right kind of man
- G. Single men: Look for a godly woman who can embrace this teaching
- H. Church: be praying for the marriages of our church!!