



“One Marriage Under God”

The Church’s Conduct

Ephesians 5:21-33

A Christian marriage depends on :

I. Leadership - “submit yourselves” (vs. 21-24)

Being careful to follow :

A. Who – “*your own husbands*”

B. Why – “*as unto the Lord*”

C. When – “*in every thing*”

II. Love –“ Husbands, love your wives” (v. 25-30)

Being careful to give :

A. Sacrificially – “*as Christ also loved the church*”

B. Simultaneously - “*as their own bodies* ”

III. Loyalty -“For this cause ” (vs. 31-33)

Being careful to monitor :

A. Influence – “*leave his father and mother*”

B. Intimacy – “*be joined unto his wife*”

C. Interest – “*This is a great mystery* ”

Sentence Sermon:

“God designed Christian marriages to survive and thrive through leadership, love, and loyalty .”

Additional Verses

- **Genesis 2:21-25**
- **John 10:11; 15:3; 17:17**
- **Colossians 3:18**
- **I Corinthians 11:3**
- **II Corinthians 6:14**
- **Galatians 1:4**
- **Hebrews 9:14; 10:22**
- **I Peter 3:1-7**
- **I John 5:2-3**
- **Matthew 19:3-9**

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Why are we told to submit to one another in the “fear of God.”
- 2. Is a wife supposed to submit to a bad husband?
- 3. How is the husband a “savior” to the wife?
- 4. What are some ways a husband can help his wife’s wrinkles and such things?
- 5. What should be a husband’s ambition when it comes to his wife according to verse 27?
- 6. What complications are found when a spouse does not leave father and mother?
- 7. What does verse 33 indicate as the one priority for the wife? For the husband?

Ephesians is written to the Church

This passage follows the section of verses of believers, Christians, ought to be much different than other folks. It follows directly after the danger of alcohol and the potential of being empowered and controlled by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

It is right after the reality that We ought to be thankful for all things unto God and the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because He gives us all things we enjoy !

This is the context that the Christian Family Instruction comes. This is the foundation that everything else preached today rests upon.

“God created marriage. No government subcommittee envisioned it. No social organization developed it. Marriage was conceived and born in the mind of God.” ~ Max Lucado

V. 21

- Submitting yourselves = “hupotasso” to place under. **Two** uses:
 - Military rank and obedience....do you see any military references here?????? No, it probably is not involving that atmosphere.
 - Domestic use spoke of a voluntary placing of oneself under another for the betterment of the group. The decision not to demand personal rights. This would better fit an unarranged marriage....This is what He is saying....
- honoring others...placing yourself underneath another...humility
 - **One to another** = everyone does the submitting...not just some but all...another indication of a non military use.
 - Remember in princess bride the farmer boy’s answer...”as you wish”
- In the fear of God = “why should I submit?” because you want what God wants? Because you know if you go against God’s design for marriage and the family....Bad Things are Coming your way..... being sensitive to God’s will...realizing the possibility that the person in front of you could be God’s messenger sent to warn, encourage, inform, mature, or challenge you.

V. 22

- Wives = **Isn't this clear?** Not unmarried women, not significant others....Wives....how do you get to be a wife?
- Submit = close proximity to verse 21...same word...same urging**repeated specifically for the wife**....why? This is what works and is very important.
- **Unto your own husbands** = this is clear isn't it??? Who do wives submit totheir **OWN** husbands....not to all men....not to someone else's husband...but to your own husband. **How did he get to be your husband????**
- As unto the Lord = Do it for whom?? The Lord...**It is not just a marital service but a spiritual service**....you serve Christ by serving your husband. And you do a disservice to Christ when you do a disservice to your husband.

V. 23

- The husband is the head of the wife = authority and direction
- As Christ is the head of the church = authority and direction
- He is the savior of the body = The one who protects and provides for the body
 - Indicates a need for Communication, Understanding, Compassion, Commitment
 - **EXAMPLE of CONNECTION** – yes the man is the head....some say the woman is the neck...turning wherever she wants him but it is more:
 - It is that the body is a highly efficient sensory agent with a highly sophisticated system of nerve endings. Therefore it is :
 - **A fully functioned head that** makes decisions that take into account the data received from the sensors located in the body. It would be unthinkable for a head to totally disregard messages sent from the body that are warning of danger or notifying of opportunity. A head that disregards such information does so at its own peril as well as the harm to the body.

V. 24

- **As the church is subject to Christ =** this assumes a continual state of honoring the wishes of Christ in the Church...
- Wives be to their own husbands in everything = real emphasis on continued state that not only needs to be done but also to remain in that state continuallyin every thing....all parts or issues of life that need to be made for the sake of the household. CAUTION: What is Every thing??
 - Color of the carpet in church?
 - Mints or no mints?
 - Your wife's hair color?

V. 25

- Husbands = A clear change in address...

You Men = Those of you who want your wife to submit to you....here is how you make it work...

- Love = agape = continual action of letting God's love flow through you to your wife

“**A** man doesn't own his marriage; he is only the steward of his wife's love.” ~ **Edwin Louis Cole (Ed Cole) and God's**

- - Interestingly loving your wife was not on the list of husbandly duties in Jewish culture but it is on the Man of God list of duties because he has God's Love “agape” to share

- Your wives = The female you chose...remember...Chose your Love ...Love your Choice
- *As Christ also loved the church = agape...nothing to gain but willing to give*
- *Gave Himself for it = great value...great sacrifice....great love*
- ***I John 5:2-3 – Indicates that Love is the lubricant that makes submission go smoothly.***

V. 26

- That He might = speaks to Christ's intent in Loving the Church....also connects Husbands' love for their wives with the intent that follows
- Sanctify and cleanse = to set apart...keep from dirt or contamination in order to encourage purity
- With the washing of water by the word = a picture of new life provided by the power in the preached or spoken word of God.

- **Salvation of the Soul**
- **Salvation of the Mind**
- **Salvation of the Body**

V. 27

- That He might present it to Himself a glorious church = that the Church would be “radiant” or gorgeous to Him and to others that behold her.
- Not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing = all unattractive things and things that are avoided on our self and should be on the one we are to take care of.
- Should be holy and without blemish = well taken care of and of high character .

V. 28

- So ought men = Men owe it to their wives to...
- Love their wives as their own bodies = you have two bodies to keep up and take care of.
- Loves his wife...loves himself = or the husband who loves his wife is also loving himself ...The husband benefits from the love he pours out on his wife.

V. 29

- No man ever hated his own flesh = It just does not happen in the normal real world ...men love themselves
- Nourishes and cherishes =
 - Nourishes = he works out and attends the process of developing towards maturity and a desired goal
 - Cherishes = to show affection and tender love.
- As the Lord the church = Jesus is intensely engaged with your spiritual development and urges you along with a tender love.

V. 30

- We are member of His body, of his flesh, of his bones = Christ is our example of how we should take care of our wives by identifying with their very being and take care of them because in essence it is in our best interests as well.

V. 31

- For this cause = For the reason of marriage and for it to work correctly
- A man shall leave his father and mother = **to be a good husband...you must become a son that is independent of your parents and completely devoted to your wife...no torn loyalty.**
- Be joined to his wife = to “cleave” or be **glued** to...forming a brand new alliance that is **un**compromised and unmatched to any other human relation.
- **Two shall be one flesh** = It is the viewing of yourself differently... **You** never consider your life apart from your wife or independent from her. **What affects you...affects her and vice versa.**

V. 32

- This is a great mystery = This is something that your old human and sin nature will not comprehend...incomprehensible...like marriage
- Christ and the church = Eternity will begin with our marriage to the Lamb and wow what a marriage that will be ...**must see Eternity.**

V. 33

- Nevertheless = However...you might not understand all of the dynamics and how they will actually work but just like many right things....
 - Right actions must be done even when there is no emotional urging.....
 - Often right emotions follow right decisions rather than Emotions preceding the right decisions.
- **Let everyone of you = WHO DAT?** All you married people listen up...Do what is commanded here...WHAT YOU SAY??? THIS:
- **(Men) Love your wife as you love yourself**
- **(women) Reverence , Fear, or Honor your husband**

“God designed Christian marriages to survive and thrive through leadership, love, and loyalty .”