

# L9 | Divine Institutions | Institution of Marriage Pt. 6 | Eph. 5:22-33

## I. Intro/Review:

- Mutual works and responsibilities in marriage
  1. Submission
  2. Love
  3. Chastity
  4. Help
  5. Peace

## II. Preview:

- The Works and Responsibilities in the Wife's Role
  1. Submission & Helpfulness
    - 1.1 - Reverence
    - 1.2 - Obedience
    - 1.3 - Assistance
    - 1.4 - Modesty

## III. Sermon:

- Paul in Ephesians 5 and 6 addresses the roles that are not "headship" roles.
  - Wives, then husbands
  - Children, then parents
  - Servants, then masters
    - Why? - Preface of Eph. 5:22 is :21 - "submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."
- I am not addressing the caveats, where the line blurs with extreme sinfulness in a marriage, because in these passages Paul doesn't.
- I am addressing God's intent and instruction within marriage for the wife and the husband.

### 1. Submission & Helpfulness

- Submission - Eph. 5:22 - "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
- Helpfulness - Gen. 2:19 - "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."
- No matter how smart, rich, reputable, or beautiful the wife is all is vain if she is not these things in her marriage
- The woman is to consider the role and wisdom God designed the office of the wife to be when she considers marriage - being a wife isn't the issue of pleasing herself, but her prospective husband as unto the Lord (1 Cor. 7)
- This ought to be fixed in her heart - that the wise God ordered marriage as such and is

best

- This may be difficult - contrary to sin and the flesh, but the wife, if so privileged to take up this office of wife, is to consider it as part of her communion with the Lord, even so, her faithfulness and obedience are now directly attached to what she is in her marriage. This reflected in, "as unto the Lord."
- She is to first, obey God, then obey her husband - thus reflecting the gospel in her marriage
  - If the wife forgets this her outward obedience will vanish for a lack of power that comes from her inward obedience toward God.
- Dealt with "helpfulness" in mutual responsibilities
- Submission
  - Many view as slavish service, but Biblical headship isn't tyrannical
  - God's first purpose in marriage is "companionship", not dictatorship
  - Thomas Gataker (minister in England; lived from 1574-1654) said, "a faithful and careful, a constant and conscionable performance of such duties as issue and flow from the inward acknowledgment of that superiority of power and place which God has given to the husband with regard to the wife."
  - Submission in four areas
    - 1.1 - Reverence - Eph. 5:33
    - 1.2 - Obedience - Tit. 2:4-5
    - 1.3 - Assistance
    - 1.4 - Modesty - 1 Tim. 2:9-10

Summary - 1 Pet. 3:1-6

#### 1.1 - **Reverence** - not mere fondness nor doting over looks

- Found in the first woman - Eve
  - 1. Made after Adam
  - 2. Made of Adam
  - 3. Made for Adam
- Nature and Pattern of Reverence
  - 1. Nature - true, cordial, conjugal reverence made of honor, love, and respect
    - Her husband is dear to her
    - The wife is to honor his person and if for some reason she cannot she can honor his place
      - His character may fluctuate but his place does not
  - 1.1 - Love (Tit. 2:4)
    - Leave father and mother
    - Without love her works toward him will be burdensome and painful, but with love sweetens her works toward him

1.2 - Fear & Respectful (1 Pet. 3:2)

- Hard to hear has more to do with our sin nature than the responsibility itself.
- Not slavish, but free and generous fear.
- Desire to please husband, give contentment - 1 Cor. 7:34
- She endeavors in her speech, dress, behavior to endear herself to him

2. Pattern - As the church submits to Christ (Eph. 5:22-24)

2.1 - "in everything"

- If nothing unlawful or sinful

2.2 - Freely, willingly, constantly, and cheerfully

- Reflect one heart and one interest
- As to not offend him
- Contradicting and grudging spirit is unsuitable
  - Allow husband to answer for his negligence or severity than for your usurpation or contempt.
- Draw out his love

1.2 - **Obedience** - not a snare but an ornament to her beauty

- Sara - 1 Pet. 3:4-6
- Titus 2:5ff - adorning doctrine
- Obedience in Words & Deeds
  1. Refer to him with respect - (1 Pet. 3:6)
  2. Speak to others of him with respect (Song. 5:16)
  3. Prevent being argumentative or disagreeable (Pro. 27:15)
  4. Imperishable beauty (1 Pet. 3:1-6)
- Her obedience isn't blind obedience, but her allegiance is first to Christ; therefore, it isn't into sin
  - She modestly and resolvedly refuses sin
  - If he refuse you to read, pray, go to church then she is to obey God.
- She put herself under his counsel
  - Shunammite woman - 2 Kings 4:9-10
  - Submits to the husbands counsel
  - Husbands if she is to submit to your counsel you ought to give the Lord's counsel
    - Know the Lord's will
    - Encourage your wife's faithfulness to you and your Lord
- Bear reproof's - see as LORD
  - Ask, and discuss
  - Husband to remember his own sinfulness when he communicates
  - Both are to remember nothing good in us and we are seeking Christ together
  - From the heart not the lips
  - Seasonably
  - Medicinally given not abrasive

### 1.3 - **Assistance** - not a guide but a help

- In everything - she is to be a wife not just another woman to him
  1. Body to cherish it
  2. Soul to tender it
  3. Family to order it
  4. Estate to get it - save and dispose rightly
  5. Calling and affairs to promote it
  6. Name to honor and preserve it
  7. Secrets to lock in her bosom and if he needs help to carefully discern whom to share with

### 1.4 - **Modesty** - general and apparel (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:3-4)

- Definition - Properly, restrained by a sense of propriety; hence, not forward or bold; not presumptuous or arrogant; not boastful
- General - 1 Tim. 3:2 - "good behavior"
- Apparel - 1 tim. 2:9-10 - "modest apparel"
  - Dress reflects the heart - a decision guided by flesh or Spirit
  - Dress is to reflect and draw attention to that which is primary
  - Doesn't prevent the woman in wearing these but limits them
    1. Costly - financial stewardship (costly array)
    2. Wanton - desire for latest fashion
    3. Excessively - present herself more than she is before God
    4. Outwardly - focus on the inward
  - Her dress is to keep with her pursuit of godliness
  - Married - reflect possessing vessel in sanctification and honor
    - Not play the harlot
    - Oftentimes there is blame shifting on this issue from the wearer to the watcher - the mind of the beholder is the problem, but that isn't what scripture says, but both can be at blame
      - Job 31:1 - Job and the maid
      - Pro. 6:25, 7:10 - the strange woman
    - Invite pure and chaste thoughts - men show you care about your marriage by providing loving feedback - women invite it as the wife you are to one man
    - Eph. 5:3-4; 1 The. 4:3ff
  - Consideration biblically for dress
    1. Wear that which doesn't violate between sexes - Deut. 22:5
    2. Wear apparel for the purpose of apparel - Gen. 3:21; Isa. 47:1-3 (cover nakedness)
    3. Dress below envy above contempt - 1 Tim. 2:9-10
      - Dress outwardly to reflect inward chastity not inward uncleanness

## IV. **Conclusion:**

- These are four responsibilities in which the wife can submit and help her husband but do not

come close to exhausting all the cases and manners in which they can be employed.