

A close-up photograph of a couple's hands clasped together in a wedding ceremony. The bride's hand is on the left, wearing a white sleeve and a ring on her finger. The groom's hand is on the right, wearing a dark suit sleeve and a patterned red and gold cuff. The background is a bright, out-of-focus white setting.

# Marriage: a Picture of Christ and the Church?

Ephesians 5:21-33

*Marriage*

# Last week we learned

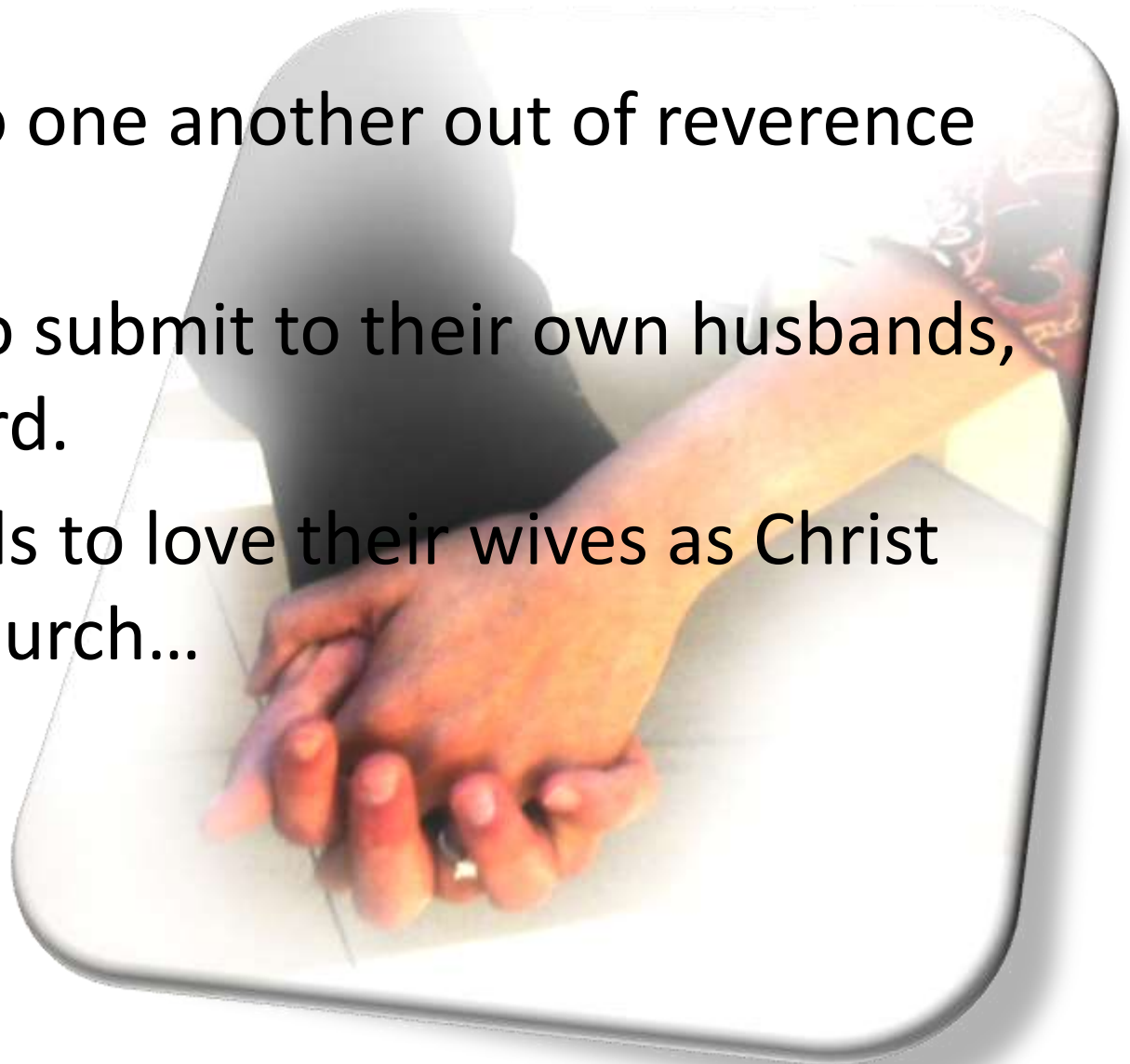
Ephesians 5:18–21

Evidence of Filling of the Holy Spirit:

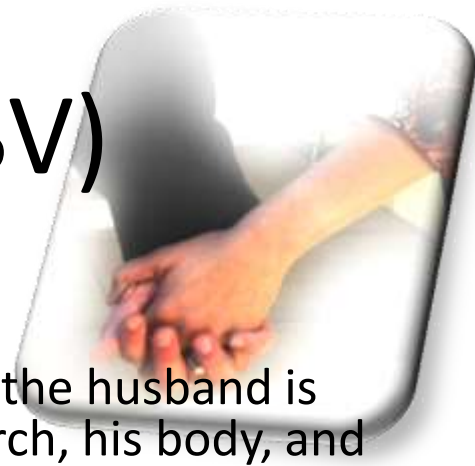
- <sup>18</sup> ....but be filled with the Spirit,
- <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
  - singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,
  - <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - <sup>21</sup> **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

# Today we will see what it means

- I. To submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- II. For wives to submit to their own husbands, as to the Lord.
- III. For husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church...



# Ephesians 5:21–33 (ESV)



- <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

# Submission in the Christian Household

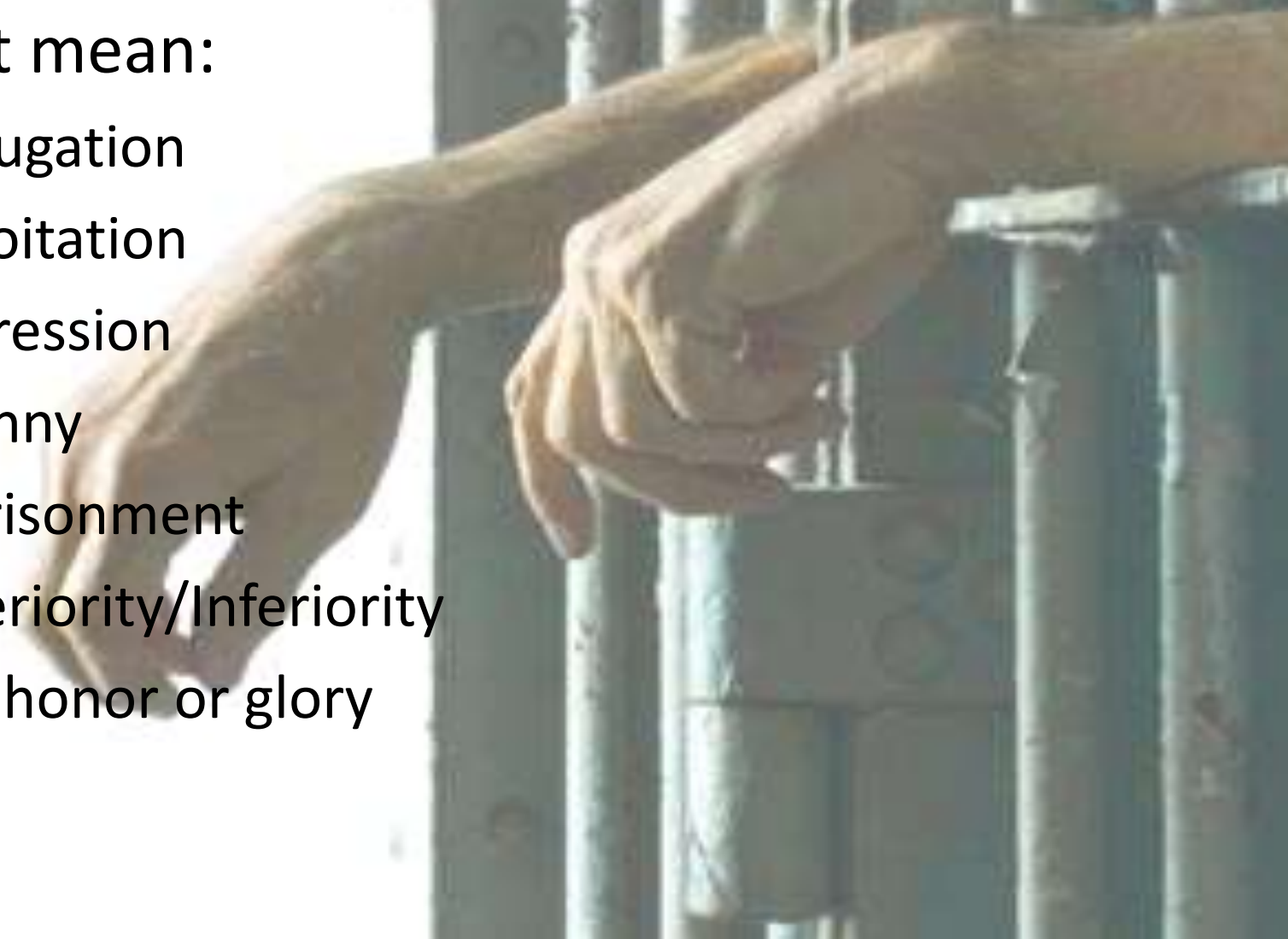
- <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**
- Women to your husbands.... (Eph. 5:22-33)
  - Children to your parents.... (Eph. 6:1-4)
  - Servants to your masters... (Eph. 6:5-10)
  - To the Lord (strength of His might) in spiritual battles  
....(Eph. 6:11-24)
- Submitting 'does not focus specifically on the relationship of husbands and wives'
  - believers are urged to be submissive to those who are in authority over them.



# Biblical Submission to Authority

Does not mean:

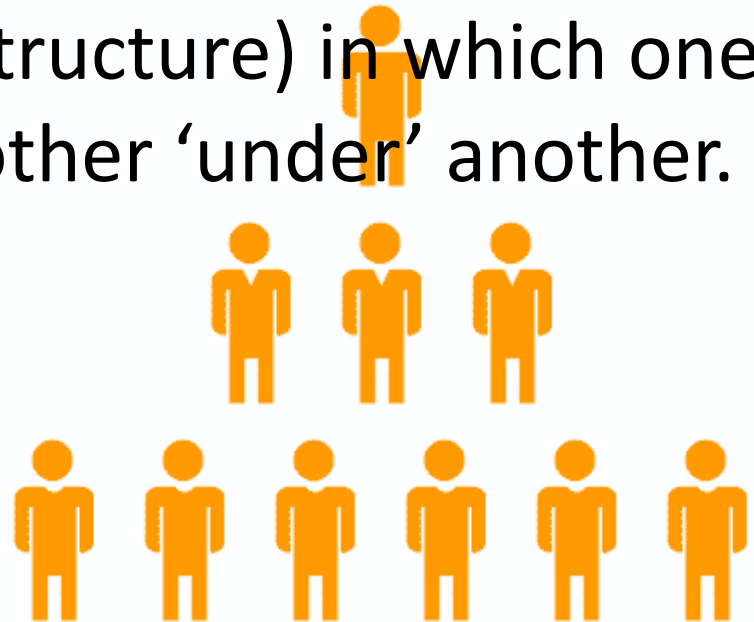
- Subjugation
- Exploitation
- Oppression
- Tyranny
- Imprisonment
- Superiority/Inferiority
- Less honor or glory



# Submission

<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Submission always has to do with an ordered relationship (authority structure) in which one person is 'over' and another 'under' another.

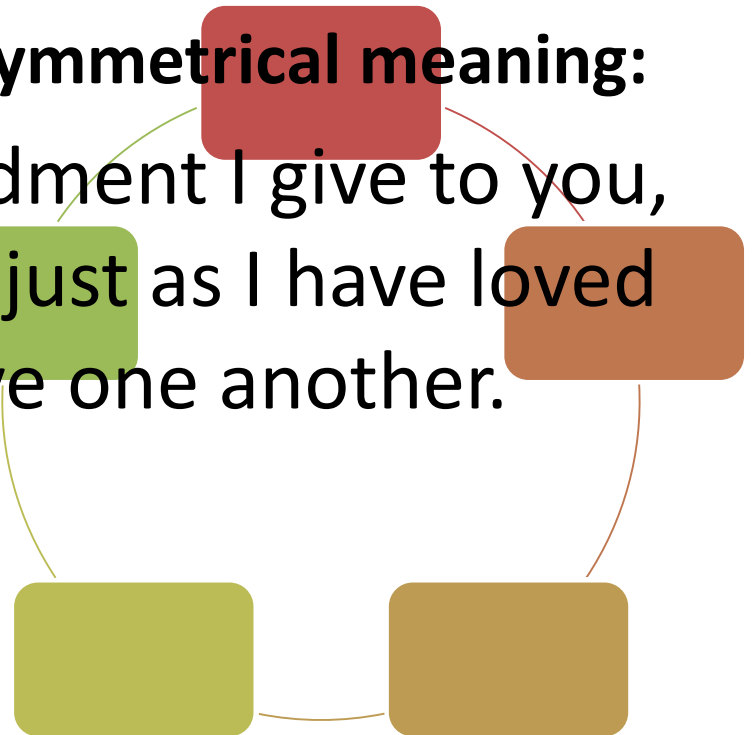


# One Another

<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Sometimes “one another” has symmetrical meaning:

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.





# One another is not symmetrical

<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

One another does not always speak of a symmetrical relationship

Gal. 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Rev. 6:4 And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.



# One another

**<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**Context of Ephesians does not say:**

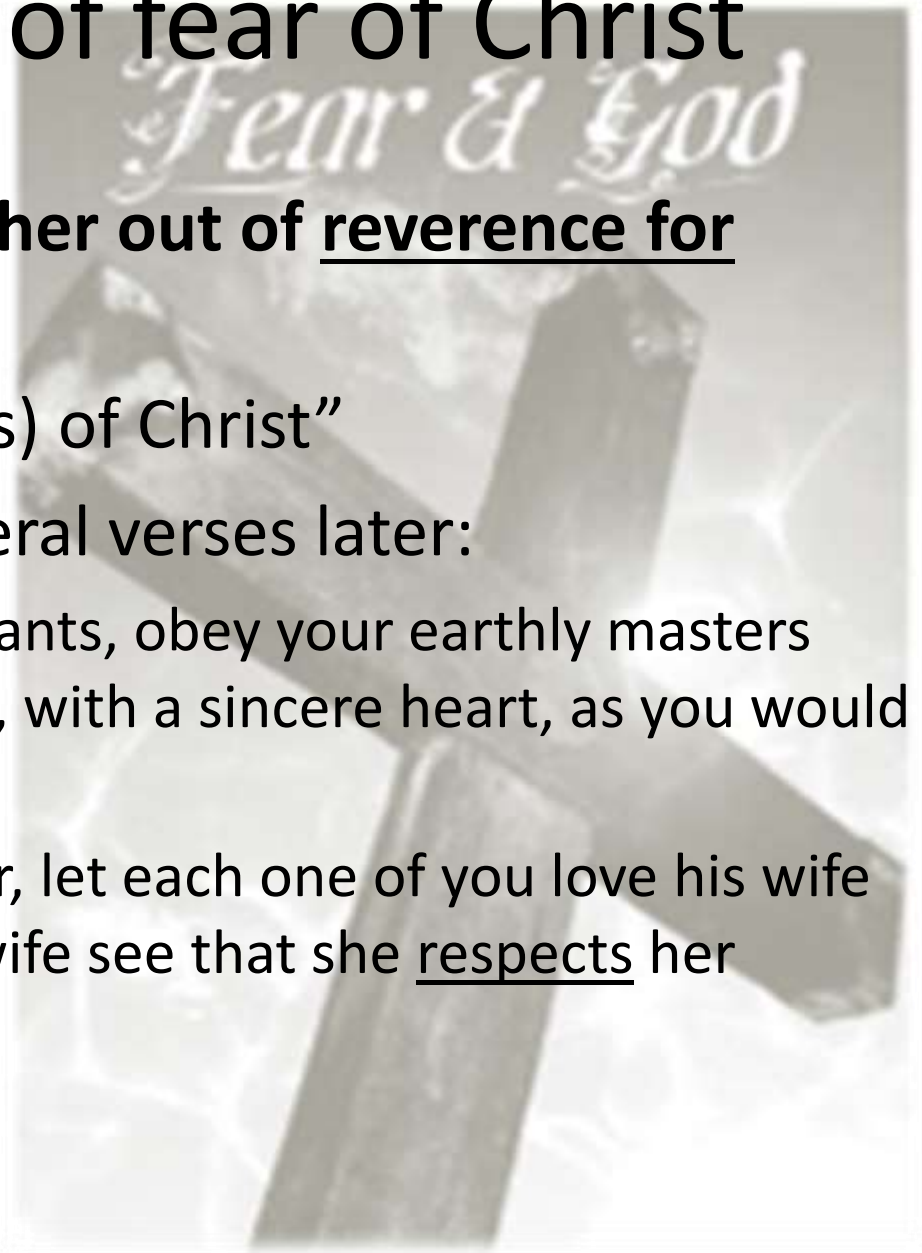
- Husbands are to submit to their wives.... (Eph. 5:22-33)
- Parents are to submit to their children.... (Eph. 6:1-4)
- Masters are to submit to their servants ... (Eph. 6:5-10)
- Disciples are to submit to spiritual forces....(Eph. 6:11-24)



# Submit out of fear of Christ

<sup>21</sup> **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

- Lit. “out of fear (phobos) of Christ”
- Same word is used several verses later:
  - Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,
  - Ephesians 5:33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



# Last evidence of “Filled with the Spirit”

- Is coming to terms with your position within the context of authority and behaving as under the authority of Christ, especially in ones household.
- ‘Submit to one another, and what I mean is, wives submit to your husbands, children to your parents, and slaves to your masters’
- As a husband, love your wife, as a parent, don’t exasperate your children, as a master, be kind to your servant/s.

# Wife's Duty



<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

## **Submission is Voluntary**

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

- “Submit” is in middle voice.
- Wives, place yourselves under your husbands' authority. This is appropriate behavior for the Lord's people. (God's Word)

# What it means to submit



<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**Submission is to your husband, not someone else's.**

# What it means to submit



<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**Submit to your man, not men in general.**



# What it means to submit



<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**Husband and wife are “One body”, belonging to God, not the husband’s property!**

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

# Why Submit?



<sup>22</sup> Wives, *submit* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Motivation:

When you submit to your husband, you're submitting to the Lord.

Submit to your own husband in the same way that you would submit to the Lord.

Submit to your own husband in the fear of the Lord.

# Why should the wife submit to her husband?



<sup>23</sup> 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.

## Two Facts:

- The husband “is” the head of the wife.
- Christ is the head of the Church.
  - Church is Christ’s body.
  - Christ is the Savior of his body (the church).
    - Last point sets up a model for “the head”.

# Church submission Christ is model



- <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- “Now” should be “but”, “notwithstanding this difference” – man is not the savior of the wife.
  - The church submits (middle voice) to her head – Christ.
  - In the same way, wives ought to submit to their head – husband, in everything.

# What if the husband is a non-believer?

1 Peter 3:1–2 **3** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct.





The duty of the wife within the household may seem tough, but the duty of the man is tougher.

He is to love his wife.

He is to avoid provoking his Children.

He is to be good to his servants.

# Husband's Duty



<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives,

Love is commanded (present, active, imperative). It's not voluntary.

He doesn't say, "Exercise your position of authority over your wife."



# How does he love?



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

**The model for loving is Christ.**

Christ loved the church so much that He died for it, the husband should be willing to do the same.

It's not hard to submit to this kind of love.

# Christ's view of his wife



<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Sanctify – set the church apart for himself from the rest of mankind (the unclean).

Having washed away sins with the word of the gospel.

# Christ's Goal of separating and cleansing his bride?



<sup>27</sup> 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.

A picture of the end times when the church, as bride will meet the groom, not with it's present blemishes but as pure and holy.

# Love her, she and you are one.



<sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body.

If you don't love her, you don't love yourself and you are disobedient to Christ.

# The Mystery



<sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

- The mystery: The relationship of Christ and the church is a typology of marriage.
  - The man and woman are one body.
  - Christ and the church are one body.

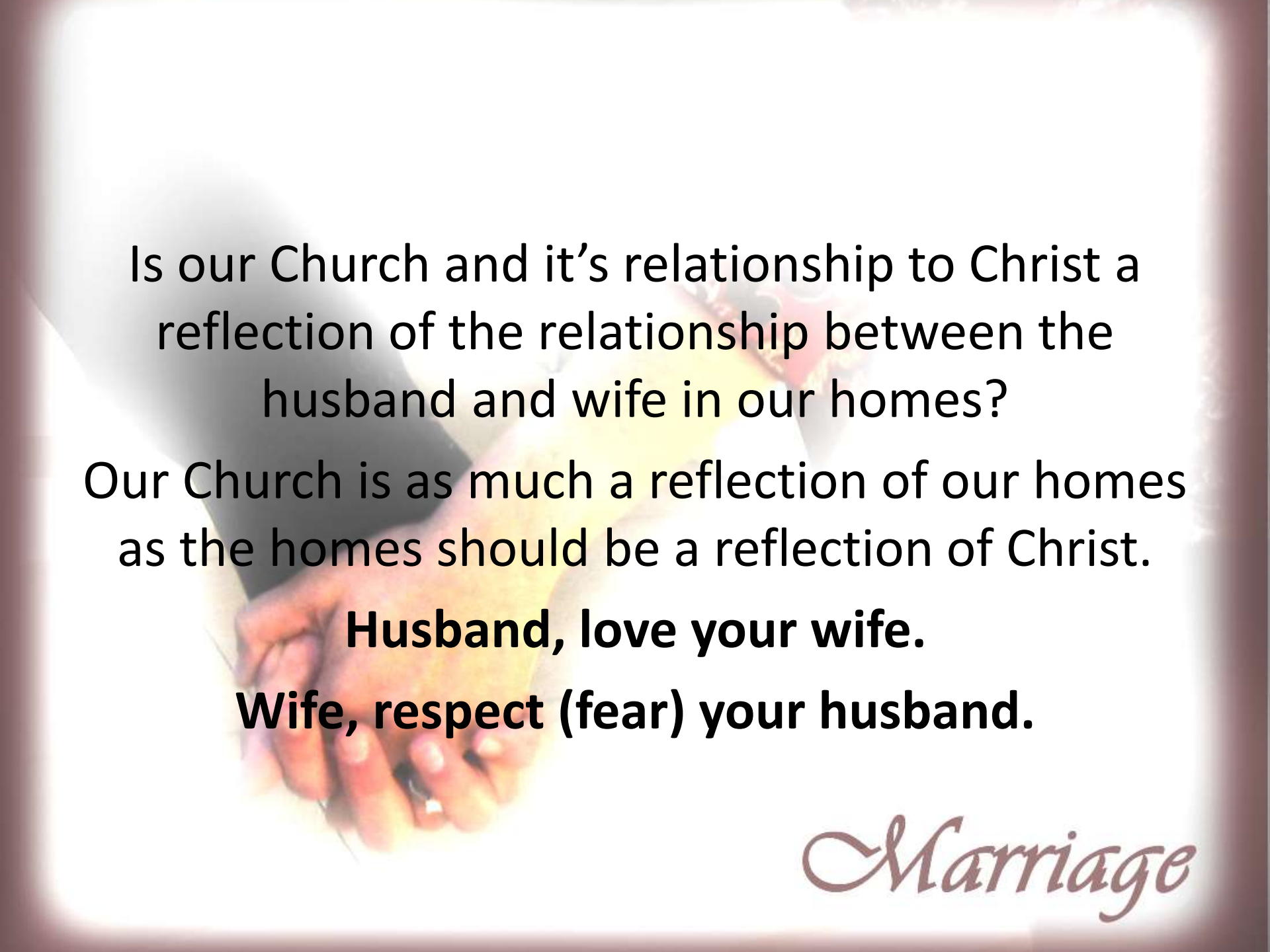
# The Challenge



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

Husband, love your wife as yourself.

Wife, respect (fear) your husband.



Is our Church and it's relationship to Christ a reflection of the relationship between the husband and wife in our homes?

Our Church is as much a reflection of our homes as the homes should be a reflection of Christ.

**Husband, love your wife.**

**Wife, respect (fear) your husband.**

*Marriage*