

1 Turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 5:22

In the past I have taken two messages to teach these verses, first covering Eph. 5:25-33—husband's role and then Eph. 5:22-24—wife's role. But this morning I want to unite them together.

1. There is equality in personhood AND distinctions in roles (responsibility) in marriage relationship.
2. Husbands & wives are equally important in their personhood & identity as Christians & in marriage.
3. Husbands & wives have different roles and responsibilities towards each other in their marriage.
4. Husbands & wives are to live in submission to each other—looks differently but equally important.
5. Husbands are primarily responsible to Christ for the health of their marriage.

Eph 5:22-33 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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, 27 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. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- 3 **1. Answer the questions:** 1. What is the husband's role? 2. Why is that the husband's role?
- 2. Answer the questions:** 1. What is the wife's role? 2. Why is that the wife's role?
- 3. How can husbands and wives fulfill their roles?**

A. HUSBANDS...**1. What is the husband's role?**

A husband must unconditionally & purposefully love his wife as Jesus loves the church...

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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, 27 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.

The reason I am speaking of the husband's role first is because he sets tone/atmosphere for his wife.
Love your wife as Jesus loves the church... Jesus loved sinners freely/unconditionally & purposefully.

-Sacrificially/Unconditionally: Jesus 'gave Himself up for her'...

Your love for her must be sacrificial...endless—death itself is NOT too far...NOT giving too much.

Rom. 5:8 *But God shows His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Love her when she is lovely, helpful, charming. Love her when she isn't lovely, helpful, charming...

Love her because of the great joy you have in her. Love her even when you don't delight in her.

Love her when it is inconvenient, when you're tired & when you're more interested in work/a game.

Love is NOT good intentions (flowers, help, speak +words) but **ACTIONS**...actually doing them.

Your love for her must be unconditional—unmerited—unearned: Loving a sinner...she does fail.

1 Cor 13:4-7 *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

-Purposefully: 'that He might sanctify her by cleansing her, she be splendid, she be spotless & holy

Your primary goal in loving your wife is that she would love Jesus more each day.

1 Jn. 4:10 *'In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.'*

How can my love cause my wife to love Jesus more? By being Jesus' love to her in flesh & blood!

Love her for her benefit, growth & to become more like Christ--as she receives/rejoices in love.

The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman Different ways to love another person.

1. Speak--words of affirmation
2. Give--quality time
3. Give--Receiving gifts
4. Do--Acts of service
5. Give--Physical touch

The Five Love Needs of Men and Women by Gary & Barbara Roseberg

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| 1. Wife: unconditional love and acceptance | Husband: unconditional love and acceptance |
| 2. Wife: emotional intimacy and communication... | Husband: sexual intimacy |
| 3. Wife: spiritual intimacy | Husband: companionship |
| 4. Wife: encouragement and affirmation | Husband: encouragement and affirmation |
| 5. Wife: companionship | Husband: spiritual intimacy |

2. Why is that the husband's role?

Because God has made them one, so loving her is a form of loving himself. (There is self-interest!)

28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

28 Since God joins a man & a woman together, husband's love for himself must include love for wife.

As you love your wife, you are loving yourself...Investing in life! Not wasting or just spending!

29 God created men as males to nourish (bring up: provide/protect) & cherish (keep warm: romance).

31 God made men as males to lead (initiate: leave/cleave, 23: 'heads') Failure to lead produces to stress

B. WIVES...

1. What is the wife's role?

A wife must unconditionally live in submission to (respect) her husband as she submits to Christ...

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

God established in Genesis 2:18 that He made woman to be a 'helper fit' for man.

Linda Dillow in her book, Creative Counterpart says a 'helper fit for man' is a '*creative counterpart, a helpmate, a complement to her husband. She not only allows her husband to be the leader but also encourages him to take the leadership by reverencing him and by being submissive to him. She has chosen to be submissive because God has commanded it and because she is convinced that only completion will result in a vital, fulfilling relationship.*'

The word "submit" in the ESV is not found in the Greek, but must be supplied from verses 21.

Literally verse 22 says, "Wives to your own husbands as to the Lord."

V 21 speaks of the mutual submission every Christ-follower is to have as a result of being Spirit-filled.

Three examples/relationships: marriage, parenting, slave/master or working environment.

Submit means to 'place oneself under the authority of another.' Choice of yielding & respecting!

Submission: Joyful & willing--following & responding to her husband's leadership.

Submission: divine calling to honor/affirm a husband's leadership & help carry it out by her gifts.

It's the disposition to affirm/follow your husband's authority

It is the inclination to yield to your husband's leadership.

It is an attitude that says, "I am glad when you take initiative & responsibility and lead with love.

I don't like it when you are passive/don't lead, which causes me to keep our marriage/family going.

Submit as to the Lord...

*Wife is to submit to her husband in the similar fashion she submits to Christ...as to the Lord.

*Wife is to submit to her husband after she first submits to Jesus Christ...1st in submission to Christ.

So when there is a discrepancy between Jesus' and a husband's leadership, Jesus must be followed!

Submission is...

- 1 -Not agreeing with everything your husband says—He is not perfect. He is not always right.
 - 2 -Not leaving your brain or your will at the altar-husband needs his wife to serve as an equal partner.
 - 3 -Not avoiding every effort to change your husband—God will use you to change him in God's way!
 - 4 -Not putting your husband's will before Jesus' will—Jesus is your LORD and primary head.
 - 5 -Not getting your personal, spiritual strength only through your husband—rather in Jesus & others.
 - 6 -Not following your husband into sin-if he leads you to sin, you responsibility to Jesus is to say NO!
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- 1 +IS to honor & affirm your husband in his leadership & partner with him to do God's will together.
 - 2 +IS to have a disposition to follow your husband's authority & inclination to yield to his leadership!
 - 3 +IS to share your opinions in such a way that affirms his role as your husband-leader!
 - 4 +IS to unconditionally respect him.

Submission is a *disposition* and an *inclination* to follow a husband's lead.

There are times when the most submissive wife with good reason will hesitate at a husband's decision. For example, Suppose I am about to decide something for our family that looks foolish to Pam. \ At that moment, Pam could express submission: "Kevin, I know you've thought a lot about this, and I love it when you take the initiative to plan for us and take the responsibility like this, but I don't have peace about this decision & I think we need to talk about it some more. Could we? Maybe tonight?"

This is biblical submission because...

- 1) Husbands, unlike Christ, are fallible and ought to admit it;
- 2) Husbands ought to want their wives to be excited about the family decisions, since Christ wants the church to be excited about following his decisions and not just follow begrudgingly;
- 3) The way Pam expressed her ideas proved she endorses my leadership & affirms my role as head.
- 4) Pam made it clear to me from the beginning of our marriage that when we have done all the talking we should & we still disagree but a decision must be made, she will defer to my decision.

2. Why is that the wife's role?

Because her husband is her head.

23 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.

NOT because the man/husband is superior, better, more important...But God's choice to make him head. Head: position/source of authority Emphasis of this word is not value/worth but role/responsibility.

Head is not more valuable than the heart or lungs or mouth...it merely has a unique role: lead/direct...

Husbands are Heads to lead in love not demand or rule as a dictator!

God created men & women to function in this kind of relationship: leading/loving...submitting

C. HOW?

1. How can husbands & wives fulfill their role? 5:33 Choice to be made and 5:18 Life to be lived
By Choosing to fulfill it & being Spirit-filled, who alone empowers both husbands and wives to be/do.
33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

1. By making a choice to relate to your spouse in that way...

God will not make this choice for you. It is one we must make every day & through out the day.

Foundation of marriage: Is the Gospel...Jesus Christ dying for sinners to forgive and change them.

Reality is that we all fail at relating to each other rightly—thus the need for GRACE!

Focus of marriage: Is towards the glory of God...NOT my good or happiness! Display God's glory!

Motivation is much bigger than just me...my feelings... BUT God's glory is at stake!

2. By living a consistent Spirit-filled life.

Holy Spirit alone enables/empowers Christ-followers to do God's will and to be God's person!

How? 1. Admit to Jesus you want and need to be controlled and empowered by the Spirit.

2. Acknowledge to Jesus ways you have been keeping the Spirit from controlling you.

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to take control of your life, trusting Jesus to live and fill you.

OBSERVATIONS

1. **Marriage is foremost a human relationship created by God to be a picture of Christ-Church.**

1. **Since marriage is a model of Christ & the church, it lifts marriage out of the meaningless ‘mush’ of the world and gives it the magnificent meaning that God meant it to have.**

Marriage is the display of God’s covenant love—His faithfulness to all who trust Jesus to save them.

Marriage is the display of God’s goodness and grace and unconditional love for sinners!

Marriage is a covenant between a man & a woman who promise to be faithful as long as they live.

Marriage is not a license for ‘sanctioned sex’ or a way of getting your needs met or to be happy.

Marriage is a physical picture of God’s holy love for sinners displayed by Jesus’ death on the Cross.

2. **Since marriage is a model of Christ & the church, it encourages husbands & wives to relate to each other with grace, since Jesus obtained and sustains his bride by grace alone.**

Jesus’ relationship with His church was created by and is sustained by His blood-bought grace.

-This means the marriage relationship is also meant to showcase that same new-covenant grace.

-You might ask: ‘How does that work-how can a husband & wife relate to each other by grace?’

Both husband and wife must personally rest in the experience of God’s grace in their life and

then extend that grace received from Jesus Christ and share it with each other.

Col 3:12-13, “Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy & beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Paul’s point is that--God’s grace empowers you to forgive and to forbear with one another.

-As Jesus has forgiven & bears with you, you must also forgive & bear with your spouse.

Remember: the distance between what Jesus expects of you & how you live is infinitely greater than the distance between what you expect of your spouse and what he or she achieves.

-Jesus Christ always forgives more and endures more than we do.

Remember: your spouse’s sins have already been paid for and forgiven by Jesus Christ.

-Let the measure of God’s grace to you in Christ be the measure of your grace to spouse

Remember: Grace is treating people better than they deserve. Jesus always treats y better...

Remember: God’s grace also empowers you to change so less forgiving & forbearing is needed.

-God’s grace is not just power to return good for evil; it is also the power to do less evil.

-God’s grace makes you want to change for the glory of Christ & the joy of your spouse.

3. **Since marriage is a model of Christ & the church, it shows that a husband’s headship—love and a wife’s submission--respect are both *essential to have a healthy marriage*..**

Both a husband’s loving leadership & a wife’s respectful submission is required..

In the same way that Jesus loving leadership and the church’s respectful submission is required.

2. **Every time you teach on this subject my husband because a bear, a ruling insensitive dictator.**

Men, I did not say you can rule, dominate or control your life...just the opposite: love, serve, give!

3. **Husbands... God has called you to be ‘Lion-hearted’ and ‘Lamb-like’, toward your wife.**

Rev. 5:5 refers to Jesus as the Lion of Judah Be a decisive, conscientious LEADER!

Rev. 5:6 refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Be a compassionate, sensitive, tender LOVER!

Be both: strong and meek, tough and tender, aggressive and responsive, bold and brokenhearted.

Wives... God has called you to be a ‘Hoper in God’, ‘Fearless Submission’, & ‘Gentle Power’

If you are married...Stand...and if you are with your spouse, turn and face each other...

1. **Marriage is a divine covenant between two sinners.**

2. **Every spouse brings unique sin baggage into their marriage that requires GRACE.**

3. **asd**