



## Life Group Work Sheet

### Ephesians 5:21-24

#### What Does It Take For A Woman To Be A Great Wife?

May 11, 2014

#### Getting to Know Each Other

1. In your own words, how would you describe the purpose of marriage (i.e., why did God give us marriage)? How does the Bible answer this question? How does American culture answer this question?

#### Into the Text

2. **Read Gen. 2:18-25.** This text is about the first marriage in history. What does it tell us about marriage?
  - a. What does the author mean when he says that the “two will become one flesh” (v. 24)? Is this referring only to sexual union?
  - b. How does Gen. 2:18-25 provide the foundation for what Paul says in Eph. 5:21-33?
3. **Read Phil. 2:6-11.** Based off this passage, does submission necessitate inferiority?
  - a. What is Christ's *identity* in this passage? (Or put a different way, is Christ intrinsically inferior to the Father in this passage?)
  - b. What is Christ's *role* in this passage? (Or put a different way, how is Christ's role different than that of the Father's?)

- c. What does this passage tell us, if anything, about submission in marriage?

4. **Read Eph. 5:21-24.** What does submission for a wife look like in each of the following situations?
  - a. A husband is interested in taking a new job that will be a step of faith but will cause the family to move to another state. He doesn't want to make the final decision. How does his wife submit?
  - b. A wife becomes a Christian through the witness of her friends, but her husband is not a Christian. How does she submit to him? *Should* she submit to him?
  - c. A husband and wife disagree on how they should discipline their children. How should this disagreement be resolved? How can the wife lovingly submit to her husband?
  - d. A man is abusive toward his wife and uses Eph. 5:21-24 to “justify” his actions. What does submission look like in this situation? What does submission *not* look like in this situation?

#### Submission in the Church

*“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

(Ephesians 5:18–21 ESV)

Paul's discussion on submission in marriage is a practical application of how submission works out in one area of our lives. Another area of our lives where submission should be worked out is in the church. With that in mind, answer the following questions:

1. How good am I at putting others first in the church?
2. What is one way that I can be sure to put others first this coming week?
3. How can I help myself to live for others in all that I do?