

## WITHOUT EXCEPTION EPHESIANS 5:32-33

How did you see God working in your marriage this week?

***GOD'S IDEAL FOR MARRIAGE IS FOR ALL CULTURES AND TIMES.*** It exemplifies the relationship between the bride of Christ (the church) and Christ himself. ESV Study Bible, footnote for Ephesians 5:32. Marriage is an example and pattern of a personal relationship with Christ. (**Ephesians 5:32, Mark 10:1-10, fn 10:6-9, Genesis 2:18-24, fn 2:18-24**) See the chart on Genesis 3. *Why is studying God's Word necessary for a grace-filled marriage? See Titus 3:11-14.*

***A HUSBAND MUST LOVE HIS WIFE AS HE LOVES HIMSELF.*** “You are not harsh to yourself; therefore do not be harsh to your wife, do not be crushing, do not be domineering.” Martyn Lloyd Jones, Life in the Spirit, p. 226. This command in **Ephesians 5:33** is unconditional. (**Ephesians 5:33, 25, 28, fn 5:25-29, Colossians 3:19, I John 4:19, fn 4:19**) *How is your marriage based on the principle and practice of love instead of only on feelings?*

***A WIFE MUST RESPECT HER HUSBAND.*** “Let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband—that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates and esteems him...” **Ephesians 5:33b** (Amplified Version) A wife is to value her husband and find ways to admire him. Her respect for her husband is to be unconditional. Otherwise, she is challenging God's pattern for marriage. (**Ephesians 5:33, fn 5:31-33, Ephesians 5:24, fn 5:22-24, I Peter 3:1-6, fn 3:5, Proverbs 17:9, fn 17:9, Proverbs 10:12, Matthew 18:21-35, fn 18:35**) *How is it disrespectful and ungodly for the wife to keep reminding her husband of his forgiven sins and past indiscretions? See Psalms 103:12, fn 103:12.*

The Bible was not written for our information only but for our transformation. *How will these verses change you in your walk with God and others, including your spouse?*

***Pray for one another's needs.***