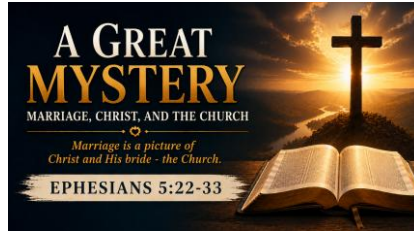


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 5:22-33 – Marriage is a picture of Jesus Christ and His Church

Today’s Message:

“A Great Mystery”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, God commanded us not to walk as fools, but as wise. A Spirit-filled life has evidence that can be seen and experienced by other people. Today, we come to a passage many expect to be a lesson about husbands and wives. Paul definitely addresses marriage responsibilities, but he will end with, “I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Marriage is not the ultimate subject – Christ is. Marriage was created by God to be a living illustration of the Gospel. Every Christian marriage should illustrate for the world to see – Christ’s authority, sacrifice, love, and faithfulness. The question is not merely, “What kind of spouse should I be?” But... “What kind of Christian am I?” This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ **The Text** **Ephesians 5:22-33**

A. Christ our Head – the pattern of God’s order for the Church and our life.

1. Christians must submit to Jesus Christ in EVERY thing. **Wives** also to their husbands.

- **Ephesians 5:22** – *WIVES, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, AS UNTO THE LORD.*
- **Ephesians 5:23** – *For THE HUSBAND is the head of the wife, even AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH: and he is the saviour of the body.*
- **Ephesians 5:24** – *Therefore AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT UNTO CHRIST, So let THE WIVES be to their own husbands in every thing.*

A Christian Wife
 “Watch my life, and I will show you how the Church should follow Christ!”

Important Note
 The issue is not superiority. The issue is God’s order. The husband is not compared to a dictator. He is compared to Jesus. The wife is not compared to a slave or property. She is compared to the church.

W1828 “Subject”
 Placed or situate under; being under the authority or power of another.

“Submit” – to place oneself under authority; to willingly place oneself under Jesus Christ.
 ✓ Submission is not outside of the word of God and does not mean loss of value.
 ✓ Submission is God’s design for order; it means trusting God’s structure and word.
 “Head” – refers to leadership, responsibility, authority, accountability – not domination.
 ✓ Biblical headship is loving leadership. Everyone lives under Jesus Christ’s authority.

Comparing Scriptures

- **1 Corinth 11:3** – ... the HEAD of every man is Christ... the HEAD of the woman is the man...
- **Colossians 1:18** – And he is the HEAD of the body, the church...

Practical Application

- **Wives:** Respect God’s order; encourage spiritual leadership; **FOLLOW** joyfully.

Your Marriage
 Christian WIVES are to daily illustrate to HER HUSBAND, HER FAMILY, and the entire world how the Church is to be submissive to Jesus Christ!

“...even as Christ is the head of the church...”

Every believer must submit to Jesus Christ’s authority in **every thing**.
 The greatest submission issue in the room is not marital – it is YOU to Jesus Christ.
 Every Christian wife must place herself under her husband’s authority in **every thing**.

B. Christ our Sacrifice – the pattern of God’s love for His Church and each other.

2. Jesus Christ’s love is the **FOUNDATION** of everything. **Husbands must** love like Him!

- **Ephesians 5:25** – *HUSBANDS, love your wives, even AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED the church, and GAVE HIMSELF for it;*
- **Ephesians 5:26** – *That HE might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water BY THE WORD,*
- **Ephesians 5:27** – *That HE might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
- **Ephesians 5:28** – *So OUGHT men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*
- **Ephesians 5:29** – *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even AS THE LORD the church:*

“Gave himself for it” – Jesus’ love cost His life; sacrificial, selfless, unconditional, giving.
 “Sanctify and cleanse it” – Jesus Christ helps to make His bride holy and set apart to God.
 “Nourisheth and cherisheth it” – Jesus Christ continually cares for / helps His bride – you!

Comparing Scriptures

- **John 15:13** – *Greater LOVE hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life...*
- **Romans 5:8** – *But God commendeth HIS LOVE toward us... while we were yet sinners...*
- **1 John 4:19** – *We LOVE HIM, because HE FIRST LOVED US.*

A Christian Husband – “Watch my life, and I will show you how Christ cares for His Church!”

Practical Applications

- **Husbands:** Jesus is your example – start praying, caring, and dying to **SELF** for her!
- **Believers:** Jesus is your example – Christ’s love is the standard for all relationships!

Jesus Christ’s Love
A Sacrificial Love
 “gave himself for it”
 The husband should sacrifice for her needs.

A Sanctifying Love
 “sanctify and cleanse it”
 The husband should help her to grow spiritually.

A Sustaining Love
 “nourisheth...cherisheth it”
 The husband should provide care, protection, and affection for her.

The Standard
The question for husbands is not whether you love your wife better than another man... it is whether you are loving her the way Christ has loved you and still loves and cares for you today!

C. Christ and His Bride – the purpose and a great mystery – now revealed!

3. God’s purpose for marriage was **ALWAYS** intended to point people to Jesus Christ!

- **Ephesians 5:30** – *For WE ARE MEMBERS of his body, of his flesh... of his bones.*
- **Ephesians 5:31** – *For THIS CAUSE shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be ONE flesh.*
- **Ephesians 5:32** – *THIS is A GREAT MYSTERY: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*
- **Ephesians 5:33** – *NEVERTHELESS LET every one of you in particular SO LOVE HIS WIFE even as himself; and the wife see that SHE REVERANCE her husband.*

“Mystery” – a truth once hidden (Gen 2:24) but now revealed by God in the New Testament.

Practical Applications

- **Married Couples:** Does your marriage **POINT** people to Jesus Christ? Why not?
- **Believers:** The greatest relationship in your life is not earthly – it is Jesus Christ.

The Mystery
*The mystery is not marriage itself.
 The mystery is how the 1st marriage of Adam and Eve (Gen 2:24) becoming 1 flesh (man and wife) is exactly what Christ does with His bride AT HIS DEATH (by the cross; Eph 2:16). We have become one (joined) with a risen Saviour in the third heaven and cannot ever be separated!*

“... I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Genesis begins with a marriage in Eden (Gen 2:24). Revelation ends with a marriage in glory (Rev 19:7-9). In this passage today, **marriage is the illustration**. Jesus Christ and His church are the reality. The question is, “What kind of Christian (bride) are you to your Husband Jesus Christ?”