

A Biblical Perspective on Relationships

“Love & Respect – A Mystery Revealed”

Ephesians 5:21-33

Last week: We were created for relationship but fell out of relationship with God and now face three relational terrorists: Hiding, Blame, and Control. (Genesis 1-3)

These terrorists were not part of God's original design but are the result of disobedience and the relational crash that took place in that ancient garden.

This week: We will consider the New Testament antidote to relational terrorists summed up in two words: **Love & Respect**.

1. Husband, _____ your wife! (Ephesians 5:25-31)

In summary → Surrender yourself to become the sacrificial, servant-leader your wife needs because of who she is, who she will become, and because of Jesus!

Agape – God-given, God-like love. The kind of love Adam was meant to show Eve in the Garden.

- (25) Agape love is _____.
- (25) Agape love is _____.
- (26-27) Agape love is _____ - leadership.
- (29) Agape love is _____ and protection.
- (31) Agape love is _____.

There is no room within **agape love** for self-interest or self-protection, only personal surrender to God's will. Agape love is a husband's act of submission to both God and his wife.

2. Wife, _____ to your husband. (Ephesians 5:21-24)

In summary → Choose to follow the sacrificial, servant-leadership of your husband because of who he is, the responsibility he's been given, and because of Jesus.

Submit – In military terms it means the arrangement of troops under the direction of their leader. In non-military terms, it has the idea of voluntarily and willingly placing oneself under the recognized leadership of another—as, but not identical to, the church submitting to Christ.

Submission...

- Is not about _____ – men/women are equal.
- Is not about _____ – men/women are both able.
- Is not about _____ – it's about God-given responsibility within a marriage relationship.

Headship – The inherent, God-given responsibility a husband is given to provide sacrificial love and servant-leadership to and for his wife—as, but not identical to, Christ being the head of the church.

3. Love & Respect – A _____ revealed!

Ephesians 5:32-33