

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Ephesians 5:22-33

Starting in Ch 4...how to live in perilous times, spiritually fierce times in a world in upheaval

We follow Jesus (Eph 4:1 – 5:21)

1. walking worthy of the calling of God with lowliness, meekness, and boldness
2. walking not as unbelievers do in the depravity of their minds
3. walking in love as Jesus loved us
4. walking as children of Light, redeeming the time
5. walking circumspectly/diligently/perfectly, “under the influence of God”
 - filled with and led by the Spirit
 - giving thanks for all things
 - submitting one to another

This time...life is relational, therefore that instruction in how we live is to be the foundation of every relationship we have, starting at home with the marriage relationship.

Marriage as designed by the Living God, the God of the Living

The institution of marriage as a shadow of a greater reality, a mystery revealed

To understand the mystery being revealed, we need to start in the beginning

Gen 1:26-28

Man = 1 male + 1 female = the image of God

The Creator has created only 2 genders

Man, male or female, the creature created, is not given the “right” to change the Creator’s design

Males are born that way and stay that way until the day they die, regardless of surgical or hormonal treatments to change their God-given gender

Females are born that way and stay that way until the day they die, regardless of surgical or hormonal treatments to change their God-given gender

Gen 2:7, 18, 21-25

Marriage = 1 male + 1 female = 1 Man (the image of God)
until death of husband or wife

Mankind, does NOT have the authority to alter the terms and conditions of God’s marriage contract, either parties involved or duration

Declarations of gender choice and other combinations of marriage than 1 man and 1 woman are attacks by mankind on the image of God, the Creator

Homosexuality is disgusting in the eyes and mind of the Creator
Homosexual marriage is a blasphemous affront to God

Man (1 male + 1 female) is commanded to be fruitful and multiply
2 males cannot multiply, 2 females cannot multiply
The “end” of homosexuality is the death of man-kind
Hence, homosexuality originates in whose depraved mind?

Gen 3:9-13, 16-19 You will want to wear the pants in the family

We need to hear what The Word of God said about marriage

Prov 18:22 *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

Eccl 4:12b a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Marriage as designed by God is a 3 person relationship:

The Lord + the male + the female

For a widow or widower, the 3rd strand is broken but the 2 strands remaining are unbreakable

Matt 19:1-9

Now let's hear what the Spirit of God says about that 3-stranded cord and how it can be a “good thing” that yields favor of the Lord...established upon

- following Jesus (walking)
- “under the influence of God”...v21

v22 A marriage as designed by the Creator is a 3 Person relationship
1 Lord, the Supreme Authority (Jesus Christ) and
2 servants (husband and wife, both followers of Jesus submitting to His authority)
The 3 strands in marriages that yield the favor of the Lord:
1. wives, following Jesus
2. husbands, following Jesus
3. the Lord Jesus Christ, leading His beloved

The one thing God gives wives to do in the marriage relationship: submit

Submit to their husbands just as they submit to the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Peter 3:1-6 with Godly “ornamentation”, submit to your husband, trusting God

The Creator God is not the author of confusion, He is the God of order

With order comes peace and safety/security

With confusion (rebellion against order) comes turmoil and trouble

Order is built on submission and humility

The wife has equal value with the husband in the heart and mind of God
She is not a “2nd class citizen” in the home or in the kingdom of God
She has an equal voice in the marriage, her opinion and perspective are **very** valuable
She is the husband’s helper and partner; she is not his door mat or his slave
She is to submit to her husband for there to be order in the marriage, which is contrary to her nature (Gen 3:16) of wanting to wear the pants in the family

How does that work?

Husband and wife seek the will of the Lord regarding something
She shares her perspective and opinion and sense of what the Lord is saying with her husband
If they agree, they follow Jesus, being in one accord
If he disagrees with her, they pray more
If they remain not in one accord of mind, the wife submits to the leadership God has given the husband, doing everything she can to help her husband
The final decision lies with the husband...and all the accountability before the Lord for that decision
The wife submits and embraces the decision of her husband
And they move on, following Jesus, being in one accord

The Creator God is not the author of confusion, He is the God of order
With order comes peace and safety/security
With confusion comes turmoil and trouble
Order is built on submission and humility

1 Cor 11:1-3

1. God the Father
2. Jesus Christ
3. husband
4. wife

Jesus Christ and the Father are one (John 10:30)

Jesus Christ is every bit as much God as is God the Father

He is not inferior, He is equal

The Father sent Jesus Christ to speak His words and to do His work

Jesus submitted His will to the Father’s will and left heaven and came to earth to do the will of His Father (1 Cor 15:3-4)

Doing the Father’s will and finishing His work is what “energized” Jesus (John 4:34)

One equal submitted to the will of the other equal so that there would be order and not confusion in the Godhead

The husband and the wife are one
 The wife is not inferior and the husband is not superior, they are equal
 The male was created, the female was formed from the male's rib
 NOT from his head (above him) and NOT from his feet (below him)
 The wife is to come alongside as an equal of her husband to help him
 (and boy howdy does he need help!) and submit to his leadership
 as she submits to the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ so there is order
 and not confusion in

- "Man"
- marriage as God design it

Note: order in the Church is why 1 Tim 2:9-13

The wife's role models to follow are

1. the Lord Jesus Christ who submitted to God the Father
2. the Church/Bride of Christ/Body of Christ that submits to the
 Lord Jesus Christ/Bridegroom/Head of the Body

The wife and her role in marriage as the Creator God designed it are shadows of a greater reality

v25-27 The 3 strands in Godly marriages as designed by the Creator that yield His favor:

1. husbands, following Jesus
2. wives, following Jesus
3. the Lord Jesus Christ, leading His beloved

The one thing God gives husbands to do: love/*agape* his wife

- with God's nature (others-centeredness), which is contrary to his self-centered nature of throwing her under the bus to make himself look better (Gen 3:12)
- dying for her, dying to Self daily, her needs/wants before his needs/wants

His role model to follow is Jesus Christ

- gave himself

Gal 1:4	Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father
Gal 2:20b	the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (The Father's sacrifice, our Substitute)
1 Tim 2:5-6	For <i>there is</i> one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
Heb 12:2b	who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God

- sanctified
 - purified, made holy/separate from all others...
 - "You are absolutely pure!
 - You are unlike any other!
 - You are all mine!"

- cleansed
 - love/*agape* covered a multitude of sin, removed the stain of sin with the washing of the (Living) water of the Word of God
 - Is 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:
 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as
 snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as
 wool.
 - ala Ezk 16:4-14, God the Son has cleansed His Bride

- present to himself
 - to stand beside Him and He beside her
 - to exhibit/see/think of His bride as glorious/gorgeous
 - Song 2:1-2 I *am* the rose of Sharon, *and* the lily of the valleys.
 As the lily among thorns, so *is* my love among the
 daughters. (she has His beauty)
 - having no
 - spot, stain
 - wrinkle, never "weathering"
 - but as
 - holy, blameless
 - without blemish, defect-free...perfect!

- 2 Cor 11:2 I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a
 chaste (clean, perfect, pure) virgin to Christ.

- Col 1:22 present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight

- Jude 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present
you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy

The husband is to love his wife like Christ loves

1. The Church, His Bride

Ps 103

The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy...He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear (revere) him...Like as a father pitieth (has compassion for) *his* children, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

2. his (the husband's) wife

3. the husband

Jesus sees His Bride as perfect!

Jesus sees the husband's wife who is following Him as perfect!

Jesus sees the husband who is following Him as perfect

Perfection cannot be criticized

Rather, "pet peeves", idiosyncrasies, and irritations get covered in grace

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

v28-30 The 3 strands of Godly marriages that yield the favor of the Lord:

1. husbands, following Jesus

2. wives, following Jesus

3. the Lord Jesus Christ, leading His beloved

The Royal Law (James 2:8)

The closest neighbor to love/*agape* (unconditionally) as oneself – the wife

The relationship in which 2 become 1

Do husbands make a habit of criticizing or finding fault with or making fun of or denigrating or condemning themselves?

Humble Self-deprecating humor is one thing (and healthy and funny) but masochism, gratification gained from pain, deprivation, degradation, etc., inflicted or imposed on oneself,

is a mental disorder, not-in-one's-right-mind-ness

So, no, husbands don't do that.

So husbands are not to do that to their wives!

Do husbands make a habit of indulging or pampering or spoiling themselves?
Well, yes they do!
So they should do that to their wives!

Jesus Christ

- nourishes...with all things healthy – physical, emotional, spiritual
- cherishes...protectively broods over

His Bride

Husbands are to do the same with their wives

Because we...both husbands and wives, the image of God...are

- nourished
- cherished

as members of

- His Body, the Body of believers/followers, the Church
- His Bride, the faithful Church

v31 Now quoting from the beginning (which has NOT changed!)...Gen 2:24

In the mystery of one-ness, as designed by the Creator we find

- a shadow of a greater reality
 - Deut 10:20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.
- relational priorities

1 st : The Living God		Matt 22:36-37	
2 nd : our spouse	\		Rom 13:10
3 rd : our children	\	Matt 22:39	
4 th : our neighbors/all others	/		

No relationship is more important than ours with God, made possible by Jesus Christ and our faith in His work of reconciliation

Matt 10:37 loves more than Me is not worthy of Me (Life)

1 John 5:11-12

After God, no other relationship is more important than with our spouse...
including our children and grandchildren!

In this relationship priority is order and peace

In any other priority is confusion and trouble

The Greater Reality of Godly marriages as designed by the Creator is...

v32 ...a great mystery
A truth of God known from before the creation of the world that is revealed to mankind in the course of time

The foundational building block of human society,
the institution of marriage as designed by the Creator,
is but a shadow of the kingdom of God,
Jesus Christ and the Church, His Bride

- Creator + Jesus-kind (spiritually quickened/regenerated man-kind)
- Oneness that is the desire of God's heart, for which He has gone to the very greatest lengths to have
John 17:23a I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one
John 17:26b that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Marriage of a husband and a wife is a mystery of God, a revelation of God of Jesus Christ and His Bride

"My love" in the Song of Solomon is the Bride of Christ
"My beloved" is Jesus Christ

The "Proverbs 31 Woman"
Prov 31:10-31
is the Bride of Christ

v33 Returning to the shadow of the Substance,
let every one of you in particular...

- each husband love his wife as he loves himself
(and as Jesus loves His Bride, preferring her to Himself)
- each wife reverence/respect her husband

The husband is the witness of Jesus Christ to his wife

Husband: Be a good and faithful witness!

The wife is the witness of Jesus Christ to her husband

Wife: Be a good and faithful witness!

Does Jesus	bicker get snarky be condescending	with His Bride?
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Does Jesus	give the silent treatment give any kind of "attitude" want separate "Me time"	to His Bride? apart from His Bride?
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Does Jesus	nag snap at or brow beat abuse in any way embarrass criticize or find fault with make fun of neglect or ignore	His Bride?
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Nor should the husband with his wife or the wife with her husband!!!

Does Jesus	long to be with	His Bride?
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Is Jesus	gracious merciful longsuffering kind slow to anger	toward His Bride?
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So should the husband with his wife and the wife with her husband!!!

v33...Marriage as God designed that yields His favor: just do it!
Not only if/when you “feel like it”...when you selfishly want something!
Do it even if you don’t feel like it and the Living God will change how you feel.

Obey the Creator God in His design of marriage
1 Sam 15:22-23 to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat
of rams. For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and
stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry.

The simple beauty of God’s design of marriage

Wife’s one thing to do: submit to the leadership God gave to the husband
Wife’s one need in marriage: security

Husband’s one thing to do: love his wife as Christ loves the Church (and her)
Husband’s one need: the respect of his wife

If the Husband (must be the initiator just as Christ was, Rom 5:8) obeys and does
the one thing he is told to do, the Wife will have her one need met
With her one need met, the Wife will be more than happy to do the one thing she
is told to do, and the Husband will have his one need met

Accountability: Marriage God's Way is a 3 person relationship

1 Lord + 2 servants

The servants are accountable to the Lord to do the one thing they are told to do;
they are not accountable to the other servant

The husband is accountable to be the witness of Jesus Christ to his wife...
even if she is not doing the one thing He told her to do

The wife is accountable to be the witness of Jesus Christ to her husband...
even if he is not doing the one thing He told him to do

Help: To do the one thing we are told to do, we need help!

Doing that one thing is contrary to our natures (self-centered, selfish sin nature)

We need the power from on high to empower us to obey

We need the indwelling and the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Obedience in the marriage relationship as designed by the Creator is "heaven on earth"
Disobedience can be "hell on earth"

Married couples have not "heaven on earth" because

- Husband and/or wife walk/live
 1. not worthy of the calling of God with lowliness, meekness, and boldness
 2. as unbelievers do in the depravity of their minds
 3. not in love as Jesus loved us
 4. not as children of Light
 5. not circumspectly/diligently/perfectly, "under the influence of God"
 - filled with and led by the Spirit
 - giving thanks for all things
 - submitting one to another
- Jesus Christ is not Lord to husband and/or wife, not the Lord of the marriage;
Husband and/or wife are not following Jesus

Want a heaven-on-earth marriage that yields the favor of the Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth?

- Follow Jesus...submit to His Authority over your life
- Obey Jesus...be Christ-like with the help of the Spirit of Christ