

**The covenant of marriage, as both conceived and defined by God, is made with God on the basis of legitimate needs of both the husband and wife to which both the husband and wife are held equally accountable.**

Introduction:

1. Legitimate needs do not indicate imperfection or fault, God created Adam both perfect and good, yet with needs only Eve could meet and vice versa.
2. Covenant needs are not grown out of but instead increase with spiritual growth
3. Covenant needs should not manifest themselves in cruel expectations

#### **4. If not you who**

##### **A. The Husband**

If he, as Ephesians 5:25 commands, is to love his wife as “Christ loved the Church”, then those verses which define Christ’s undying love for the us, also define the husbands undying love for his wife.

##### **1. Spiritual leader of the family**

- a. Wife – Ephesians 5:23 & 26; I Corinthians 14:35
- b. Children – Ephesians 6:4
- c. Ministry – Romans 16:5; I Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2

##### **d. If Not You: Who**

##### **2. Love wife by sacrificially meeting her emotional needs – Ephesians 5:25**

- a. **Conversational intimacy** –
  - 1.) **Access** Hebrews 4:16
  - 2.) **Topics** (resulting in emotional comfort and security) Philippians 4:6, 7
- b. **Intimacy through emotional/psychological comfort and care** – Ephesians 5:33
- c. **Actually being there** – Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31
  - 1.) In the beginning given by God the Father
  - 3.) Reaffirmed by God the Son
  - 4.) Instituted in the Church age by God the Holy Spirit

##### **d. If Not You: Who**

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### **B. The Wife**

If she, as Ephesians 5:24 commands, is to be subject to her husband “as the Church is subject to Christ”, then those verses which define the Church’s undying love for Christ also define the wife’s undying love for her husband.

#### **1. Submission to his leadership**

- a. Ephesians 5:22 – 24; Colossians 3:18
- b. If you define “submission” in Ephesians 5:22 as being virtually neutralized by Ephesians 5:21, then the wife must be consistent with this application in her relationships, not just with her husband, but with her children and servants as well, for the passage continues through Ephesians 6:9
- c. I Peter 3:1 & 2, 5 & 6

#### **d. If Not You: Who**