



## Lesson 3 What's a Husband? What's a Wife?

*Prior to starting this lesson, review the homework from the last session.*

### Introduction:

#### **1 Peter 1:18-19**

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

I am worth . . . **the blood of Jesus.** (And so, I'm priceless!)

My spouse is also . . . **worth the blood of Jesus.**

Now I want to say . . . **"thank you" to God.** A great way is to be the husband/wife that God wants us to be.

This passage helps set a foundational tone for the lesson. Both husband and wife are equally precious, equally special. Neither role is superior or inferior. The pastor will need to exercise judgment as to whether—or how much—to explain what the roles aren't or how Satan twists them.

After working through the 1 Peter passage together, then have the future husband work individually through the "role as husband" segments and answer the questions. At the same time, have the wife work through page 2, the "role of the wife" segments, and answer the questions.

Close by reviewing 1 Peter 1 again. That allows the lesson to both be opened and closed with gospel.

### My Role as Husband

#### **1 Peter 2:21,23-24; 3:7-9**

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. . . .<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. . . .<sup>3:7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, live in harmony*

with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> 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.

### **Ephesians 5:21-33**

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. . . <sup>23</sup> 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. . . <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—<sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

Emerson Eggerich, the author of "Love and Respect" argues that women crave love, but struggle to give respect, while men crave respect, but struggle to give love. So, God commands both sexes to focus on giving what they might be not as likely to give on their own. Eph 5:33 will be one of the passages in Lesson #4.

### **In my role, God wants me to:**

- 1) Be considerate of my wife, treat her with respect—care, protect, and provide for her as the head. In 1 Peter, Peter refers to the wife as the "weaker partner," alluding to the natural biology that men are physically stronger than women, reinforcing the husband's role as protector and provider.
- 2) Live in harmony, be sympathetic.
- 3) Be a leader, love my wife as Christ loved the Church. Give myself up for my wife, as Christ gave himself up for me.

### **The reasons for me to do so are:**

- 1) Christ suffered for us. Christ bore our sins in his body on the tree. His wounds heal us. God called us to a Christlike life.
- 2) Reverence for Christ. As a baptized child of God, I'm radiant!
- 3) Christ has fed me, as part of his Church, so I want to "feed and care for" my wife. Etc.

## My Role as Wife

### 1 Peter 2:21,23-24, 3:1-6

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. . . <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. . . <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. . . <sup>3:1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. <sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> 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.*

### Ephesians 5:21-24, 31-33

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. . . <sup>31</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. . . <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. . . <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

### In my role, God wants me to:

- 1) **Submit to my husband**
- 2) **Have not only external beauty, but internal**
- 3) **To always put my hope in God**

### The reasons for me to do so are:

- 1) **Christ suffered for us. Christ bore our sins in his body on the tree. His wounds heal us.**
- 2) **God called us to a Christlike life. My life might impact an unbelieving spouse.**

- 3) Reverence for Christ. As a baptized child of God, I'm radiant! Christ has fed me, as part of his Church. Etc.

What's the difference between the world's view of submission the Word's view of submission?

- The world's view:

Especially for those who live in "democratic" societies, submission easily sounds archaic and possibly even repulsive. Encouraged by a culture that fiercely guards all its real and perceived personal "rights," we instinctively import weakness and inferiority into the picture of submission. (From *Heirs Together* by Richard Gurgel and Kathie Wendland)

- The Word's view:

Submission is not a case of "you against me" or "me against you," but it is a case of "Christ in me" and "me in Christ." Joyful submission is modeled after the relationship of a group of believers to Christ: As we all submit to Christ, because Christ is the head of the church. Submission is not to be done just by the wife; in the case of Christian husbands and wives, it is to be done by both, just in different ways and within their unique callings within marriage.

The concept of headship and submission here can be difficult to grasp in our modern-day context. However, Christ's headship of the church led him to put the eternal needs of everyone on earth ahead of his own life. Submitting to the person who promised to love and cherish you for the rest of your life demonstrates the type of love that puts someone else's needs before your own.

It doesn't mean the husband always gets his way; in fact, if he's loving his wife the way Christ loved the Church, he'll put her interests first. A husband's role is to give himself up to his wife using Christ as his role model. Christ's self-giving was deliberate and purposeful.

The husband shouldn't shirk his headship, nor stifle his wife's strengths. How it plays out in each household will look different, depending on the strengths/weaknesses of each spouse. Husbands and wives share equal value and status as children of God, and ought to see each other as completely equal in value, too.

So, if both husband and wife are putting one another's needs ahead of their own—like Christ put our needs ahead of his—it's not a power struggle. It's love, like Christ loved us.

### 1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

I am worth ... the blood of Jesus. (And so, I'm priceless!)

My spouse is also ... is also worth the blood of Jesus.

Now I want to say ... "thank you" to God. A great way is to be the husband/wife that God wants us to be.

## Assignment:

Watch these five marriage moments, all dealing with the role of husband/wife. (#73-77) Come to the next session with 2-3 thoughts which you found helpful/challenging/interesting, or about which you had questions.

73 - <https://vimeo.com/670800255>

74 - <https://vimeo.com/670809023>

75 - <https://vimeo.com/670812989>

76 - <https://vimeo.com/670816865>

77 - <https://vimeo.com/670826991>