

Ephesians 5:15–33 (NKJV)

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. What does it mean to “walk circumspectly” (v. 1) and to “redeem the time” (v. 2)? You may find it helpful to compare a variety of translations of these phrases.

2. Why does v. 18 condemn drunkenness? Why is that contrasted with being filled with the Spirit?

3. What five expressions of Spirit-filling can you find in vv. 19–21? How does each one demonstrate a fruit of the Spirit?

4. What does it mean for a wife to “submit” to her husband (v. 22)? Consider Titus 2:5 and 1 Pet. 3:1–6 as you think about this idea.

5. What reason does Paul give for wives to “submit” to their husbands in vv. 23–24? Is there any situation in life when that reason would be invalid?

6. What does it mean for a husband to “love” his wife (v. 25)? Helpful cross-references include Col. 3:19 and 1 Pet. 3:7.

7. What reason does Paul give for husbands to “love” their wives in vv. 28–31? Is there any situation in life when that reason would be invalid?

8. In verse 32, Paul says he is speaking “concerning Christ and his church.” What do we learn about Christ and the church from vv. 25–32?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of Ephesians 5:15–33 for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
