

*"Making Marriage Work by...
Learning to Dance"*

Ephesians 5:21-33
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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Learning to “dance” as husbands and wives involves:

**A. Accepting God’s design for marriage.
(Ephesians 5:22-33)**

**B. Wives submitting to their husbands.
(Ephesians 5:22-24)**

1. Submission does not mean:
 - To be inferior
 - To lose your identity
 - Blind obedience
 - You should feel used
 - You should allow our husband to violate the law or to be abusive

2. Submission is...
 - An attitude and response to your husband
 - Lining yourself up under his leadership, freeing him up to lead
 - Empowering your husband to lead by encouraging him to take initiative

**C. Husbands providing servant leadership.
(Ephesians 5:23; Mark 10:41-45)**

1. Leadership, according to Jesus, is placing yourself under those you serve.
2. Servant leadership means providing for the material needs of your family.
3. Servant leadership involves taking the initiative in meeting needs.

“A husband is never called to force his wife to follow his leadership. Rather, he is challenged to earn this response by being a man of integrity, compassion, and competence. Remember, a leader is a lover and a lover is a leader.”

Marriage Conference: Weekend to Remember Workbook,
Christian Family Life Incorporated, Little Rock, AR, 1999, p. 124.

**D. Husbands loving their wives like Christ loves us.
(Ephesians 5:25-29)**

1. Christ’s love is based on an act of the will, not passing feelings.
2. Christ’s love is sacrificial.
3. Christ’s love is unconditional.
4. Christ’s love involves nurture and care.
5. Christ’s love never ends.

**E. Wives respecting their husbands. (Ephesians 5:33;
1 Peter 3:1-2)**

1. God does not call wives to feel respect, but calls wives to show respectful behavior.
2. God calls wives to show respect even if husband have not earned it or deserves it.

“Women need to learn how to understand and use the word *respect* because, in truth, respect is a man’s deepest value.”

Emerson Eggerichs, *Love and Respect*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 2004, p. 49.

“For the past forty years, the American church has preached unconditional love. I preached it for many years in my own church, as I remained clueless about the importance of unconditional respect.”

Emerson Eggerichs, *Love and Respect*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 2004, p. 45.

We can’t do this on our own. Therefore, we need....

1. God’s grace and forgiveness. (Ephesians 1:7)
2. The help of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

Application Questions

Wives What does it mean for me to show respect to my husband?

What keeps me from submitting to my husband?

Husbands What keeps me from taking the initiative?

In light of both of your circumstances, what does it look like to love your wife like Christ loves the Church?

Books available this week at the Marriage Resource table in the Lobby: (Please make checks payable to CBC)

Dancing with the One You Love by Cindy Easley
(suggested donation of \$8.00)

“If you’re tired of stepping on each other’s toes, maybe it’s time to learn from the pros. As soon as author Cindy Easley learned that submission was biblical, she also learned that it is NOT natural. So she went searching into the lives of women who have learned to submit under circumstances beyond the norm: military wives, talk-show hosts, or those with spouses living in sin, in unbelief, or in ill health.

If you find giving up control difficult, you’re in good company—every woman in these pages found the same. Do you want to submit, but don’t know how? You’ll see women who know what it’s like to lead—and what it takes to follow.”

The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman
(suggested donation of \$7.00)

“Marriages may be made in heaven, but they must be nurtured here on earth. In Dr. Gary Chapman's bestselling book he explains how people communicate love in different ways, and shares the wonderful things that happen when men and women learn to speak each other's language. Chapters are categorized by love language and each one ends with simple steps to express a specific language to your spouse and guide your marriage in the right direction.”

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, the Respect He Desperately Needs by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
(suggested donation of \$13.00)

“Based on the biblical passage from Ephesians 5:33, Dr. Eggerichs’ premise is that communication between a husband and wife is often frustrated because of the vastly different ways in which men and women perceive love. Women are wired to need unconditional love and men need to feel unconditionally respected. Revitalize the love in your marriage!”