



Title: Ephesians - Marriage, Christ and the Church

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33

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Bible Version: NKJV

The marriage experience is one of constant growth when Christ is the Lord of the home. - Warren Wiersbe

The purpose of marriage and family is to advance God's kingdom in history through replicating the image of God and exercising dominion over the earth. - Tony Evans

BOTTOM LINE: The purpose of marriage is to bring honor and glory to God.

Vs. 22

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord- Paul notes that there is an order and function to the Christian marriage. This submission does not mean to all men in general. It only applies to the sphere of marriage in this scripture.

This has nothing to do with a husband's intelligence, giftedness, or capability. It has to do with honoring the Lord Jesus Christ. - David Guzik

Two things we note about this submission:

1. Submission is not based on value or personhood.
2. Submission has limitations.

The mission for the Christian life and marriage is to bring honor and glory to God.

Vs. 23

Husband is the head of the wife as also Christ is the head of the church- The idea of head is related to authority. In the marriage covenant, God has given the role and function of leadership to man.

Vs. 24

The church submits to Christ- Paul illustrates a parallel here. He ties in the idea of submission in marriage to that of Christ and the Church.

So Let the wives be to their own husbands in everything- The idea here is in the role and function of a marriage.

Submission is never a problem when a man loves his wife as Christ loves the church- Jon Courson

The scriptures call both husband and wives to die to self.

Vs. 25

Husbands, love your wives- Paul now turns his attention to the husbands. He calls husbands to love their wives. In fact in 1 Peter 3, we see that husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way.

If the husband makes Christ's love for the church the pattern for loving his wife, then he will love her sacrificially.- Warren Wiersbe

Agape love is unconditional commitment towards an imperfect person for the purpose of developing the potential God has placed in them.

Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her- Just as Paul is illustrating a role and function in a marriage, he also relates it to the nature between Christ and the church.

Jesus loves His church with a special love. Jesus loved the world and died for the world; but just as a husband can have a general love for everyone, he must also have a special love for his bride. - David Guzik

Vs. 25-26

by the word- The word rhema is used here. The idea is through the spoken word. It's a call to husbands to take an active interest in our wife's spiritual health.

Vs. 28

Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies- Paul notes that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. In Genesis 2, we see Adam note that Eve was flesh of his flesh.

Three reasons why husbands ought to love their wives:

1. This is what Love is. Vs. 25 states to love your wife.
2. You are husband and wife. This is the pattern modeled after the church and Christ.
3. We are one with her.

He who loves his wife loves himself- Husbands benefit when they love their wife. Likewise, they neglect themselves when they neglect their wife.

On the practical level, therefore, the whole of the husband's thinking must include his wife also. He must never think of himself in isolation or detachment. The moment he does so he has broken the most fundamental principle of marriage. - Lloyd-Jones

Vs. 29

No one ever hated his own flesh- You can't love yourself and hate your wife. If you are married, then you are one flesh. Paul notes that the marriage covenant is built on oneness.

Just as the Lord does the church- Husbands have an example of oneness.

Vs. 30

For we are members of His body- Paul demonstrates that there is oneness in the relationship between Jesus and His people. We have oneness of life, future destination, and nature.

Vs. 31

The two shall become one flesh- Paul quotes Genesis 2 here. It's a reminder that when it comes to a marriage, God does the joining and the two become one.

Unity is the main principle in marriage.

Our Christian homes are to be pictures of Christ's relationship to His church. - Warren Wiersbe

Vs. 32-33

Love his own wife as himself- Paul calls the husband to love his wife as himself.

God intends marriage to model the love of Christ for the church and the response of the church to Christ for the world to see - Tony Evans

7 thoughts on how to incorporate oneness in your marriage:

1. Whatever he has called one to do he has called both to do.
2. Nourish each other.
3. Decide on and keep boundaries.
4. Respect and leverage your differences.
5. Speak Life to each other.
6. Communicate regularly.
7. Walk in the Spirit.

To experience the fullness of the Spirit, a person must first possess the Spirit - be a Christian.- Warren Wiersbe



30 Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: The purpose of marriage is to bring honor and glory to God.



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What are some examples of healthy marriages you have seen?
2. Is there a difference between a Biblical marriage and a healthy marriage?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your daily life?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.