

# Follow God's Example (Eph 5)

The Secret Ingredient of Marriage

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## **THE POWER to Follow God's Example**

Eph 5:1 **Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children**

The command to “**Follow His Example**“ or to “imitate” Him

- Means we have the capability of doing so
- Means He has given us an example to follow in Jesus Christ
  - When you have seen me you have seen the Father (John 14:7)
- “Therefore” means it is built upon **something previously stated (see Chap 4)**

### **1) I can follow His example because there is a calling and expectation in the heart of God that we will move to maturity**

Ephesians 4:(13) until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

### **2) I can follow His example because I am connected to the Life of God**

Eph 4: (17) So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. (18) They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

### **3) I can follow His example because the way of life I am learning from Jesus**

Eph 4: (20) That, however, is not the way of life you learned (21) when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. (22) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (23) to be made new in the attitude of your minds; (24) and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

### **4) I can follow His example because the Spirit of God moves me**

Eph 4: (30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (31) Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (32) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## In WHAT WAYS Can I Follow His Example?

### **1) Walk in the way of love - sacrifice**

Eph 5:2 and walk in the way of love, **just as Christ** loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- **Just as Christ - Follow His Example**
- No greater love than a man would lay his life down (John 15:13)

### **2) Walk as children of light - Please the LORD**

Eph 5:8-10 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light [KJV **WALK** as children of light] (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

- **Just as Christ - Follow His Example**
- I always do those things that please Him (John 15:10)

### **3) Walk in Wisdom - Understand His will**

Eph 5:15-17 Be very careful, [KJV **WALK** circumspectly] then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

- **Just as Christ - Follow His Example**
- Not my will but yours be done (Luke 22:42)

### **4) Walk in the Spirit - what influences my life**

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit

- **Just as Christ - Follow His Example**
- Filled with the Spirit, Led of the Spirit, The Power of Spirit (Luke 4:14)

### **5) Walk in Humility**

Eph 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- Just as Christ - Follow His Example
- He humbled Himself - became obedient to the cross (Phil 2:8)

After telling us to **Follow His Example**

- His final comment is to SUBMIT to one another
- This is a segue into a discussion about marriage

**He ends chapter 5 talking about a PROFOUND MYSTERY of marriage**

**We are called to be submitted to one another out of reverence for Christ**

Eph 5:21-33 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**WIVES**

**1) Submit yourself - it is an act of your will based on your submission to Christ**

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

**2) The husband is the head - this is by God's design**

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

**3) Wives should submit to their husbands in everything**

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

**HUSBANDS**

**1) Love your wives as Christ loved the church - to this as an act of your will based on YOUR submission to Christ**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and

**2) This is love that is sacrificial**

gave himself up for her

**3) This is love that has a spiritual focus**

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

**4) This love has priority**

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

**MARRIAGE**

**1) It is a profound mystery - about Christ & the church**

32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

**2) But he still states that we as husbands and wives have a responsibility**

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## Husbands and Wives (Love & Submit)

**Marriage is simple in its structure - but complex in its execution - each called generally to one thing. Men & Women each have one command.**

- Husband to Love
- Wife to Submit

**Col 3:18-19** Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

**1Pe 3:5-7** ...[wives] They submitted themselves to their own husbands...<sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, **so that nothing will hinder your prayers.**

**He created man and women each with unique needs**

- Man to be respected
- Woman to be loved

**The thing He calls us to do meets the need of the spouse**

- When the husband loves - the wife is cherished
- When the wife submits - the husband feels respected

**He calls each of us (man or woman) to the thing that is most difficult to perform**

**What men need (respect) - the wife is commanded to give**

- The thing women are commanded to give - is difficult
  - requires submission (out of reverence for Christ)
  - I can submit this way because **He submitted this way** and I can follow His example

**What women need, (to be cherished) the husband is commanded to give**

- The thing men are commanded to give is difficult -
  - requires submission (out of reverence for Christ)
  - But I can love this way because **He loved this way** and I can follow His example