

The song, Hymn of Heaven, such a beautiful reminder of the truth of Ephesians, as we walk through the book of Ephesians. It speaks to our longing to be with Jesus and our acceptance of this truth that One day what we have waiting for us is gonna make everything else worth it. There's gonna be no more pain because Jesus Took our pain. No more death because Jesus rose again and conquered death. There's gonna be no more sorrow because He will wipe away every tear.

There's no more sickness, no more disease, no more infirmity, no more elections. Jesus will be King, there's no more bills to pay because Jesus paid it all. There's no more anxiety about the future. No more Satan stealing, killing and destroying one day in heaven. But until then, we get to live with all this excitement of 2024.

And in that life, we are reminded in the book of Ephesians that the church in Ephesus stood in the middle of a very dark culture. Stood in the middle of a world controlled by a dictator who thought he was God. It stood in the middle of a world full of idol worship and God told them to shine in the darkness. And you and I can't fix a lot of what's wrong with our world, but we can follow God's path through this present darkness And allow God to shine through us onto the lives of the people around us. We can do that here at Calvary in our church.

We can do that in our homes. And as we are focusing on this morning, we can do that in our marriages. Have a little video clip to help start us off. Will confirm this. So when your wife comes to you with a problem, there's gonna be a lot of people to tell you, she doesn't She just wants you to listen.

False. She doesn't want you to just listen. She actually wants you to go with her on this journey as she unpacks everything in order Figure out what is actually bothering her. Now the way you should look at it as, this is a criminal investigation, and you're gonna go with your wife. You're gonna look at all of the evidence.

You're gonna look at all of the suspects in order to get To the bottom of the problem. Keep in mind, you probably are the primary suspect. Pro marriage tip for young hud. Marriage was instituted by God. 1 man, 1 woman for life.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, when a home is ruled according to God's word, angels might be asked to stay with us. And they would not find themselves out of their element, meaning that our home would be a little piece of heaven. Sadly, our culture has distorted, attacked, and undermined God's plan. And senior gentleman who, finally had The money to do what he wanted to bought a Corvette. He was roaring down I-eighty Ford.

He hit about 80 miles an hour and he thought this is a lot of fun and he Pushed it a little bit further. He hit a 100 and about then he looked behind him and he saw a Idaho Highway Patrolman, with his lights on, sirens blaring and he thought, I can't get caught. And so he

punched it. Hit a 120, then a 150 And he finally just thought, what am I doing? Yeah, I'm too old for this.

And so he pulled over the side of the road. He saw the guy get out of his car, shaking his head. Highway patrolman walked over to his window. He said, Sir, today's Friday. My shift ends in just A few minutes.

If you can give me an excuse for speeding that I've not heard before, I'll let you go. He said, well sir, he said, years ago my wife ran off with an Idaho state trooper. I thought you were bringing her back. He said, have a good day sir. The world redefines marriage as any 2 people who say they love each other And it lasts until they decide that they don't.

God's word says marriage is 1 man and one woman who make a vow to each other and to God for life. That is God's plan. The reason so many families struggle with marriage and so many people struggle is far too many homes and far too many marriages are not living according to God's Word. And the consequences are tragic, not just for the couple, not just for the families that are involved, but For society as a whole, instead of angels being guests in some homes, sometimes it feels like Satan has moved into the spare bedroom and he set up shop, And his job is to tear apart husbands and wives. He loves to see marriage as struggle.

And far too many marriages end in divorce and tragically, countless husbands and wives are emotionally divorced, even if they're not Physically divorced. Too many people find themselves just living together instead of experiencing the incredible Love that God has for marriage. Instead of experiencing the incredible plan that God has, we just try to make it through and endure. In our walk through Ephesians, we've been given so much by God already. But as he tells us of this incredible gospel, Now he shows us how that impacts our marriage.

Would you please turn to Ephesians chapter and stand with me for the reading. We'll be in Ephesians chapter 5. We'll begin in verse 21. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ. So you wives should submit to your husbands and everything. For husbands, this means, love your wives just as Christ loved the church.

He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church, without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, Husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.

No one hates his own body, but feeds it and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church, and we are members of his body. As the scriptures say, a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the 2 are united the one. This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of

the way Christ and the church are 1. So again, I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband. Let's pray together.

Father, we come to these words that honestly, Father, they're not accepted by our culture today. They view your words as old fashioned, like you have gone out of style. And Father, they they say that these words were placed in a culture. Lord, I pray that you'd help these words to come to life in our hearts this morning. The truth that would penetrate through all our Preconceived notions, all are, are fallacies that we've been fed all our lives.

And Father, that You would give us this incredible truth so that we would be able to be blessed. And Father, that you would heal and restore Our hearts in Jesus name. Amen. My first few weeks as a minister Yeah. Please be seated.

My first few weeks as a minister, I went and Mindy hadn't come up there yet. She was still selling our house in, in East Texas. And I was in Denver and This lady called and said, I've got a friend in the hospital and she's losing her husband. And by the time I got there, he had just passed away. And as I was sitting here praying with her, talking with her, a man came in.

He was dressed in a suit and he said, Ma'am, it's time. And I thought, time for what? And he said, your husband was an organ donor. And so he sat there and talked about how this gift of life that He had given would be spread all over the country. And these organs would be prepared, courier would be assigned to each organ that was gonna be donated and they'd be taken all over the country to people who were in great need.

Lives would be saved, Sight would be restored. Health would be regained. And as He spoke, I wondered about those people who were waiting. I thought what are they, what are their lives like? Are they getting the phone call right now to come to the hospital?

Time and care were critical And he explained how quickly they needed to move as these incredible gifts were given. And he said, the heart is the most critical because somebody is going to die if they don't receive this. Now back Then, the process was you'd put the heart on ice and, you put it in a cooler and literally an igloo would be used to transport the organs. Well, they now have a special container called a heart in a box and they put the heart in that box and they hook it up And the heart is kept warm and beating the entire time it's transported. So that by the time it receives, it is brought to the person just gonna receive it.

The heart is ready for surgery right then. When we're married, we receive a heart. When we accept Jesus, we receive a new heart. When we trust in Him, God takes our old dead heart out and gives us a new one. But when we get married, we hand our heart to the other person to hold, to transport for us.

Husband hands his wife his heart and the wife hands her husband her heart. And it is our duty, our job to safely transport their heart until we're with Jesus. This section of Ephesians is how we

safely carry each other's hearts. It is how they're transported. It's God's instructions to us to keep those hearts safe and beating and alive and healthy.

Verse 21 begins with, Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Jesus submitted to God the Father, Jesus was God. He is he is part of the Trinity and yet he submitted to the Father. The Bible says that we are to submit. It doesn't mean one person is more worthy or more valuable than another person.

It is the order that God has given. It is speaking of how we operate together. 1st, we submit to Jesus and then we submit to each other. I'll tell you the truth. For years, for 2 decades, I was under the impression that I knew how to fold towels and load a dishwasher.

And then I got married. I did not know how to fold towels properly or load a dishwasher properly, but I submitted mostly. I'm still I'm still learning. It's a process. 40 years you'd think I'd get it.

Jesus tried to teach his disciples this concept. Jesus tried to tell them that Here is the way this kingdom works and you serve each other And don't don't try to be the boss. Don't try to be the most important. And at the Last Supper they're still arguing over who's gonna be the most important in the kingdom of heaven. And so Jesus washed their feet to show them what he intended from all this is that they would submit themselves to serve.

It didn't take anything away from Christ to wash their feet. He submitted to the Father and He served them and as we are to serve each other. He taught them that the real leader, The real person who loved, the real person who understood the gospel would be the one who served the other, and that we should do the same in marriage. What does that look like? What does it look like to submit and serve?

He said, for wives, this means and he is explaining what this means to follow Christ, to submit to one another. He said, for wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord, for a husband is the head of the wife, as Christ as the head of the church. He is the savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you, wives, should submit to your husbands and everything. Those are some of the most controversial words in Scripture.

Some of the women in here probably were feeling like, boy if it wouldn't, if everybody wouldn't see me I'd get up and walk out of here right now. I cannot, You don't understand my husband. You don't know what I'm living with. That controversy comes from a wrong view of the scripture. A misunderstanding that's been pushed upon us by the culture of what This means God was not suggesting wives are inferior to husbands in any way, shape, form or fashion, any more than He was suggesting that that the church is inferior or of less worth.

He said, wives are like the church And you and I are part of the church. This is his bride. He is saying, wives, you are the bride. The bride Jesus loved and died for, the bride that he served, he brought back from death and sin. He said, this is you.

You are like the most precious thing to me. As he said, as the church follows Jesus, Wives, follow your husbands. And before you get all bent out of shape, he said, every man in here is part of the bride. Every husband is part of the bride of Christ. We are all following Jesus.

Now husbands are getting practice in being bride, the part of the bride, and wives, you are the bride. God doesn't ask a wife to do anything the husband isn't doing. When we have trouble following Jesus, it's not because Jesus is wrong, it's because we're understanding wrong. A husband and wife should pray together, spend time in the Word, so they can know God and know His will for their lives, and His will for their marriage. If There's still a marriage problem.

It goes back to someone who's not living in the will of God. Always. Any marriage Problem means that somebody is not living in the will of God. They're not submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ in some area. We've all seen it.

We've all been there. We can all look at ourselves. So we read the Bible together. We pray together. We seek God together.

Now a word to those of you who are not married yet, who are thinking, man, I'm glad this sermon is all about those married people. You follow Jesus now before you're married. Don't throw your heart around. You are porting your heart right now. One day you'll transport someone else's.

Don't excuse sin in your premarital relationship by thinking that marriage will erase it all one day because the consequences of sin are still real. Take care of your heart, including in your physical relationship. God can and will forgive, but you don't want the baggage that comes with disobedience. Then God shifts his focus to husbands. Ladies, you will be happy to know God has a whole lot more to say to husbands than he does the wives.

He says in verse 25, for husbands, this means, love your wives just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's Word. He continues all the way through verse 32 with his instructions to husbands. A clear instructions that he intends husbands to show how to submit to Christ and how to serve in their marriage. This wife woke up late one night.

She couldn't find her husband in bed. She went downstairs and He was sitting there and, and he was in deep thought just staring at the wall and she looked at him and, and she watched and he wiped a little tear from his eyes. She said, Wow. Well I wonder what's going on. She went over to him.

She said, Honey, what's going on? He said, Well, you know this is the 20th anniversary of me and you dating. And she said, Yeah. She thought, How sweet. And he said, You know you remember that night when when we came home late and your dad was waiting for us with a shotgun?

And she said, Yeah. He said, If you don't marry my daughter, he said, you're gonna spend the next 20 years in jail. And she said, Yeah, I remember that. He said, I would have gotten out today. That's not love.

That's not love at all, but that's what the world looks at it like, a prison sentence. You are commanded to stay together. We're missing the best part. Far too many couples stay together out of sense of duty, out of a sense of religion, out of a sense of family, Rather than experiencing the incredible marriage that God has for us, don't allow Satan Ourselves to talk you out of God's plan. Staying in the same house is not the love God intended.

And then is not fun. It's no good. It wears you down. It brings hopelessness and you're missing out on what God has for you. Determined to love like Jesus.

Men, especially you, We have to learn to love and serve like Jesus did. God set a high standard for men. He made it hard. Women, submitting is hard, but he said you men are to love like Jesus loved the church. This is your goal is to treat your wife like I treated the church, which means that Jesus came and He died And he's he served, he loved sacrificially, not selfishly, to treasure and serve their wives.

God calls on husbands to serve our wives like Christ served the church, to lead our homes and our marriages in that type of love. God elevated our wives to the same status that He elevated the church. It is an incredibly high bar. As God said, here is her worth In my eyes she is the same worth as I value the church. Husbands, that's the way you're to look at her.

If necessary you give your life for her. Marriage is to meet our emotional needs, to produce children, to provide physical intimacy and companionship, but marriage also fulfills a spiritual purpose. In verse 32, he says a godly marriage provides an intimate picture of God, of Jesus Christ and the church. He said our marriage is not just for us. It is so we have an incredible picture of how Jesus feels about the church, how the church feels about Jesus and the world gets to see it in our marriage.

Warren Wiersbe said, Just as love is the circulatory system of the body of Christ, so love is the nourishment of the home. So why do so many marriages fail? It's because 1 or both spouses are out of the will of God. How do they heal? We come back into the will of God.

The root of most marriage problems is selfishness. That selfishness needs to be brought back into line with Jesus Christ, repented of and replaced with love. Because I will tell you far too many couples are starving for love. Far too many husbands, far too many wives are literally dying inside, dried out and hurting and just going through the motions every day. In his plan, we have our needs met in Christ.

And when we have our needs met in Christ and our cup is full. We pour our cup into our spouse and our spouse pours their cup back into us and So we are overflowing, which is what God intended to happen. When we are doing what God asked For us to do in marriage, we will not

have to look anywhere else and that's what God wants. Here's a few ways we can apply this. Number 1 is the least fun.

It is called submission. If we don't recognize and repent of our sin and place our Trust in our faith in Jesus Christ, we stay on a broad road to hell. Every one of us. If we don't put our faith and trust in Jesus, we have no hope. And so God's plan is for us to submit first to Jesus Christ, and then in marriage his plan is that you and I submit to each other.

That spouses submit to each other. We place that means I place Mindy's needs above my own needs. That means that she places my needs above her needs. Now sometimes that means you can't figure out where you want to go eat. Right?

Because both of you are trying to think of what the other person might want, but that's a good thing. Place each other's needs above our own. Both submit to Jesus and both submit to each other and get this, it's not because your spouse deserves it. You don't wait for your spouse to be like Jesus before you submit and serve. You don't wait for your spouse to be as perfect as The bride of Christ, before you wait and love your spouse, you submit to Jesus and you do it out of reverence for him, not out of reverence for your wife or your husband.

He said, do this because of what I've done for you. Do this because you love me. Do this because I love you. We love each other because Christ loved us first, then we show that love to our spouse. Number 2 is respect.

Respect is what God said and God recognized that a man needs most from his wife and marriage. Poor farmer and his wife went to their high school reunion and farmer looked around, he noticed all the other Overweight men in there had on their nice expensive suits and he said to his wife, he said, you know what, honey? I'm the only guy in here who can Still wear the suit I graduated in. And she said, Honey, you're the only one who has to. It was a joke, but it happens all the time in real life.

See that, it was a funny remark, but it was a remark that probably hurt. Too many times men are reminded they're not enough. Too many times men are reminded they're not tall enough, wealthy enough, successful enough, smart enough. The world is really good at that, but I want to tell you, if you'll go back with me to that heart box, the wife just opened the lid, took out her husband's heart and stomped on it, put it back in and went on her merry way. He won't admit it.

He wouldn't admit he was hurt because he's a man, but he's hurt. Ladies, your husband needs your respect. You probably won't understand and understand Stand the need that men have for respect, but God does. And here, here's what He says, as you're transporting your husband's heart, Wrap it with respect so that it stays warm and beating until you are home. Society and the world already mock men.

They already mock them in sitcoms and movies. The man is always the joke and And people, if they're not a joke then they speak of toxic masculinity. Toxic masculinity can be defined as a

man who's actually living according to God's word. On the other hand, the world just loves it when men act like women. They glorify it when a man acts like a woman.

Those those type of men aren't any threat to Satan's agenda. Their only thing they threaten is Avocado toast. To transport a man's heart safely, to take a man safely home, You have to have respect or his heart is going to die. Ladies, if your husband is becoming withdrawn, If he is retreating, if he is getting busy, then there may be a reason. We see it all the time in the attitude of men who've given up and their wives wear the pants in the family.

And they go along to keep the peace. They go along because they don't want to get a divorce. They go along but inside they've given up and they're just going through the motions. I'm gonna tell you nobody's happy in that kind of marriage. That is not what God intended.

We respect Each other, we submit to each other and wives care for your husband by respecting him, especially in front of others. Don't run him down to your friends. Don't cut him down in front of other people. Don't wound him. You might win a victory.

You might Even hurt him or get back at him for what you feel he's done, but you're gonna lose the war because he's going to be So wounded, he's gonna have a really hard time enjoying the type of marriage God has for you. Number 3 is love. God said, wives respect your husbands. And he said, husbands, love your wives. Love is what God said women need most from a marriage, from their husbands.

The world has replaced the biblical meaning of love with a bunch of cheap emotions and lust and it is no substitute at all. Satan's convinced people that lust is a substitute, sex outside of marriage has no consequences, And for a moment, let's go back to transporting that woman's heart. If you have that heart, The courier is assigned. Husbands, you are the courier who is assigned. Carefully, her heart is placed in your hands.

It is warm. It is beating and God said to keep it safe, you are to show love. But along the way, you open the box, take the heart out, toss it around, play with it, Stick it back in the box. It is now less healthy than it was before, probably dirty, Wounded. Will it survive?

Yes, probably. Will it be healthy? No. Ladies before you get married you're transporting your heart until you reach the man God has to transport your heart, And instead of letting every man who comes along open the box and play with your heart and toss it back in, hold on to it and keep it safe. That's God's design for marriage.

For women, it is beyond Important that her heart is placed carefully in the hands of a man who loves Jesus and who loves her, who will take it safely and carry it safely wrapped in love until the day he places her heart in the hands of the King. Does that sound like God is putting women down at all? No. He has elevated them and he has said that the man is in charge of transporting her heart safely home. God reminds husbands of the priority their wives should have.



As he reminds us of Genesis 224, a man shall leave his father and mother. In other words, take the most important relationships that you have in your life. Those are those are less important now than your wife. Your wife has just superseded every other relationship in your life. Your friends, your family, everybody else comes second to your wife.

Your Your hobbies, your work, everything else comes second to your wife. God first, your wife second. Everything else is down here. A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. Everything else takes a backseat.

Our wives need love and acceptance to be valued, to be treasured. And God sent us husbands to do that. It is your responsibility as you follow Jesus' husbands To wrap your wife's heart carefully in your love, in the love of Christ and carry them tenderly. When husbands and wives submit to Jesus and each other, when we stay in the word and in prayer, when we are submitted to Jesus, we submit to each We serve each other as God intended, then we get to experience a little bit of heaven on earth. We get to experience a visual picture of what God intends with the church and with Jesus.

This mutual love because don't don't you feel it when you're worshipping? When you feel that you are magnifying Christ because of all that He's done for you and you want to give back and you want to glorify the name of Jesus, and when you do you get a better picture of Jesus And you know He is pleased by your worship, and and you've recognized that He's prepared a place for you, and He's waiting for you, and you And you're just worshipping more and the more you realize that the more you want to worship, that's a picture of what love is supposed to be like in a marriage. As we recognize the worth of the one God has given us and we we just wanna serve and love them more and more, and as they receive that love and that respect and they wanna serve and love back. That's when it starts to get good. That's God's plan.

Carry the heart of your spouse carefully until they reach home. Jesus died for you. Live your marriage for him. You bow your heads and close your eyes for just a moment. This morning is about marriage, but first, I want to make sure you know Jesus Christ.

Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Please don't walk out of this place without placing your hand in the hand of Jesus Christ. Because until your heart is made alive, you can't do any of what we've talked about today. If your heart is dead, if If you're you're still in your sin and you can't live for God, and so can I ask you this morning to put your trust and your faith in Jesus Christ, the one who came, died on the cross for you and rose again? Would you put your trust and faith in him this morning?

And if you would, would you would you put do that right now as we pray together? Dear God, I know I've done wrong. I believe Jesus came and paid my price on the cross. Would you please forgive me of what I've done? Wash me clean.

Thank you for saving me. God, would you help me live all the days of my life for you until I stand before you face to face? If that is you this morning, then you've been made new. If you put your

trust and your faith in Jesus, I want you to come Find me before you leave today. I've got a Bible I wanna give you.

I've got I wanna help you get started on this new walk with God. So come and find me. Don't leave without Me talking to you. I said this morning is about marriage, and it is. So if your spouse is in this room, I'm gonna ask you to just reach out and grab their hand.

I don't care if you weren't talking to each other before you walked in this room. I don't care what argument you were in. I don't care what difficulties you're in, I want you to know God can heal your marriage. God can show you His plan and His purpose. Right now I want to ask you to pray for your spouse.

You don't have to do it out loud, but I'm gonna pray and I want to ask you to pray. If your spouse isn't in here, you can pray for them. Do you have, your children, maybe your Children are struggling in their marriage. Maybe this is a time to pray for them. Father, We want to see your love lived out in our marriage.

We wanna see joy. God, I pray that you would help me to bring joy to my spouse. The way you've brought joy to me. I pray you would help me to love my husband and my wife, Father. Help me to love them the way you've loved May heal our marriage.

Heal our home. And Father, may our home and our marriage be a picture, A little piece of heaven here on earth. And we pray these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.