



## In Christ, Marriages Can Testify of the Gospel

### 1. Let's go back to the beginning...

- God created man and woman in \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:26-28)
- Man and woman are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus and are \_\_\_\_\_ according to promise. (Galatians 3:28-29)
- Sin changed how man and woman interact with God and with each other. Part of the consequence of sin is that their relationship is not perfect anymore. (Genesis 3:16b)

*Do you remember when we used a picture of a body to understand how Christ leads the church? The same illustration is used in this passage. It compares husband and Christ with "the head" and the wife and the church with "the body".*

### 2. A husband must love his wife as Christ loves the church. Christ shows us that love means sacrifice. Love acted out means giving up something for someone else.

- Read John 3:16, Romans 5:8. How does God love us? \_\_\_\_\_
- Read John 15:13. How does Jesus define love? \_\_\_\_\_
- Read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7. What are some of the things you do if you love someone? Which of these mean having to give up something for someone? \_\_\_\_\_

### 4) How can a husband sacrifice or give up something for his wife in order to love her?

Draw a line connecting the statements that go together:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| He gives up some of his time       | to listen to her ideas and thoughts.          |
| He gives up "winning" a discussion | to spend time with her doing what she enjoys. |
| He gives up some time on a hobby   | to make sure she reaches some of her goals.   |
| He gives up some goals             | to work on a project important to her.        |

### 5) What is the wife's role in her relationship with her husband, as the "body"? (v.22-24)

\_\_\_\_\_ = "yield to (someone else's) authority," let someone else make the final decision. How does a wife do this? See verse 1: we are called to \_\_\_\_\_ God and to walk \_\_\_\_\_, as Christ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

When a wife chooses to submit, she gives up some of her authority to her husband out of love. She can, and should (put a check by each one):

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| share ideas | research/present solutions                         |
| give input  | share facts/feelings/opinions related to decisions |
| discuss     | brainstorm   |

In the end, she chooses to live with her husband's final decision in the matter because she understands God gave the husband the "tie-breaking" vote and will demand him full responsibility for it as the head of the family.

