

## Ephesians 5:22-33 The Real Housewives and Real Husbands of Atlanta

In the popular TV series “Real Housewives” of whatever town for this week, Hollywood portrays these women as rich, spoiled, bitter, backbiting, and unfaithful to just about everyone they know. It makes for great TV. It has intrigue, it has suspense, it has dirty little secrets, it has conflict, and it never has real consequences. Just what we all need another lie from Hollywood? What we see in this passage of scripture is what real marriage is like and how to achieve it. It is the foundation for all relationships, beginning with your dating and courtship through your marriage. While our subject begins in verse 22, we must look back at verse 21 for our context. Paul says, “be subject to one another in the fear of Christ”. Again, we are given a command to do something in the “fear of God.” Do something because we love, revere, and respect who God is and what He can do for us. This idea that we all need to be subject to one another is a repeat of Phil. 2:2-5. We are to put others before ourselves. Anytime we can help someone else, we do ourselves a favor. We increase our value to God by giving Him more of us to use. The more unselfish we are the more God can fill us with His spirit and His love.

1. Wives be subject . . . . as to the Lord – vs. 22-24 Not because the guy is worth it.
  - a. Husband is the head of the wife
  - b. Husband is subject to Christ
  - c. Wives must be everything to the husband in everything
2. Husbands are to love the wife . . . . as Christ loved the church – vs. 25-29
  - a. Loves her – Put her above you at all times. Give her unconditional love at all times.
  - b. Sacrifices for her – Let her desires trump your desires on non-critical issues
  - c. Paid the penalty for her – Never let her be embarrassed in public. Never degrade her to your friends. Never criticize her to others. Take the heat if she does something dumb.
  - d. Cares for her – Provide for her,
  - e. Encourages her – Help her understand her worth as a person and as a wife, mother, etc.
3. We are to leave and cleave, not stay and pay – vs. 30-31
  - a. You are now one flesh with your spouse
  - b. You are now one household with one head
  - c. You are now responsible for your decisions
4. Even if you don’t understand this concept, just do it. – vs. 32-33
  - a. Husbands just love your wives
  - b. Wives respect your husbands