

Last few messages – Identity in Christ is a gift – New = Behaviors that are becoming, best, beneficial

- Actions – Attitudes - Words display our identity God’s people | Paul started with ‘why’ ⇒ ‘what’
Important = Colossians 3:1 ‘If then you have been raised with Christ’ | If...then – Someone’s Work
Into a section that is highly practical – Husbands / Wives / Children / Workplace = Day-to-day issues
Today = Marriage...**PRAY ⇒ TEXT ...very long and complicated section | 18-19**

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them
Not long...short...not complicated...clear | Section is like gold...its highly valuable and incredibly dense
Sermon...Eye Roll...Headship – Submission Unnecessarily controversial – ‘man’ & ‘wife’ is offensive

We must agree on these three truths:

- a. *God has defined marriage and has a specific intention that is most profitable*
 - World wants to attack human sexuality by redefining terms...not theirs to define | **Squash**
 - World wants us to be ‘progressive’...I would consider it ‘regressive’ | **God’s way is best**
- b. *God has defined that marriage is the closest and clearest earthly illustration of the gospel*
 - **Marriage is a model of Christ** – Submission to Father | Head of Church | Grace given
- c. *God has determined to be graceful for our mistakes yet desires our obedience*
 - Not lost on me...not all marriages are ideal...worked...grace abounds

Two sinners together = problem...situation | Just because it didn’t go right...doesn’t mean it isn’t right

We need to agree on these truths...hold close – understand they are a powerful part of our witness

Big idea – Let biblical marriage be your witness to a bereaved world

- Our marriages are made to minister to grieving world | Emasculating men – Objectifying women
Families = Building block of society. A society that doesn’t protect family undermines its very existence
Why is society falling apart? We are witnessing the death of the traditional marriage & nuclear family
 - The worldly idea: marriage is a transaction. The biblical idea: marriage is a covenant
 - The worldly idea: marriage for intimacy is optional. The biblical idea: marriage is foundational
 - The worldly idea: marriage is disposable. The biblical idea: marriage is sacred
 - The worldly idea: marriage roles are undefined. The biblical idea: marriage roles are clear

As Christians...our ambition is to honor the Lord: Marriage – Families – Workplaces...it’s the goal

1. **Wives, choose to submit and support** - *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord*

It’s a well-worn path for preachers to get defensive about this verse...pontificating in apology...bah

- **Submit or to be subject to = Military Term used to show rank | Not a dirty word...brings joy**
College Campus – Your lives would be most satisfied if you would willingly submit to a biblical man
We submit: Me – Laws – Educators – Leaders – Work – The Lord – Jesus Did – HS - ‘Problem’ = ‘Problem’
Submission as a dirty word or a display of weakness is nonsense – **So what? Three things:**

- a. **Submit to his leadership | Absolute Equality...NOT to be aspired to | Value vs. TONS Responsibility**
 - Husbands have the God-given responsibilities to lead their family...for the Lord
 - Wives fulfill their God-given responsibility when submit to their own husbands...for the Lord
 - Wives, submission is to be your voluntary response to God’s will

Submission is a joyful yielding to the discretion/decisions of your husband...as is fitting the Lord

- Submission is NOT an absolute surrender of your will, or a permanent zipping or the lip
 - Not spineless consent – degrading humiliation – demeaning servitude – passive resignation
 - It is a disposition/inclination to follow and support your husbands leadership

What if he doesn’t lead – Just because he’s passive his...not become aggressive in yours | **Never Drive**

What if he asks me to do something wrong? Acts 5:29 ‘We must obey God rather than men.’

- **Contrary to Scripture – Lovingly and firmly resist | Physical or threats – Seek help Church & State**

- b. **Support your relationship**

- The fact is that you have influence over your husband - Use it to strengthen and build him up
‘It is not good that man should be alone’ – AMEN | Autumn’s mother passing away

Proverbs says ‘A wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands’

- You have the power to build or tear down a household. Wield that power wisely
- Husbands & wives belong to each other - Half the building materials & the expertise...build

- c. **Serve the Lord**

Your willing submission to your husband is an act of willing submission to God

- In Christ you’re free – Not property - Not owned - Free & you’re redeemed to life through Christ
When you took your marriage vows you were vowing to use the freedom you have in Christ to love your husband in willing submission to his leadership for the rest of your life

As you stay faithful to that vow, remember that you’re using your life for God’s purposes.

You’ll be providing a witness to a confused, bereaved world there is life, peace, & joy in God’s design

2. **Husbands, choose to love and lead** - *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

‘Headship’ – Head...direction body...whole good | Out = Crippled / Paralyzed / Spastic | LOVE – LEAD

- **Corrupt ideas about marriage are built on a wrong/misappropriation of the idea of love**
 - If love is whatever you want it to be, then it’s inherently selfish | My definition = My happiness
This concept of love...kill-shot to marriage – Love...God defines...exact opposite: inherently selfless

The opposite of loving someone in a marriage context is not hating them, but using them

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. – Ephesians 5:25

Husbands: Never use your wife as a means to the end of your own happiness...Love like Christ...us:

- a. **Love unconditionally**

Agape – Love without any conditions and without expectation of reciprocation

- She’s un-loveable...have you met you? Love her | She’s Changed...love her | **GUY** | CHRIST LOVED
- Christ = Ongoing | Doesn’t withdraw His presence – attention | Patient and Graceful...fail

What else did Christ do for the church? He gave himself up for her:

- b. **Live sacrificially** - What does living sacrificially in marriage look like?

- Protect = Bump in the night...guess who’s getting up – Don’t care MMA...you’re going
- Provide = Financially – Emotionally – Spiritually | **When it costs you!**
- Preserve = Have some Grit - Resilience - Tenacity | **When life is heaviest...you pick it up!**
Giving yourself up...not an accident...choice | **PRIORITY – WHAT’S BEHIND THE WALL - SHOOT**

The last part of this verse is one of the ways we do this. “do not be harsh with them” means we:

- c. **Lead graciously**

Husbands not to treat their wives as slaves, barking commands | **Yell...‘Submit to me’ – Off...way off**
Leading not concerned w/ power or control or authority or rights | Lead in position...not lord position

- **Do not be harsh – ‘bitter’ - Never weaponize your strength | Physical...wit...income potential...none**
- **Here’s one – God doesn’t find it funny | Demeaning your wife for entertainment or therapy is sin**
Harsh talk or actions toward your wife don’t honor her as someone created in God’s image

In a marriage, you will hurt and get hurt...The fairytale marriage is just that: a fairytale

The biblical idea of a marriage that’s full of love, where the wife chooses to submit and support, where the husband loves and leads, can be real

- Marriage is valuable. It’s to be desired, to be worked on, and to be protected
 - It’s the foundation on which the success of all human relationships rest. **More than that:**

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. – Ephesians 5:32

- Marriage is the mirror that reflects the relationship between Christ himself and his church
- Right understanding of marriage leads to right understanding of our relationship to God himself
- God-honoring marriage shows the world as much about the gospel as a sermon ever could

We live in a bereaved world

- Mourning the loss of love, the loss of purpose, the loss of stability, the loss of relationship
- As a church, may we promote and practice marriages that offer the world hope
- Witness to God’s design for human relationship...demonstration between Christ and his bride

As we go out into our community, they are looking at us to see: is there love, is there purpose, is there consistency, is there hope?

If we’re going to credibly answer “yes” we must start with marriages that honor God

Let biblical marriage be your witness to a bereaved world