

“DOCTRINE THAT DELIGHTS”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
Ephesians 5:22-33
“The Perfect Model for Marriage”

Introduction: Marriage, sexuality, and gender are divisive topics in our society. Gender identity, sexual orientation, and marriage can evoke strong emotions and traumatic memories. The concept of patriarchy (male authority) is rejected by some as an abusive and oppressive system. Liberation and autonomy are valued as being free to do whatever you want to do with no limits or restrictions.

SECTION I: THE FOUNDATION FOR GODLY ORDER (1 Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 2:15-18).

- A. Family is the foundational community created by God in which we learn to obey authority. God the Son is subordinate to God the Father yet equal in divinity. Men and women are created in the image of God, equal in humanity and equal in salvation status (Galatians 3:28) but there is a divine order in the church and home.
- B. People who claim to be Christians but reject the final authority of God’s word are living in rebellion (Isaiah 30:8-11; 1 Samuel 15:22-23). Clear lines of authority provide systems of accountability. Undefined authority in an organization is a recipe for chaos and confusion.

SECTION II: THE CHURCH AS THE MODEL FOR A GODLY BRIDE (Ephesians 5:22-24)

- A. Married female saints are instructed to submit to their husbands. Submission in marriage does not mean enduring physical or emotional abuse. If a woman is submitted to Lord Jesus, she is to defer leadership in the household to her husband. Male leadership in marriage does not mean women are inferior.
- B. The leadership of Christ over the church is the model for male leadership in marriage. A married woman who is saved, Spirit filled, Spirit led, walking in love, walking in the light, and walking in wisdom can provide an outstanding witness to a world craving autonomy through rebellion against God’s authority (Titus 2:4-5). Submission in marriage is appropriate behavior for a believing wife (Colossians 3:18). Submission in marriage is a means for God to reach a rebellious husband (1 Peter 3:1-6).
- C. Christ Jesus is God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity, He is the firstborn from the dead thereby giving Him preeminence and headship over the church (Colossians 1:18). Adam was the first created human thereby giving him headship over Eve. This pattern is to be followed in Christian marriage as a testimony to the creation story. Eve’s consequence after the fall hints at the battle between genders that will manifest throughout history for ungodly domination in the home (Genesis 3:16 and Genesis 4:6-7).

**SECTION III: THE LORD CHRIST JESUS AS THE MODEL FOR A GODLY HUSBAND
(Ephesians 3:25-33).**

- A. Saved husbands are not allowed to abdicate their leadership role in marriage. Leadership comes with the expectation and responsibility to love sacrificially. A married man who is saved, Spirit filled, Spirit led, walking in love, walking in the light, and walking in wisdom will lead his wife through unconditional sacrificial love.
- B. Christ gave Himself for the church to make her holy and sanitary. Christ cleans the church with the washing of water by the word. God's truth has sanctifying power (John 17:17). In other words, aligning with God's principles and conforming to God's standards is part of the sanctification process. The church is cleansed so that it will be glorious. A glorious church is a church without spot, wrinkle or flaw but is holy.
- C. What if husbands looked at their role as a ministry opportunity to represent Christ to the world? God gave Adam a wife. "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22). What if husbands treated their wife like a blessing instead of a burden? The marriage commitment transcends physical attraction or emotional connection. The marriage commitment is a bonding of two distinct persons into one body.
- D. We nourish our bodies – providing what is needed for proper development and we cherish our bodies – treating them as valuable and precious. Christ cherishes and nourishes the church. The marriage event is a prophetic illustration of the uniting of Christ and the church. God brought Eve to Adam and God the Father brings the church to Christ (John 10:29).

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST DEMONSTRATED SACRIFICIAL UNCONDITIONAL LOVE BY DYING FOR THE SIN OF THE WORLD. PEOPLE WHO RESPOND TO CHRIST'S LOVE BY PLACING THEIR TRUST IN HIM FOR SALVATION ARE UNITED WITH HIM IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. TRUE AND PERFECT LOVE EXISTS IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. WILL YOU SAY "I DO" TO JESUS?

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