

Opening: The book of Ephesians provides powerful practical truths for every Christian to apply to their lives. Tonight, Paul will encourage marriage as the covenant to protect the human soul from carnal passions that run rampant in our world. Let us receive the encouragement for living the victorious Christian life in Christ.

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:17-33 17Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is. 18Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, 20always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her 26to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to Himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless. 28In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church. 30For we are members of His body. 31"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church. 33Nevertheless, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1. **Ephesians 5:17-18:** 17Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is. 18Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
 - a. In response to all that Paul has previously shared, since the days are evil do not live carelessly, randomly. Be careful how you live, what you give yourself to.
 - b. Paul warns the people be careful what you put into your body and reminds the people that drunkenness is not fitting for any Christian.
 - i. Drunkenness is a sin so prevalent in our society.
 - ii. The drunkard is reckless and lacks discretion. When a person is drunk, they are out of their mind and capable of anything. Without self-control a person is in danger of being overtaken by any form of evil.
 - iii. **How to be free?** "Instead, be filled with the Spirit". To be full of the Spirit is only possible when we surrender to His leadership in our life. Ask and you will receive.
 - iv. **Luke 11:13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"
2. **Ephesians 5:19-20** 19Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, 20always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. Minister to one another, build each other up. Worship is to be a common experience at all times not just in a church service. Let a song be on your lips and your lips won't be used to spread the enemy's message.
 - b. **Romans 12:21** Don't let evil conquer you but conquer evil by doing good.
 - i. If you give God's goodness a place to flourish in your life it will overwhelm the old life's inclinations. The Spirit is more powerful than the flesh.
 - c. Always give thanks: Giving thanks to God in all things is not giving thanks to God because of all things, it is a matter of perspective as you trust in God's goodness and ability to turn all circumstances around for your good. Bad things happen to those who follow God, but God will be your ever-present help in times of trouble. Do not lose heart.
3. **Ephesians 5:21-24** 21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
 - a. Why do we submit to one another? We do so because of our honor for Christ. Without a strong connection to Christ, it will be virtually impossible to submit (trust) to others.
 - b. Wives submit to your husbands because Christ is the head of His Church and God made the male to be the head of the wife in this life. If Christ were not the head of His Church, then the wife would not have to submit to her husband but since He is the wife must submit. What does this mean though?
 - i. Submission allows for unity, peace and harmony, strength and progress. In every decision that has ever been made submission is required. In the home God calls the wife in strength to submit to the husband in trust.

- ii. There are limitations to this submission. The wife is not called to submit to sin, to abuse or manipulation.
 - iii. When an impasse occurs after, consultation and prayer finding compromise where possible the wife should trust in God and in faith submit to her husbands leading. God has delegated His authority to the household 1st to the man and 2nd to the wife.
 - c. **How does the Church submit to Christ?** In faith the Christian trusts in Christ for everything, allowing Christ to be the ultimate yes and no in our lives.
 - d. **Key Point:** The problem in wives demonstrating this command is not in the command but in the corruption of the human heart. Wounds, hurts and previous trauma work to create distrust, fear and unrest in the heart of many wives.
 - i. **It can be hard to submit to a dud for a husband, be careful who you marry.** Having said that God will still honor the wife who honors God even if the husband will not honor.
4. **Ephesians 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her **26** to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to Himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.
- a. Husbands your work is not submission to the wife but submission to Christ as your highest aim. You are to lose your life in service to your wife.
 - b. I have found that if a husband is willing to love His wife by serving her well, that she will not have a problem trusting Him and submitting to him.
 - c. What did Christ do, He gave himself completely to form a Church that was whole, healthy and radiant with the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Husbands should not delegate the leading of the home to their wives, becoming absentee when leadership is needed. The man was made to lead in conviction to Pastor His household and to provide for it.
 - i. The husband will be held to account for what was allowed into the home as the head of the home. Therefore, each man should refuse to be unengaged in the affairs of the home.
 - ii. Husbands lead your family in prayer, in worship, in service, lead in humility, lead in asking forgiveness when wrongs are committed. Husbands set a Godly example because it is your influence that is greater than all others in your home.
 - e. Husbands an unbelieving world needs to see a believing husband lead His house well, honoring God above all else. Allow God to be your Father and to lead you to lead your family well.
5. **Ephesians 5: 28-30** **28** In the same way, husband's ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church. **30** For we are members of His body.
- a. Paul encourages the husbands to be gracious, gentle and accommodating to their wives.
 - i. Unfortunately, in the world we live in spousal abuse is common where men take advantage of their wives. Paul encourages the Church to be different.
 - b. You are one with your wife husbands, you rise and fall together. Fail to love and accommodate your wife at your own demise. Husbands you cannot succeed without your spouse, God will not allow it. Don't put your selfish pursuits in front of the needs of the whole.
 - c. Husbands never forget your wife is for this life. In truth she is your equal in the Kingdom. She is a powerful gift God has given to you. One day her position in the Kingdom will be different. God is testing every husband in this life to see how they do with delegated authority in leading their home and wives.
6. **Ephesians 5:31-33** **31** "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." **32** This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
- a. **"United to His wife"** The goal of marriage is unity between two people in love who become one in heart, focus and mission.
 - b. Husbands and wives are in carefully choreographed picture of God and His creation. In this life our marriage to our spouses is a picture of our future marriage to Christ in eternity.
 - c. Instead of focusing on the negatives of our marriages, try and believe that God is calling your marriage to become the beautiful picture of submission, unity, Joy and companionship He has designed.
 - d. God's way for a whole and healthy marriage is Love, men struggle to love their wives because often times they are frustrated with themselves. Men, receive the love of God and trust him with your own struggles.

Conclusion: Marriage is beautiful and fulfilling. Through Christ it can be the closest we get to heaven until Jesus returns. Don't settle for a Christianity that isn't powerful enough to give you the best marriage possible.