



**“Submit to one another
out of reverence for
Christ.”**

(Ephesians 5:21)

Reading Ephesians 5:21-33

As we continue in this “Year of Discipleship” at RHBC, how can we be sure that we maintain godly relationships – especially on the home front with our spouses? Approximately 50% of all marriages end in divorce, and these statistics show no notable difference among Christian marriages. If believers want to make a difference in the world, they need to BE different from the world. That starts at home!

This month, we’re going to look at how to “Fireproof Your Relationships.”

Part 1: AVOIDING the THE BLAME GAME

Three Guiding Principles from Ephesians 5:21-33

- 1) **Mutually SUBMITTING** (Eph. 5:21)
- 2) **UNDERSTANDING Our Differences** (Eph. 5:22-23, 25-27)
- 3) **LIVING OUT a Preview of Heaven** (Eph. 5:24, 28-33)

An Ephesians 5:21 Challenge:

Wives: *What could you do this week to make your husband feel more respected by you?*

Husbands: *What could you do this week to make your wife feel more loved by you?*

Singles: *What could you do this week to show someone you care about a greater level of respect or love?*

For Further Consideration this Week:

Monday: Meditate on **John 13:34-35**. How does Jesus say that others will know we are his disciples? How are you treating others with whom you are in a relationship (marriage/friendship)? What do others see about Jesus through your relationships? Parents, what do your children see about Christ by the way you treat one another as spouses?

Tuesday: Read **Romans 13:8**. It’s rather hard to pay your “continuing debt of love” by always blaming someone else when you should take responsibility. How could you make some headway toward paying your debt of love to someone else? Think about what Jesus has done for, as you show love to someone today.

Wednesday: Read **1 Peter 2:22-23**. Where does true love come from? It’s more than skin deep, isn’t it? Sometimes, we are too superficial when we say, “I love you,” to someone. What can you do today to add meaning to those words when you express them?

Thursday: Read **Deuteronomy 18:13**. Instead of blaming others, the Bible calls us to be “blameless” before the Lord! Wow! What steps will you begin to take—even today—to start living a blameless life? It starts with taking responsibility for your actions, which includes confessing any sins that God’s Spirit is convicting you about.

Friday: Read **1 Thessalonians 5:21-23**. This passage says to “avoid every kind of evil,” which would include trying to shift blame on someone else. God has set us apart (“sanctified”) for His purposes. Spend some time today praying that God will help you to live like you really are **His!**

Saturday: Meditate on **1 Peter 3:1-8**. Peter reiterates much of what Paul says in Ephesians 5. Wives, where should your focus be in your relationship to your husband? Husbands, is your prayer life being hindered in any way by the way you treat your wife? Singles, how can you express more sympathy, love, compassion, and humility in your relationships?