

Ephesians 5:21-33 – 2 October 2022

“Mimicking Jesus Within Our Role Pt 1 of 2 - Marriage”

Introduction

*Ephesians Outlined

*Chap 1-3 – **The Position of the Christian**

*Chap 4-6 – **The Practice of the Christian**

*Chap 4 began speaking of our practice as Christians as that of having *vibrant unity* within the Church

*Chap 5's 1st half looked at our role-model, Jesus, having us *mimic Jesus* by power of the Holy Spirit

*Chap 5:21-6:9 now looks at mimicking Jesus by fulfilling your *roles in family & society*

But 1st Read Chap 5:21

1. “In the fear of God” - We do this out of respect for God's great position over us all
2. In all general interactions with other believers, subordinate yourselves to their wishes

3. There should be a meekness & humility about our human relations (Read I Pet 3:8)
4. Service to others (Read Mark 10:43-44) & humility (Read Matt 18:2-4) equals meekness

***Today we'll look at the first 1 of 3 relationships for us to mimic Jesus in**

1st relationship to mimic Jesus in is Husband & Wife (Chap 5:22-33)

Read Vs 22 - *Wives*

1. Wives be subordinate in the same way that you are towards the Lord Jesus
2. This does not speak of inequality but of having different roles (Read I Cor 11:3)
 - a. You're an individual working within a God created team for His purposes and goals!
3. Submission means "sub-mission"
 - a. You're putting yourself below the mission God has for your one flesh together marriage

Read Vs 23

1. These roles were assigned by God at creation
b/c of HIS created order (Read I Cor 11:8-9)
 - a. Every organization has roles
 - b. I won't apologize for God's created order

Read Vs 24

1. "In everything"
 - a. Doesn't mean to be subject to sinful abuse
 - b. This means that there isn't an area in which the wife is the head over the husband
2. You say, "oh but you don't know my wicked husband or you don't know my lazy husband"
 - a. Read I Cor 7:13-15 – Don't give up on them, but why?
 - b. Read I Pet 3:1-2 – That you might win them to Christ!
3. Beautiful thing: Most countries tradition is for the wife to take husband's name
 - a. Great picture of the Church taking the name of Jesus family

Read Vs 25 - *Husbands*

1. Husband's main admonition is to love his wife
 - a. It works hand in hand w/ the wives' main admonition to submit to her husband
 - b. When either of the two breaks down, there's chaos
 - c. When each is doing their role, they complement each other!!!
2. How is the husband to love?
 - a. With agape love
 - i. This isn't just "God's love" – husbands are called to love their wives this way
 - ii. This is sacrificial love as we see in Christ!
 - b. What are we to sacrifice & give to her?
 - i. Give our time to listen & learn from her
 - ii. Give our life to walk together, side by side

Read Vs 26-27

1. Why is Jesus sacrificially loving the church?
 - a. Vs 26: That He might set her apart as holy
 - i. We're either enriching them or becoming bitter (Read Col 3:18-19)
 - b. Vs 27: He's already come & given Himself in vs 25, but He will yet present her to Himself
 - i. Just as in the Garden of Eden
 1. Read Gen 2:22: woman brought to man
 - ii. This is (Read) Rev 19:7-9: presented ready!
 - iii. Pre-Trib Rapture: Not taking a battered wife!
 - c. In the same way, husband (as Christ) should be aiding his wife by loving thoughts, words & deeds into knowing Christ & His holiness

Read Vs 28-29

1. It's in our own self-interest to love our wives
2. It's natural to love your body, b/c it's an expression of you
 - a. In the same way, love your wife as expressions of each other

Read Vs 30-31

1. We've become one flesh to complement each other throughout life
2. Read I Pet 3:7 – Getting to know them deeply
3. Show them honor and love, how?
 - a. 'Weaker vessel' – by respecting them using our God-given differences
 - b. 'Heirs of the grace of life' – by respecting our equality in eternity
 - i. She's your wife...for now
 - ii. But she's your sister-in-Christ Jesus forever

Read Vs 32-33

1. Whole reason God has given husband & wife these roles is to role-model Christ & the church
 - a. Why 1 man & 1 woman together for life?
 - i. To role-model eternal pic of Christ & Church
 - b. There's a greater purpose to our marriages than just to satisfy each other in oneness
 - i. It's to model Christ & His Christ for the world to see Him!!

Conclusion

So, as Paul instructs in Eph 5:1 to be mimickers of Jesus Christ, here are some roles in which we use the Godly character that God has gifted us by the H.S.

1. **Be in submission to each other within the Church**
 - a. There should be a mutual meekness and promoting of one another in knowing Christ
2. **Wives are to be submissive to the authority of their husband**
 - a. This speaks of different role, yet equality
 - b. Don't submit to sinful requests, but complement the leading of your husband toward godliness & Kingdom goals
3. **Husbands are to love their wife with sacrificial love**
 - a. If you're wife isn't submitting to you, it's your fault as the leader & initiator for not loving her in the ways God's called you to