



# All Christians' Fellowship International

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## *Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline*

TOPIC:       **God's Design for Wives**  
TEXT:       **Ephesians 5:21-33**

**Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** You and your spouse have planned a weekend at the lake. You anticipate sleeping in and devouring a new novel and a hot dog on the beach at sunset. Your spouse dreams of getting a great tan, learning to water ski, and eating dinner at an elegant restaurant. As you become aware of these conflicting desires, you both begin wondering whether your weekend will be a total loss. This study will examine God's basic marriage framework and his instruction to the wife. Paul writes that being filled with the Holy Spirit affects our worshiping, singing, and submitting to one another. Then, he instructs wives and husbands in living out God's design. Thank God for his wise and loving design for marriage. Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Consider the situation described above, the weekend at the lake. What advice would you give this couple as they adjust their plans and try to be considerate of each other?
2. What information do you find about the wife's role throughout this passage?
3. Why is the command "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (v. 21) the appropriate framework for these instructions to wives and husbands?
4. In what situations have you seen two Christians practicing mutual submission out of reverence for Christ?
5. The wife's submission to her husband is compared with submission to the Lord (vs. 22-24). Think about how a Christian submits to the Lord. What attitudes, emotions, or struggles are involved for you to submit to the Lord?
6. Paul assumes that both husband and wife are committed to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. What implications does this have for those considering marriage today?
7. How can Christ's dual role as head and Savior (v. 23) encourage us to submit to him?

8. If we yield to Christ's lordship, to what extent are we still free to make choices and to express ourselves?

9. In submitting to her husband, how and why can a wife feel free to express her opinions, fears, and feelings?

10. What attitudes toward her husband would help a wife submit to him as she would to Christ?

11. What attitudes and actions in a husband would encourage his wife's trust and respect?