

**1. General counsel for all believers**

- a) Ephesians 5:21 What does it mean to submit to one another? (See also Philippians 2:3-4)
- b) According to Paul, what is our motivation for mutual submission?
- c) How did Jesus model this principle of mutual submission? Philippians 2:5-8

**2. Counsel to Christian wives**

- a) Ephesians 5:22-24 What does it mean for wives to submit to their husbands “as to the Lord”? (See also Colossians 3:18)
- b) These verses have been misused by some to justify unhealthy domination and abuse. How should we understand these verses in the context of Christ’s relationship with His church?
- c) Being subject “in everything” sounds all encompassing. Are there any exceptions where a Christian wife should not be subject to her husband? Acts 5:29, Proverbs 4:14-15
- d) For those of you who are Christian wives, what is the most important lesson you have learned from this inspired counsel?

**3. Counsel to Christian husbands**

- a) Ephesians 5:25 How does Christ’s model of sacrificing love set an example for Christian husbands?
- b) We all grew up in less than perfect homes with less than perfect

examples. How can we learn to love with such self-sacrificing love?

- c) In addition to a call for self-sacrificing love, what other guidance does the apostle Paul give to Christian husbands? Ephesians 5:28-29 (See also Ephesians 6:4, 1 Thessalonians 2:7)
- d) For those who are Christian husbands, what is the most important lesson you have learned from this inspired counsel?
- e) Some of you are single. What is your most important take-away lesson from Paul’s counsel to husbands and wives?
- f) Ephesians 5:33 What are your thoughts about this summary statement by the apostle Paul?

**4. Christ’s love and care for His church**

- a) Ephesians 5:25-27,30,32 What impresses you the most as you read Paul’s description of Christ’s love for His Church?
- b) When did you come to the realization that you are greatly loved and cherished by Jesus?
- c) How can we help others to realize how precious they are to Jesus and how much He loves them?

