



Christlike Love in Marriage

February 8, 2026

Ephesians 5:21-33

Main Point

Marriage reflects the gospel. Husbands and wives honor Christ by loving one another sacrificially and submitting to one another out of reverence for Him.

Part 1: Master Teacher (10 Minutes)

Introduction

When you think about love in close relationships, what makes loving like Jesus challenging but also powerful?

Marriage reflects the gospel. Husbands and wives honor Christ by loving one another sacrificially and submitting to one another out of reverence for Him.

Biblical Teaching

1. Mutual Submission Reveals Christ (v. 21)
 - Submission is not weakness.
 - Submission is choosing humility for the good of another.
 - All believers submit to one another out of love for Christ.
2. Husbands Love Like Christ (v. 25-29)
 - Christlike love is sacrificial and servant hearted.
 - A husband's love is meant to reflect Christ's love for the church.
 - This love strengthens unity and trust.
3. Wives Respect Their Husbands (v. 22-24, 33)
 - Respect and support honor the husband's God-given role.
 - Respect strengthens partnership.
 - Together, husbands and wives display the gospel.

Takeaway

- Marriage thrives when each spouse loves like Jesus. Christlike love transforms conflict, deepens unity, and reveals the gospel to the world.

Part 2: Group Discussion (25 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance

- Be sensitive. Not everyone is married, and some have pain connected to marriage. Focus the discussion on Christlike character more than marital status.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding Christlike Love

- How is Christ's sacrificial love a model for marriage?
- What does mutual submission look like in real relationships?
- How does Christlike love challenge our cultural view of marriage?

2. Loving with Sacrifice and Grace

- What makes sacrificial love difficult in close relationships?
- How does remembering Christ's love help you respond differently?
- What does servant-hearted love look like this week?

3. Respect and Honor in Relationships

- Why is respect important in healthy relationships?
- What barriers often prevent respect from flourishing?
- How can you show honor to someone close to you this week?

4. Reflecting the Gospel Through Love

- How can your relationships display the gospel?
- What attitudes or habits need to change for Christlike love to grow?
- Who needs to see Christ's love through you this week?

Next Steps & Call to Action (5 minutes)

Facilitator Closing Thought:

Christlike love is not based on emotion but on devotion. When we look to Jesus, we find the strength to love in ways that honor Him and bless others.

Action Step:

Identify one relationship where you will practice Christlike love intentionally this week.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to strengthen families and marriages.
- Pray for humility, patience, and sacrificial love.
- Pray for unity and healing where needed.