

## **MISCONCEPTION - TO LOVE IS A SOLE DUTY OF HUSBANDS**

**"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).**

**"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22).**

Quoting Ephesians 5:25 with its corresponding verse, Ephesians 5:22, we often hear some people saying; 'the duty of the wife is to submit and the duty of the husband is to love. Some have generally interpreted these verses in a way that loving one's spouse is the sole duty of the husband. However, the Bible never says 'to love' in marriage is only the duty of the husband.

Yes, the Bible teaches wives to submit to their husbands and husbands to love their wives, but the Bible never says 'wives are not to love their husbands' too. The fact that Bible says husband are to love their wives doesn't mean wives are not to love their husbands.

Love in marriage is mutual and wives also ought to love their husbands, as the same Apostle Paul, the writer of Ephesians, said to Titus; "likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. *Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children*" (Titus 2:3-4).

To dig a little deeper, the marriage relationship between a man and a woman is compared to the relationship between Christ and the Church, with Christ as the husband and the Church as His wife (Eph. 5:25-27). In Genesis 2:24 Scripture says "for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." In the same way Jesus left His Father and united Himself to the church (His wife) through His death and resurrection. As a man unites himself with his wife in marriage to become one flesh, in the same way "he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit" (1Cor. 6:17).

Now considering the aforementioned analogy, does Christ (husband) love the church (wife)? Yes! Should the church (wife) also love Christ

(husband)? Of course yes! Many times in Scriptures we are told to love our Lord. In fact, Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:24 said; "grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love." So then we see that the love between Christ and the church should be mutual. Jesus (husband) loves us and has saved us, and we (church) also love Him and obey Him.

Love between husbands and wives must therefore be mutual, not the singular duty of husbands. Bible teaches wives to submit to their husbands and husbands to love their wives, but it never teaches that 'loving your spouse' is the singular duty of husbands. Every good wife loves her husband.