



Rock Point Church
Bill & Carrie Bush | 2.23.2025

BIG IDEA | You can't understand your role until you understand the goal.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)

²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually

shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

The goal of marriage:

Holiness not happiness.

The roles: mutual selflessness

The wife acts with respectful support.

The husband leads with sacrificial love.

Genesis 3:1-19 (NLT)

¹ The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” ² “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. ³ “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of

the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”⁴ “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman.⁵ “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees.⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”¹⁰ He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

¹⁴ Then the Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this, you are cursed
more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly,
groveling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ Then he said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy,
and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband,
but he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to the man he said,

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,
the ground is cursed because of you.

All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you,
though you will eat of its grains.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
will you have food to eat
until you return to the ground
from which you were made.
For you were made from dust,
and to dust you will return.”

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you about this week’s sermon?
2. How does seeing marriage as a reflection of Christ and the Church change the way we view and approach the roles of husbands and wives?
3. In what ways do modern marriages often resemble contracts rather than covenants? How can we shift our mindset to embrace a covenant relationship?
4. Ephesians 5:21 calls both spouses to submit to one another. What does mutual submission look like in a healthy marriage, and why do you think Paul emphasizes this before addressing individual roles?

5. How do you see the concept of 'holiness' playing out in your own life, and how might focusing on holiness change the way you interact with others?

6. How has experiencing God's love impacted your ability to love others, and what does 'loving like Christ' look like in your daily life?