

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

When Wives Embrace the Lasting Hope of Jesus Christ – Ephesians 5:22-33

Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – illustration of Prince Andrew and Sarah Fergusson
2. What?
3. Why?
4. How?
5. What Happens?
6. Conclusion – the lasting hope of Jesus Christ enables and empowers Christian wives

Scripture Passages Referenced

- Ephesians 5:18 - And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...
- Genesis 3:16 - Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.
- Genesis 4:7 - And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.
- 1 Peter 3:1-2 - Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think our society, on a whole, responds so negatively to the notion of wives submitting to their husbands?
- What thoughts come to your mind when you think about submission?
- Why is it important to know that God does not call all women to submit to all men?
- What does biblical submission mean? What does it not mean?
- If you are a wife, how are you doing in regard to God's command to submit to your husband?
- What impact does the reality that the words here are not a suggestion to be considered but a command from God to be followed?
- What impact does sin have on our ability to follow God's commands in this passage?
- What does "as to the Lord" mean and how does it shape our view of submission?
- Why must we start with prayer if we are going to live out our roles in marriage?
- In what ways do you see control as part of your struggle with submission?
- How can you grow to trust God to provide for your family as you submit to your husband?
- Husbands, how can you make it a joy for your wife to lovingly submit to you?
- Wives, how can you grow in respecting your husband both internally with your thoughts and feelings and externally with your words and actions?
- What are some specific ways you can encourage your husband as he leads you and your family?
- Why is it crucial that we remember that glorifying God is the greatest impact of obeying His commands?
- How can your family grow in how God desires it to be?
- How does this passage show you your sin and inadequacies?
- How does that realization drive you to Jesus?
- How does this passage grow your love for Jesus?