

EPHESIANS 5:25-33

LESSON 34

A Great Mystery and Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:22-24 – Christ the Head of the Church

- a. Marriage gets a bad wrap: divorce, ball and chain, end of life; in reality it is God's will
 - i. Marriage/children is seen as the enemy of women, success, progress, freedom.
- b. Few people do the will of God successfully w/o learning the lessons of marriage
- c. Christ is the head of the church – 1 Cor 11:3, Eph 1:22-23; Eph 4:15; Col 1:18, Col 2:19
- d. That there is a head at all is an offense to most – but Christ is our Saviour!
- e. How to submit to a head? Not mute, passive, inactive, ignorant—but this → Eph 4:1-5:21
- f. Love God more than your spouse – you submit for Christ's sake – Christ in your husband
- g. Every time we do God's will we are submitting – no your will, but his.

2. Ephesians 5:25-27 – Christ Gave Himself for the Church

- a. Husband ~def. farmer, manager, one who tills, sows, cultivates, labors. 1 Cor 3:7-11
- b. 2 Cor 5:9-11; 2 Tim 2:6 – A good husband must sow acc. to Eph 4:1-5:21 to reap fruit.
- c. 5:26-27 - Christ gave himself for the church for God's purpose → Eph 1:4; Col 1:22-29
 - i. It is ungodly to usurp headship, and also to fail to love acc. to God's purpose.
 - ii. Compromise either cuts off the head, or makes a two headed monster.
- d. Marriage is not merely a commitment to one another (contract) it is submission/love
- e. The increase comes from God – the love, joy, peace in marriage comes from Gal 5:22
- f. The will of God in marriage is that two become one – a husband is responsible Col 2:19

3. Ephesians 5:28-32 – Two Become One – A Great Mystery

- a. *"as their own bodies"* – is not *"happy wife, happy life"* – which is not the end or means.
 - i. Under law Christ explains two become one (the mystery still hid) – Matt 19:3-8
 - ii. The body is not for fornication but for the Lord (his will) – 1 Cor 6:13-15
- b. We are members of the body of Christ – 1 Cor 12:12-27; Rom 12:5
- c. *"for this cause"* – Gen 2:24 – There is no such thing as tearing apart your union w/Christ
- d. The purpose of God creating marriage (man / woman): to preach a mystery – Eph 5:32
- e. It will be the greatest practical lesson of life in Christ you will ever have.
- f. Christ teaches how to change your heart's purpose – what is needed for marriages, churches, countries, life to work? God's grace working in people working together.
- g. Marriage allows you to learn, live, practice, and preach and enjoy the mystery of Christ!
- h. Love God more than your spouse – you love for Christ's sake – 2 Cor 5:14-15

4. Ephesians 5:33 – Every One in Particular

- a. You are man/woman, husband/wife, parent/child, but foremost a member of the body
- b. The husband cannot demand submission, the wife cannot demand love.
- c. It is the expectations (who owe who) that hurt gracious loving relationships.
- d. When she does not submit you walk in Christ with grace and love – Rom 5:8
- e. When he does not love, fails to husband, you walk in submission to Christ – 1 Cor 9:17

Seven Principles for a God Glorifying Marriage

- 1. Let Christ have the preeminence in all things – Col 1:18**
 - a. Grow up into him – Eph 4:15
 - b. Learn to live and love from the Lord - Rom 8:35; 1 Thess 3:12
 - c. Christ died for your spouse to be a part of His body.

- 2. Depend on God's word as the final authority – Rom 10:17**
 - a. Read it and practice it in your marriage which is your primary ministry
 - b. God created marriage to be good. Seek his wisdom.

- 3. Reckon the old man dead – Rom 6:11**
 - a. Your old man, but also your spouse's old man.
 - b. See your spouse as they are complete in Christ, accepted in the Beloved.

- 4. Put on your new man daily – Eph 4:11, 2 Cor 4:16**
 - a. Your life is not your own any more – 1 Cor 6:19-20
 - b. You are Christ's, and now a husband and a wife. Take responsibility.

- 5. Mind the things of the Spirit – Rom 8:3-6**
 - a. When you mind the things of the flesh, you will never be content
 - b. In the Spirit you can have life, peace, contentment – Phil 4:7-9

- 6. Have a common purpose for your life – Eph 5:16, Phil 2:2-4**
 - a. When you work together, you can grow together
 - b. Have the same mind and be in unity on how to live (one must submit)

- 7. Don't argue about the other's responsibility / position**
 - a. Work on yourself first and last
 - b. Don't count your good works, and their mistakes
 - c. Do consider your mistakes, and their good works
 - d. Be gracious toward the other, giving God the priority in serving them

The first 5 principles are a product of personal and family Bible study and prayer.
These need to be implemented regularly in your marriage.

#6 requires regular table talks with your spouse about your future, goals, and what you value most in life.

#7 is to prevent arguments, resentment, and bitterness