



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

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Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

The Mystery of Marriage: How Biblical Marriage Displays the Gospel | Ephesians 5:20-33 9.20.26

1. A God-honoring marriage begins with a heart transformed by the gospel. vv. 20-21

The commands of Ephesians 5 cannot be separated from, or accomplished without, the life-transforming power of the gospel proclaimed in Ephesians 1-3 or the Spirit-filled life described at the beginning of Ephesians 5. It is no accident that Paul waits until this point to discuss the roles of husband and wife. It is because he understands that husbands and wives cannot fulfill these callings through determination alone. They must be continually renewed by the gospel and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out their roles as God desires and reflect Christ in their marriage.

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

→ **2 Corinthians 5:14-15,17; Romans 12:1-2**

Ephesians 5:1-2, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

2. God designed the role of a wife to beautifully reflect how the people of God (the church) take joy in following Christ and belonging to Him. vv. 22-24

Paul's brief instruction to wives is not merely a command concerning what they are to do; it also reveals what their faithful obedience is meant to portray. By willingly honoring and following her husband's sacrificial leadership, a wife displays the Church's loving submission to Christ. Yet, unlike Christ, her husband is imperfect and flawed in his leadership. Therefore, a wife's submission ultimately shows that she rests not in her husband's leadership but in God's faithfulness. By honoring her husband, even amid his weaknesses, a godly wife demonstrates her trust in God and her willingness to embrace both the role God has given her and the role He has entrusted to her husband.

1 Peter 3:5-6, "For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."

3. God designed the role of a husband to display Christ's sacrificial love, tender care, and faithful protection of His Church. vv. 25-30

Paul's instruction to husbands is not simply a command about how they are to treat their wives; it reveals what their love is meant to portray. By sacrificially loving, tenderly caring for, and faithfully protecting his wife, a husband displays Christ's love for His Church. Yet, unlike Christ, every husband is imperfect and will fall short of this calling. Therefore, his leadership cannot be driven

by selfish ambition, personal convenience, or a desire for control. It must flow from humble dependence upon Christ and a willingness to lay down his own interests for his wife's true good. As a husband seeks to nourish and cherish his wife, even at personal cost, he demonstrates his submission to Christ and embraces the sacred responsibility God has entrusted to him... **Biblical headship never permits domination, control, harshness, or neglect. Christlike leadership uses authority and strength not for self-protection or self-promotion, but in sacrificial service for the good of another.**

Hebrews 10:23-24, "Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."

4. God designed marriage to reflect God's character and to proclaim the Gospel. vv. 31-33

God desires husbands and wives to display the gospel through their marriage as they humbly serve and sacrificially love one another. Together, they should graciously confront patterns of sin, strengthen one another in areas of weakness, and encourage the development and faithful use of each other's God-given gifts... The ultimate biblical goal for husbands and wives is to stand before God one day having not only pursued faithfulness in their own spiritual lives, but also having helped one another become more like Christ. Each spouse should bear evidence of the other's imperfect yet faithful efforts to honor God, encourage spiritual growth, and pursue Christlikeness together.

A wife's submission is not intended to suppress her gifts, diminish her worth, or eliminate her godly ambitions. Rather, as she brings her wisdom, strength, and gifts alongside her husband, she helps him become a more faithful man and a more godly leader. Similarly, a husband's sacrificial leadership is not intended to control his wife, make her smaller, or use her gifts merely to advance his own ambitions. Instead, his love should nourish and cherish her, protect her good, encourage her gifts, and help her flourish as the woman God has called her to be.

→ **Ultimately, God desires husbands and wives to display the gospel through humble service and sacrificial love, graciously helping to prune away patterns of sin while cultivating one another's God-given gifts so that both increasingly flourish in Christ.**

Genesis 1:26-28a, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them."

→ In **Genesis 2:18-24**, God establishes marriage as a one-flesh covenant, and in Ephesians 5 we see that this original design anticipated Christ's relationship with His Church.

Marriage was never intended to simply fulfill the needs and desires of a man and a woman. From the beginning, God designed the covenant between a husband and wife to reveal something greater about His own faithfulness, self-sacrificing love, and nature, and ultimately to point to the covenant between Christ and His Church. As husbands love sacrificially and wives respond with trusting honor, their marriage makes the gospel visible.

9.27.26 – Ephesians 5:15-21

10.4.26 – Ephesians 6:1-9

10.11.26 – Ephesians 6:10-24

10.18.26 – 11.8.26 – Jonah Series by Pastor Joe