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# MARRIAGE MAKEOVER

Ephesians 5:21-33

## **THE PASSAGE:** *Three Simple Commands*

- ❶ Christians: **Submit to one another.** (vs. 21)
- ❷ Wives: **Submit to your husband.** (vs. 22)
- ❸ Husbands: **Sacrificially love your wife.** (vs. 25)

## **MARRIAGE MYTHS:** *What Lots of Christians Think the Bible Says...*

- ▶ Husbands **lead** – Wives **adapt & follow.**
- ▶ Headship means whenever spouses **disagree** – it's the **husband's call.**
- ▶ Submission means following your husband **even when he's wrong.**

## **MARRIAGE MAKEOVER:** *What the Bible Actually Says About...*

### **SUBMISSION**

- ❶ We're **ALL** supposed to submit to the **government** – **church leaders** & **fellow Christians!** Romans 13:1-4/ Hebrews 13:17 & 1 Peter 2:13/ Ephesians 5:21
- ❷ Submission doesn't mean **blind obedience.**  
Daniel 6/ Acts 17:11/ 1 Samuel 25:2-42

### **LOVE & HEADSHIP**

- ❶ Agape LOVE puts the **needs** and **interests** of others first.  
1 Corinthians 13:4-5/ Philippians 2:3-7
- ❷ Christ-like LEADERSHIP **gives more than it gets.**  
Matthew 20:25-28/ Ephesians 5:25-27

## **THE BOTTOM LINE:** *To Do Marriage Right...*

### **HUSBANDS**

- In matters of preference – **give in.**
- In matters of eternal consequence – **lead!**

### **HUSBANDS & WIVES**

- Treat your spouse **BETTER** than you treat anyone else.
- Forgive your spouse **MORE** than you forgive anyone else.
- Adapt to your spouse **FAR MORE** than you adapt to anyone else.

# Marriage Makeover

Ephesians 5:21-33

Food for Thought for the week of June 19, 2005

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. This weekend we learned that a marriage is just like any other relationship in that it thrives or dies according to how we treat each other. Here are some verses that speak to how we treat one another. If married, jot down how they apply specifically to your marriage. If single, jot down how they apply to the relationships that are most important to you. (Note: each passage has multiple principles.)

## John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

[2] The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. [3] Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; [4] so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. [5] After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

[6] He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

[7] Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

[8] "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

[9] "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

[10] Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." [11] For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

[12] When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. [13] "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. [14] Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. [15] I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. [16] I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. [17] Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. [NIV]

## Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. [11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. [13] Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

[17] Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. [18] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. [19] Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. [20] On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

[21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. [NIV]

### **Colossians 3:12-16**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. [NIV]

### **1 Peter 3:8-9**

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. [9] Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. [NIV]

### **1 Peter 4:8-11**

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. [NIV]

2. Part of submitting to each other means putting others' needs in front of our own. Read Mark 14:1-11, Acts 9:36-43, and Luke 10:30-37. Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs and help others?

What did it cost them to give?

What might it cost you to follow their example?

3. If you are married, engaged or dating, take a minute to really think about your significant other and write down at least five strengths, gifts, or abilities that they possess. If you are single, do the same thing for a family member or friend that you care about.

Now read Hebrews 10:24-25. Think about each strength or gift listed above and jot down how you can encourage them or "spur them on" to develop or build upon a few of their strengths. Be as specific as possible.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. [25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [NIV]