

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

How might Paul's description of the relationship between Christ and the Church help you to be assured of your salvation?

How might Paul's understanding of marriage, as a picture of Christ's relationship with the church, inform your understanding of issues such as adultery, divorce or remarriage?

How do your relationships match up to the model of Christ and the Church? If you are married, how does your attitude to your spouse match up?

*Christ is the spiritual 'husband' of the Church. He loves the Church and desires her growth and flourishing. What a wonderful truth to be part of such a body, the body of Christ himself.*



## A Short Study of EPHESIANS 5:22-33

*In this study from the fifth chapter of Ephesians we learn about Christ's relationship with the church and how that provides a model for the proper relationship between husband and wife.*

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## EPHESIANS 5:22-33

22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

23 *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.*

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

25 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*

26 *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*

27 *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

28 *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

29 *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,*

30 *because we are members of his body.*

31 *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

32 *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

33 *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

## OBSERVATION

Mark every occurrence of the words ‘Christ’ and any pronouns that refer to him. Mark every occurrence of the word ‘Church’ and any pronouns (‘she,’ ‘her,’ ‘its’) that refer to the church.

- List four aspects of Christ’s relationship with the church described in verse 23 to 25.

Mark the word ‘might.’

- What is Christ’s intention with regard to the church?

Mark the words ‘body,’ ‘bodies,’ ‘flesh’ and any pronouns that refer to them.

- What else does Christ do for the church, his body?

## INTERPRETATION

Paul is using the relationship of Christ and the church to teach about the relationship between husband and wife.

- How does the relationship between Christ and the Church model the proper relationship between husband and wife?

Paul tells the wife to submit to her husband. Bearing in mind the relationship between Christ and the church:

- What do you think that submission should look like?
- How does the comparison to Christ and the church inform your understanding of the husband’s responsibilities to his wife?
- Do you think the husband or the wife is called to make the greater sacrifice?