

*designed  
to flourish*

GENDER IDENTITY IN LIGHT OF GOSPEL IDENTITY

STUDY  
GUIDE

# WEEK 4: MEN IN MARRIAGE

## EPHESIANS 5:25-33

In recent weeks we have unpacked the reality that God designed marriage to reflect the relationship between Jesus and the Church.

The vision for husbands is the sacrificial love of Christ for the Church, while the vision for wives is the willing and wise submission of the Church to Christ. The complementary roles husbands and wives play in marriage put the message of the gospel on display.

The husband's role of headship (Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3) means that he bears the primary responsibility for Christlike servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home. In light of Genesis 3 men tend to fall into sin and miss this in one of two ways: selfish passivity or selfish aggression.

Ephesians 5 reminds husbands that their goal in their marriages is nothing short of Christlikeness. And it reminds wives that the sins of their husbands, through passivity or aggression, doesn't negate the clear biblical teaching that men are called to headship.

If husbands would lead in Christlike ways, wives and husbands will thrive and the gospel will shine through it.

## MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 5:25

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

## BIBLE READING PLAN

MONDAY

**GENESIS 2:7-25**

TUESDAY

**GENESIS 3:17-24**

WEDNESDAY

**1 KINGS 2:1-4**

THURSDAY

**1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14**

FRIDAY

**1 PETER 3:7-8**

SATURDAY

**EPHESIANS 5:25-33**





# POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

1. Ice Breaker: Share some “classic” descriptors of masculinity.

2. Read John 10:11-15; 1Corinthians 16:13-14; and Ephesians 5:25-30 and compare the descriptors of biblical masculinity with those suggested by the group in Question 1. What’s consistent? What’s different?

3. What does Ephesians 5:31 say about marriage that differs with the world’s view?

4. Read Ephesians 5:25. Husbands are called to love their wives as Jesus loves the church. In what ways has and does Jesus love the church?

5. When reading Ephesians 5:25 men often think about laying their lives down for their wives in a heroic act of valour. And it certainly means that, but it means more. It includes the love displayed in laying his life down for her day after day.

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, in his book, Love & Respect, describes the regular diet of love that a wife needs from her husband.

Read them and discuss how these are difficult for men but important in order to keep the command to love our wives: She wants to be

close to you; She wants you to open up to her; She doesn't want you to "fix" her, she wants you to listen to her; She wants you to be willing to say, "I'm sorry"; She wants to know you're committed; And she wants you to honour her and cherish her.

6. Far too often husbands have missed the mark of godly headship in one of two ways: selfish aggression or selfish passivity. Both are sin. Share with each other about how you have seen, experienced, and/or committed these failures yourselves.

7. Read 1 Peter 3:7. Then follow it up with this quote by Mary Willson: "God takes a husband's authority so seriously, that He will not hear his prayers if he is abusing his wife." Discuss.

8. Husbands, how can you steer clear from selfish passivity on the one hand and selfish aggression on the other?

9. Wives, how can you lovingly champion your husbands to move from whichever sinful tendency he has (passivity or aggression) towards Christlikeness in your home?

