



# RCCG OCEANIA

Family & Parenting

## BIBLICAL ROLES IN MARRIAGE

### AT A GLANCE

#### BIG IDEA

Marriage is a sacred union that mirrors the relationship between Christ and the church. Husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially, as Christ loved the church, while wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. This study explores how these roles foster a harmonious and holy marriage.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Ephesians 5:22

Ephesians 5:23

Ephesians 5:24

Ephesians 5:25

Ephesians 5:28

Ephesians 5:31

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Husbands are to love their wives sacrificially, as Christ loved the church.
- Wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ.
- The husband's role includes spiritual leadership and cleansing through the word.
- Marriage involves leaving parental ties and forming a new, united family.
- A successful marriage reflects the unity and love between Christ and the church.

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage, as depicted in the Bible, is a profound and sacred institution that reflects the relationship between Christ and the church. This study delves into the roles and responsibilities outlined in Ephesians, offering insight into how these roles contribute to a harmonious and holy marriage.

## SCRIPTURE READING

- **Ephesians 5:22** — Discusses the biblical call for wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and submission in marriage.
- **Ephesians 5:23** — Explains the husband's role as the head of the wife, drawing a parallel to Christ's headship over the church.
- **Ephesians 5:25** — Instructs husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, emphasizing sacrificial love.
- **Ephesians 5:28** — Advises husbands to love their wives as their own bodies, underscoring the unity and care within marriage.
- **Ephesians 5:31** — Describes the union of husband and wife as one flesh, signifying the deep bond and commitment in marriage.
- **Matthew 8** — Illustrates the concept of authority and submission, relevant to understanding marital roles.

## KEY POINTS

**1. SACRIFICAL LOVE** — Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loved the church, which involves self-sacrifice and prioritizing their wives' well-being. This love is not merely emotional but is demonstrated through actions that put the wife's needs above the husband's own desires. Such love reflects Christ's ultimate sacrifice for the church, setting a high standard for marital love.

- Reflect on ways to prioritize your spouse's needs above your own.
- Consider how you can demonstrate sacrificial love in daily interactions.
- Pray for the strength to love your spouse as Christ loves the church.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25

**2. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP** — A husband's role includes leading his wife spiritually, cleansing her with the word of God, and fostering a holy environment. This leadership is not about control but about guiding the family in spiritual growth and maturity. It involves teaching, encouraging, and setting an example of faithfulness and devotion.

- Engage in regular Bible study together as a couple.
- Encourage open discussions about faith and spiritual growth.
- Lead by example in prayer and devotion.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25

**3. MUTUAL SUBMISSION** — Wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ, promoting harmony and respect in the marriage. This submission is rooted in love and respect, recognizing the husband's role as a leader while maintaining equality and partnership. It is a mutual submission that reflects the unity and cooperation within the body of Christ.

- Discuss with your spouse what mutual submission looks like in your marriage.
- Practice active listening and respect in all conversations.
- Seek to understand and support your spouse's leadership.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22      Ephesians 5:24

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

4. **UNITY IN MARRIAGE** — Marriage involves leaving parental ties and forming a new, united family, reflecting the unity between Christ and the church. This unity is characterized by a deep bond and commitment, where both partners work together as one. It requires leaving behind old allegiances and forming a new identity as a couple.
- Identify areas where you can strengthen your unity as a couple.
  - Create traditions that are unique to your family.
  - Discuss how you can support each other in leaving and cleaving.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:31

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

### OBSERVATION

- What does Ephesians 5:22-25 say about the roles of husbands and wives?
- How is Christ's love for the church described in these passages?
- What parallels are drawn between marriage and the relationship between Christ and the church?

### INTERPRETATION

- Why is sacrificial love important in a marriage?
- How does spiritual leadership manifest in a marital relationship?
- What does mutual submission look like in practice?

## APPLICATION

- In what ways can you demonstrate sacrificial love to your spouse?
- How can you foster spiritual growth within your marriage?
- What steps can you take to strengthen the unity in your marriage?

## PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for wisdom to understand and embrace biblical roles in marriage.

Ask for strength to love your spouse sacrificially.

Seek guidance in fostering spiritual growth within your marriage.

## NEXT STEP

Reflect on how you can apply the principles of sacrificial love and mutual submission in your marriage today.

## CONCLUSION

Understanding and embracing the biblical roles in marriage as outlined in Ephesians can lead to a harmonious and holy union. By mirroring the relationship between Christ and the church, couples can experience a deep and lasting bond that honors God and reflects His love to the world.