

SESSION 24
EPHESIANS 5.21-33

Overarching Themes in Ephesians: "The letter dwells profoundly on the Person of Jesus Christ and The Church." R.P. Martin

Context: Paul's exhortation to, with a renewed mind, walk in wisdom redeeming the time and seeking to please the Lord with a surrendered heart that is continuously open to the filling of the Holy Spirit, giving praise and earnest thanksgiving to God.

Learning Targets For Enduring Understanding From This Session:
To understand the meaning and implications of being in submission to Christ.
To understand Christ's authority relationship over His bride the Church and apply this understanding to the marriage relationship.

V 21 What does it mean to be in submission to one another?

What does Paul identify as the only adequate platform for mutual submission?
Phil 2.3-8

The Four Lessons (V 22 – 30)

1. Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body. In the ordering of creation man occupies this place of headship over woman. 1 Cor 11.3

What is the most important proviso in a man exercising headship in a family?

2. Christ requires the obedience of His people who are rightly subjected to him. How does this obedience manifest itself in the human family?

What happens when the husband cannot function in a manner that reflects authentic subjection to Christ? Isa 54.5

3. Christ has set His love upon the Church and has shown the extent of that love in all that He has done for the Church's redemption. V 25b-27

How does Paul relate Christ's ministry to the Church to a man's ministry within his family?

4. Christ, who looks upon the Church as part of His own body, cares for her. V 29-30

How would you summarize the function of man in the marriage relationship?

V 31 Where now is Paul going in his considerations? Gen 2.18-24

V 32 What is the profound mystery of which Paul speaks?

Consider Deut 29.29.

What is hidden?

What is revealed?

V 33 What summary applications does Paul ultimately make in light of all the above considerations?