

Transformed in Christ to Disciple People

*Walking in Submission...
Loving & Respecting*

Ephesians 5:22-33

Sunday, December 2, 2007

Treasuring Christ... Loving People...

Three Foundational Thots...

1. In the marriage relationship there is equality in personhood & distinction in roles.

Husbands & wives are equally important in their personhood & identity as Christians & marriage.

Husbands & wives have different roles & responsibilities towards each other in marriage.

2. Husbands & wives are to submit to one another... it looks different but is equally important.
3. The health of a marriage is primarily a husband's responsibility before God (as the head).

MARRIAGE: DIVINE OBJECT LESSON

God created marriage to be a picture of Jesus' relationship to His church.

Jesus - Groom - husband

Church - Bride - wife

1. It gives marriage it's glorious purpose

**God's covenantal love & faithfulness*

**God's goodness & grace to sinners*

**God's intimacy with His people (sex)*

Recommended Book:

Sex and the Supremacy of Christ by John Piper

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2. It encourages GRACE in the marriage.

**GRACE keeps us connected with Jesus Christ*

**GRACE keeps us connected as a husband/wife*

**GRACE enables forgiveness & transformation*

Recommended Book:

When Sinners Say 'I Do' by Dave Harvey

MARRIAGE: DIVINE OBJECT LESSON

God created marriage to be a picture of Jesus' relationship to His church.

Jesus - Groom - husband
Church - Bride - wife

3. It shows that both roles are essential.

**Husband's loving leadership (as Jesus loves)*

**Wife's respectful partnering (as Church should)*

Recommended Books:

Love and Respect by Emerson Eggerichs

Finding the Hero in Your Husband by J. Slattery

Answer these Questions...

HUSBANDS...

1. What is husband's role/responsibility?
2. Why is that the husband's role?

WIVES...

1. What is wife's role/responsibility?
2. Why is that the wife's role?

HOW?

1. WHAT is the Husband's Role?

5:23,25-27

A husband 'gets to' freely & purposefully
lovingly lead his wife as Jesus does

...for the husband is the head... (23)

...Husbands, love... (25)

*Free: unearned *'as Christ loved the church...'*

Romans 5:8

*Free: sacrificially *'He gave Himself up for her...'*

1 John 4:10

*Purposefully *'that He might sanctify her...'*

2 Cor. 5:21

...having cleansed her...

2. WHY is that the Husband's Role?

5:28-31

Because God transforms a wife through her husband -- God has made them one.

28 *In the same way... husbands love your wife
...as your own body... loving yourself*

29 -Nourish her...
-Cherish her...

30 *Love from a position of being loved...*

31 -Lead her...

1. WHAT is the Wife's Role?

5:22, 24, 33

A wife 'gets to' respectfully submit to her husband as the Church submits to Christ...

Gen. 2:18 'helper fit', help-mate, counter-part

Submit... 'place oneself under authority'

Submission is NOT...

Submission is...

'as to the Lord...as the church submits...'

2. WHY is that the Wife's Role?

5:23

Because her husband is her head.

(God uses her respectful submission to change him.

1 Pet. 3:1-7)

-NOT because he is...

-head... 'position or source of authority'

-nothing to do with value/worth

-everything to do with role/responsibility

HUSBANDS... Loving lead her for God's best

Don't abdicate or dictate!

WIVES... Respectfully encourage his leadership

Don't dominate or nag!

HOW can these Roles be Done?

- 1. By choosing to submit to each other. (5:21)**
 - As brothers/sisters, you are a 'means of grace.'
- 2. By choosing to BE/DO these roles. (5:32-33)**
 - Accept & rejoice in your God-given role.
 - Agree that GRACE is needed as you learn to relate to each other appropriately.
- 3. By choosing to live a Spirit-filled life. (5:18)**
 - Accept the reality that without the Spirit=Failure
 - Ask Jesus to control/empower you by His Spirit.

WARNING!!!

Every time you teach on marriage...

Husband: lovingly lead

Wife: respectfully submit (partner)

my husband becomes a ruling dictator.

MEN, being your wife's head doesn't mean you can rule her and serve as her dictator...

Actually it means just the opposite...

Your leadership must be for her best, her growth in Christ & received by her in such a way that she feels you are the best husband!

Husband: Be Lion-hearted, Lamb-like

Rev. 5:5, 5:6, 1 Peter 3:7

- Strong & Meek
- Tough & Tender
- Initiate & Sensitive
- Bold & Brokenhearted

Wife: Be God-hoping, Respectful-responders

1 Peter 3:1-6

- Be God-trusting not Husband-nagging
- Display Quiet-strength from a full Heart
- Cultivate Inner AND Outer Beauty
- Be God-Fearing not Circumstance-Driven

If you are married, please stand & if you are next to your spouse, face each other.

Men, say the following to your wife...

God has made me one with you so I might lovingly lead you in a way that makes you holy and happy and so that we might do God's will together.

**I confess my failure to be a loving leader for you.
I am sorry. I ask you to forgive me by God's grace.
Do you forgive me?**

Jesus, I ask you to fill me with your Spirit, so I may lovingly lead my wife to Your glory and our joy.

If you are married, please stand & if you are next to your spouse, face each other.

Women, say the following to your husband...

God has made me one with you so I can respectfully follow your leadership and partner with you to do God's will together.

I confess my failure to respectfully follow you.

I am sorry. I ask you to forgive me by God's grace.

Do you forgive me?

Jesus, I ask you to fill me with your Spirit, so I may respectfully follow my husband to Your glory.

'...that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot... be holy...' **Rom. 8:29**

Love your wife towards Christ-likeness

**What does a 'Christ-like' wife look like?*

**What God-given role do you have?*

LOVE (5:25)

- Unconditionally accept, affirm, appreciate her*
- Display mercy: kindness, forbearing, forgiving*
- Speak her language: words, time, gifts, service, touch*

LEAD (5:23)

- Inspire her to live a Christ-centered life*
- Initiate & facilitate a Christ-centered home*

Love - is patient

Love - is kind

Love - does not envy

Love - does not boast

Love - is not arrogant

Love - is not rude

Love - does not insist on its own way

Love - is not irritable or resentful

Love - does not rejoice at wrongdoing

Love - rejoices with the truth

Love - bears all things

Love - believes all things

Love - hopes all things

Love - endures all things

Submission is NOT...

1. Agreeing with everything your husband says.
He is not perfect. He is not always right.
2. Leaving your brain or your will at the altar.
He needs a wife to serve as equal partner.
3. Avoiding every effort to change your husband.
God will use you to change him in His way.
4. Putting your husband's will before Jesus' will.
Jesus is your LORD and primary HEAD.
5. Getting your personal, spiritual strength only from your husband - but also from Jesus & others.
6. Following your husband into sin
If he leads you to sin, respectfully say, No thanks.

Submission is...

1. Honoring your husband in his leadership & partnering with him to do God's will together.
2. Having a disposition to follow your husband's authority & inclination to yield to his leadership (*share your opinions in a way that affirms his role*)
3. Unconditionally respecting him.

'Kevin, I know you've thought a lot about this, and I love it when you take the initiative and responsibility to lead us, but I don't have peace about this decision and I think we need to talk about it some more. Would that be OK? Maybe we can talk after dinner?'