



# STUDY GUIDE & DAILY READINGS

Sunday, February 7, 2010

## He Said

*“He Said. She Said.” (Week 1 of 3)*

### **Ephesians 5:21-33** — *The Word from the Bible (TNIV)*

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

*Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, people have never hated their own bodies, but they feed and care for them, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

### **Ephesians 5:21-33**

We will be examining this passage as well as several passages on relationships during the next three weeks. I am including two other translations that give us a different feel for the word “submit”. This word has been problematic for the church for centuries in how families should be ordered and how husbands and wives should relate.

Throughout the scripture, there is recognition of the differences of men and women that begins in Genesis. The solutions to these differences are grounded in love and mutual respect, not submission and dominance. For the next three weeks we will examine how men and women relate and how the timeless message of the scripture informs our relationships.

*Eugene Peterson translates the passage in this way:*

*Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another. Wives understand and support your husbands in*

**ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife, the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.** (Ephesians 5:21-24)

**Dr. Elizabeth Achtemeir, Professor of Bible at Union Theological Seminary**

Certainly this does not mean that wives are to worship their husbands, to obey them unquestioningly, or to elevate them to the place of God ... Rather, wives are to act toward their husbands as the church should act toward Christ – in faithfulness, in love, in service, in honor, in devotion – because what the wife does to her husband she is in fact doing to Christ. If she is unfaithful, nagging, complacent or hostile toward him, she so treats her Lord.

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## Prayer Focus

Trietsch is a praying church. This morning, as you worship, one of our prayer volunteers is praying for everyone in each section of our worship center. We believe that prayer changes lives and hearts for good and for God.

We invite you to join these volunteers by praying for those persons around you. We believe these prayers will have an immediate impact on those for whom you are praying.

**Remember... someone is praying for you. As we focus on relationships here are a few prayers to use with your family or mate.**

Let us live to please You,  
Giving glory to Your name—  
Shinning forth a witness  
Of Your unending fame.  
Lord, You're where our heart is,  
Our treasure beyond compare—  
Holding this family together  
And answering our earnest prayer.

--Mary Fairchild

### **An Evening Family Prayer**

Lord, behold our family here assembled.  
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,  
For the love that unites us,  
For the peace accorded to us this day,  
For the hope with which we expect the morrow;  
For the health, the work, the food and the bright skies  
That make our lives delightful;  
For our friends in all parts of the earth.  
Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

Bless Our Family  
All praise to You, Lord Jesus,  
Lover of children:  
Bless our family,  
And help us to lead our children to You.  
Give us light and strength,  
And courage when our task is difficult.  
Let Your Spirit fill us with love and peace,  
So that we may help our children to love You.  
All glory and praise are Yours, Lord Jesus,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.

--Catholic Doors Ministry

**Have a great week!**

**Next week we continue the series on relationships – “He Said. She Said.”**

**Invite someone to worship this week. You will be glad you did.  
God is doing great things through the ministry of Trietsch.**

# Daily Readings

*This sermon is the first in our series on “He Said. She Said.” During this series, we will be focusing on the scriptural teachings that will help us strengthen our relationships. The entire Bible is focused on relationships – our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. Too often we assume that because the Bible is centuries old that it will not have relevance for our modern challenges. Let’s remember in reading these passages that times may change, but the way we relate to each other is the same today as it was in the beginning. Hopefully these readings and reflective questions will prepare you for the sermons. The study guide readings allow us to dig deeper.*

**Monday, February 8 – Read I Corinthians 13:1-7** — This passage really should be read in conjunction with chapter 12. Paul is dealing with conflict between members of the faith community based on egos. Chapter 13 is Paul’s answer, saying love is the most excellent way to relate in every circumstance. Without love, we are nothing. Read this passage inserting your name beginning in verse 4 for the word love — claim each aspect of love for your life and relationships. Which of these qualities do you need in relating to others?

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**Tuesday, February 9 – Read I Corinthians 13:8-13** — Paul continues his writing on love. Apart from everything else in this world, love is eternal. Even though we might not understand everything about this world, we can respond to each other in love knowing that one day all things will be revealed to us. Do you know someone who has been confused by recent events? Can you show love to them this week by offering an act of kindness.

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**Wednesday, February 10 – Read John 2:1-12** — The first miracle of Jesus’ ministry is at a wedding in Canaan of Galilee. In this case, the wedding party has run out of wine. Jesus takes the water jars used for the ceremonial act of blessing for the marriage and turns the water into wine. In the first century, wine is the symbol of joy. The symbolic act reminds us that for all the ceremony we wrap around our marriages, only Jesus Christ can bring real joy. Sit down with your spouse today and share at least one moment of joy the other has brought to your life. Pray together and ask Christ to bring real joy to your life together.

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**Thursday, February 11 – Read Matthew 7:24-27** — Jesus uses the analogy of the foundation of a house to describe our lives. Have we built on rock or sand? What are the priorities of your life together? What do you value most in your mate or in the finding of a mate? Jesus says that those who build their house (life) on “**these words of mine**” are like the house built on a solid foundation.

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**Friday, February 12 – Read Galatians 5:22-26** — This short passage forms the basis of our lives as a follower of Christ. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control are considered the Fruits of the Spirit. Which of these fruits are you most likely to produce when you are with those you love? What fruit of the spirit do you produce in times of trouble? What is the fruit you need most from those who love you?

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## ***Marriage Enrichment Opportunities at Trietsch***

*(Visit [tmumc.org](http://tmumc.org) for full details)*

**Renewal of Vows Ceremony** — Feb. 13, 5 p.m. (RSVP to [peggyz@tmumc.org](mailto:peggyz@tmumc.org) ASAP)

**Valentine’s Party** — Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m., Circle R Ranch. (Purchase advance tickets in the Connection Center)

**“Making Love Last a Lifetime” Study** — Thursdays, Feb. 18 - March 25, 7-9 p.m. (Register at [tmumc.org](http://tmumc.org))

**Date Night** — April 16, 6 p.m. Childcare available. Held quarterly

**Marriage Retreat** — Oct. 9-10.

*Trietsch offers Marriage Mentoring for engaged couples,  
professional counseling and studies on specific issues to grow in our relationships.*

*Contact Rev. Joe Shafer, associate pastor for congregational care,  
at [joes@tmumc.org](mailto:joes@tmumc.org) or 972-539-8547, ext. 203.*



