

Husbands and Wives

Ephesians 5:21-33

Marriage & family are ordained by God & are the deepest, most abiding relationship we can have. As Christian's God has set the stage for success in marriage. We are to be filled w/ the Holy Spirit 5:18, walking in love & unity, living a life of purity & wisdom, Submitting to one another 5:21 as we follow/imitate God 5:1 & finally walking in victory 6:10-24. We are to do this in the Church, the world & in the home. *Daddy why R U so different at church-grumpy*

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

If marriage was a **rowboat** & each spouse had a side & oar, wife's oar is only one side of the boat, only one oar. If this was the only instruction the boat would go around in circles. *Me canoe scattering ashes*

But it's her side of the boat that she's to be concerned about. Marriage on earth has its example/**model** in heaven--a divine **prototype**. Seven times a comparison of love & marriage to heaven using the comparative word '**as**' :22 'Wives subject to husbands **as** to Lord; :23 Husbands head of wife **as** Christ head of church; :24 Wives be subject to husbands in everything **as** church is subject to Christ; :25 Husbands love your wives **as** Christ loved the church; :28 Husbands love wives **as** own body; :29 Nourish and cherish **as** Christ does the church; :33 Love wife **as** self. What our marriage is on earth should be a reflection of heaven. We direct our marriage God perfects our marriage.

Spurgeon 'When home is ruled according to Gods will Angels might be asked to stay w/ us and they would not find themselves out of place'.

Submit Hupotasso military term to rank under – not *better than* but *function of* the home. He is to be a **servant leader**. The wife in her role allows him

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to lead. If he has to fight for the right to lead in God's role for him, it exasperates & emasculates him. He gives up--becomes passive & distant. The wife by doing her part brings the best out of him, boosting his sense of confidence, affirms his role as leader & motivates him to do better for her and family than he'd do for himself. **Dishes-House-Bed-Driving [Everything?](#)**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Jesus is our example '***be imitators of Christ***' – By loving your wife as Christ did the church & gave Himself—a total commitment ***chicken & pig-easy for you to say it's only a love offering for you but a total commitment for me.*** ***Sanctify*** 'set apart' from the world to God—Husband as spiritual head is to lead by ***agape*** love-giving himself in sacrificial love.

Gives her the incentive & confidence to submit. Jacob labored for Rachael 14 years & ***seemed like a few days.*** ***Agape*** is a drawing kind of love, not forced or coerced which is not love, but insecurity, selfishness, jealousy

Jesus ***cleanses*** us by his word.....***Matt 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."***

Husbands cleanse--makes secure, sets apart his wife from the world & to God & himself by loving her. As we are renewed, ***washed*** by word, wife is renewed, made secure & fulfilled by love.

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

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Spots-defilement from outside; *Jam 1:27...keep yourself unspotted-unstained by the world*--world is a polluting agent so we need continual cleansing by word of God **KLHT 24/7**. **Clothes challenge: wear all week what have on.**

Wrinkle-decay from w/in *Matt 15:11 "Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."* 18 *"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. 19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."*

As a man thinks in his heart so is he...Pr 23:7

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence & if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

Sow a thought reap an action sow an action reap a habit sow a habit reap a character sow a character reap a destiny...**where are you headed...what is your destiny**...what are you sowing into your life? The world or the Lord?

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.

We pamper our flesh, we love ourselves. **Pastors** who come up w/ sermons **'learn to love yourself'** indulge even more in **self-absorbed narcissism**.

Because we love ourselves so much--extend/**multiply**/broaden it out to our wife. Problem many men too selfish to give their self-love away. What is so normal & natural in the physical realm should be true in the spiritual realm **as Christian** in loving your wife as yourself. **Think about her next time you get your bowl of ice cream-get one for her—open the door for her, help her clean up, make the bed, get the kids off to school.** Hating self is unnatural, selfish & demonic but it's normal to care for & love self as Christ does church. Singles---1Cor 7:7; 32-35

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31 FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

Home life is picture of Christ and the church. **Adam** sacrifice part of himself to get a bride—a **rib**, Jesus sacrificed all of Himself to get His bride—**death on the cross**.

Garden of Eden w/ Adam & Eve symbol of Christ & church--**Bridegroom & Bride**. Eve helpmeet alongside to complete, she made up for what he lacked— **Hebrew** word 'man' **ish** & woman **isha**, almost the same--God practice on Adam w/ mud perfected w/ Eve from a rib-as she was taken from Adams side.

Leave behind--shift in loyalties & devotion from mom & dad--paternal closeness to the spouse. Marriage takes precedence over every other human relationship & be unbreakable bond bringing joy & satisfaction.

Cleave joined or glued together—faithfully devoted to each other.

Become one—mystical yet real union—**start looking like each other**

We seem to have forgotten the significance of the sanctity and holiness of this union in our modern cultural that has gone to great lengths to remove God and godliness from America. American marriages are in trouble. **When a country's families are in trouble, that country is in trouble. And it all begins because of our rejection of God's supreme authority & right to rule our land & our homes.**

Mystery until church was born, mystery revealed--our marriage a **witness** to or **denial of** Jesus relationship to church. Husbands loving headship of wife & wife honor, respect & glad submission to her husband. Christ & Church. **Nevertheless**—brings us back to planet earth—love & respect