



6/5/26

This week's episode of Chosen and Cherished focused on physical intimacy as the gift it is from the Lord. It was definitely not an episode meant for little ears to hear. If you'd like to listen to the episode, I'll share the link. I hope and pray you find it to be helpful in whatever situation you're in... married, single, struggling with marriage or singleness. To listen, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Ephesians 5:22-33

This week we will look at Godly Roles in Building a Godly Home. What does "godly" mean? It means "devoted to God." God wants me to be devoted to HIM because He is devoted to ME. And He wants that devotion to affect how I approach ALL relationships, but especially my marriage.

As I look at this passage, I want to learn about my role as Tim's wife. That's important. But I want to see something deeper... who Jesus is, and my role as His bride. The end of this passage says, "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." I think it's so easy to miss that and just make it horizontal between a husband and wife. And I also think we often treat the commands here as a punishment. But 1 John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are NOT burdensome."

One other thing I want to make sure I recognize... These commands are not tools for me to use to pummel my husband. This is meant for me to look at my own heart and see where God wants me to grow, not to be used to accuse my husband of where he may be failing. That's why the scripture does NOT say, "Husbands, make sure your wives are submitting to you" and "Wives, make sure your husbands are loving you as Christ loved the church." So Lord, what do You want to teach ME today?

Vs. 22-24 ~ "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." I used to see the word

"submit" and it would make me cringe. I thought it meant I was considered inferior to my husband. But then I read in John that Jesus submits to the Father, and Jesus is GOD! He's definitely NOT inferior. That began my training of first, seeing that submission is something God calls me to but it doesn't mean I'm less. Still, it took time for me not to resent it. Then I saw that it is my protection from the Lord. Tim is the one who answers to God for how our home runs. My job is to support him in that. We are a team. Now I see submission as an act of worship to Jesus!

It's also REALLY important that I understand submission to my husband is AS TO THE LORD. I submit to my husband. I WORSHIP the LORD. I think if done in a God honoring way, Tim's role is harder than mine. He has to learn submission to the Lord while also leading me. I get to learn submission to the Lord in every area of my life. I get to say, "This is not for me to control... God has it" in every area of my life. The more I learn to do everything AS TO THE LORD, the more freedom I experience.

AS TO THE LORD means that I will not sin for my husband. I will not lie for my husband. I will not do anything in submission to my husband if it goes against God's word. My first loyalty and submission is ALWAYS to Jesus.

Why does God want me to submit to my husband? "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands." My marriage is not just a horizontal relationship. It is a model of Christ and the church.

The first thing I need to look at is, "How am I doing at submitting to CHRIST as a member of His church?" Am I submitting to JESUS in EVERYTHING? And is there any wiggle room for the word "everything"? Can't I just submit in some things? My flesh does NOT want to submit, but my flesh is hostile to God. I miss out on the blessing God wants to give me when I say that I know better than He does. And when I refuse to submit, that's exactly what I'm saying.

Does submission to my husband mean I just lay down like a doormat and do whatever he tells me to do? No... we are a team... together we make one. That does not mean I'm not necessary. I'm allowed to speak. I'm allowed to give my thoughts. I need to ALWAYS be speaking to the Lord about things and asking Him to lead us. The time when submission comes into play is when Tim and I have talked about a decision and reasoned it through... and we're still not able to come to a consensus. As long as my husband isn't asking me to sin, that's when I need to submit and trust that God will get us to where we need to be as He leads my husband.

The question is NOT, "Do I trust my husband to lead well?" The question IS, "Do I trust my God to lead well?" It is not MY kingdom. It is not my husband's kingdom. It is GOD'S Kingdom. I need to constantly remember and say, "Lord, YOU are in charge. I bow to YOU. I will submit to my husband AS TO YOU." This takes humility. O Lord, please remove all the arrogance from my heart!!!

Vs. 25-30 ~ Here is where I want to mostly shift my focus from Tim to Jesus and HIS role. I don't want to speak a ton to what the husband is called to because I'm not the man. I leave that between the Lord and Tim. But there are a few things I can apply to the way I think... like... "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her..." This is a big deal for me. My "flesh" response is to say, "Ohhhh... He has to love me as CHRIST loved me by dying for me. That's a lot of love." That's absolutely true, but the problem with my flesh taking control is that I try to define what my husband's love should look like. My flesh thinks, "That means he should make me the center of his whole world and pamper me and give me everything I want."

BUT HOW does Jesus love the church? His love is a tender, affectionate love, but it is NOT a pampering love. It is a generous, sacrificial love... but His love has a purpose... Jesus gave Himself up for the church "that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." God's purpose is to make me as pure and holy as Jesus. He wants to cleanse me with His word and present me to Himself in splendor.

When I first really looked at this passage, I saw the words "without spot or wrinkle or blemish", and I thought, "Oh, God gets me! He wants me to be beautiful!!!" But what I see here is more than that. God wants me to be like an unblemished lamb... a living sacrifice for Him! Why? The more I become like Jesus and surrender myself to Him, the more we get to experience a oneness that is extraordinary, intimate, and unbreakable.

That's also the oneness God wants me to experience with my husband because together we model something so much bigger than our horizontal relationship. We model our deep, intimate relationship with Jesus more than any other relationship can. It's so beautiful.

When I see this passage, I understand that my marriage is not about ME. It's not about TIM. It's about US! So everything I do and think in our marriage needs to be motivated by an intentional pursuit of US.

"In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body." Yes, Tim needs to love me as his own body. But again, how he does that is not for me to judge. I need to leave that between him and the Lord.

What do I learn about JESUS here? O Lord, let me not forget... Paul's primary purpose was for me to understand this profound mystery of the relationship between Christ and the church. This focus on Jesus helps me to see why, as part of His church, submission to Him is so beautiful!!!

Jesus...

- *Gave Himself for me*
- *He does not forgive my sin but then leave me there to figure out how to love Him. He forgives me AND sanctifies me with the cleansing of His word! O Lord, help me to delight in Your word... to be "a doer of Your word and not just a hearer, deceiving myself" (James 1:22).*
- *He is presenting me to Himself in splendor, making me pure and holy. HE does that. I can't. Praise His name. He doesn't leave me in the crud of my flesh.*
- *HE makes me holy and without blemish... beautiful in His sight... where we can experience the deepest unity and intimacy.*
- *HE nourishes me. Nourishing means that He gives me what is best for me and will help me thrive. That means He doesn't just have me live off of sweet and salty snacks. Healthy thriving with Him means filling me with His healthy, thriving word!*
- *He cherishes me. I matter to HIM. When I truly believe that GOD cherishes me, and I find my security and comfort in HIS love... the relationship I have with my husband becomes the sweet and delightful desserts that God provides. I need JESUS FIRST.*
- *He says I am part of HIM. When I hurt, He hurts. When I mourn, He mourns. When I celebrate, He celebrates. Not just WITH me, but as ONE with me... as if it is happening to Him, too... because it IS. I am a member of Christ's body... one with Him.*

When I look at Jesus, I realize that submission to Him is the greatest pleasure. And that spills out to my relationship with my husband.

Vs. 31-33 ~ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." God wants me to be one with my husband above all others, even my parents, because together we are the picture of oneness we get to have with Him.

"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." Let me never forget the mystery, hidden in Jesus Himself. Let me never look at my marriage just as a horizontal relationship but let me see it through the eternal lens of Christ and His bride.

But also... let me never forget that it still does affect my relationship with Tim... "However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." Tim is called to love me. In the Garden of Eden, what was the curse on the man? To have to work the ground among thorns and thistles. What does that do to the marriage relationship? It can distract the man from intentionally loving his wife. Obedience to this passage fixes that. And what was the curse on the woman? Her desire would be for her husband... that can go wrong in two ways. First, she can place her husband as higher priority than the Lord, which doesn't go well. Second, she can try to control her husband into being who she thinks he should be. That REALLY doesn't go well. Obedience to this passage helps fix that. I can't control my husband AND respect him. My call is to submit to and respect him AS TO THE LORD.

O Lord, help me to remember that my loyalty is always first to You. Let me taste of Your

*goodness and let that spill over into the way I care for my husband... out of obedience to You.
Your will be done... nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen.*