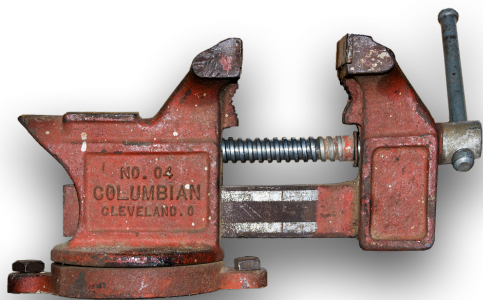


For Better or Worse - The Ups - Ephesians 5:21-33

THIS WEEK: On this first Sunday in September, we are kicking off a three week series on marriage. As I mentioned earlier my name is Frank Valenzano & I serve as one of the pastors. If you are a guest, we are so glad you joined us today. You may be sitting here and thinking I am not currently married or I am not planning on getting married or married again this doesn't apply to me. This is more than a marriage series!! We will be looking at the ups and downs and the in between moments in marriage. These up, down, and in between moments also transfer to our relationship with God. We will see how God in his Word uses marriage as a picture of Jesus & the church. You may not be married but if you have a relationship with Jesus or are seeking Jesus in hope of a relationship, I hope you will join us each week and allow God's word to change us. Today we will see the picture of what marriage and in turn our relationship with Jesus should look like.

ILLUSTRATION: IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE AND NOT WEDDINGS. WEDDINGS ARE EASY BUT MARRIAGES TAKE HARD WORK.

GENESIS 2:24 - LEAVE AND CLEAVE



CONTEXT: EPHESIANS

PAUL WRITING TO BELIEVERS OF JESUS IN THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Gospel → Grace → Holy Spirit → Be Filled with the Holy Spirit → Speak, Make Music, Give Thanks, Submit

3 Examples of Submission:

1) husband-wife relationship 2) parent-child relationship 3) master-slave relationship (boss-worker)

READ EPHESIANS 5:21-33

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

THIS PASSAGE INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT HUSBANDS AND WIVES BUT ALSO HOW BELIEVERS SHOULD SUBMIT TO THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY THAT IS JESUS CHRIST.

THE BULK OF THE PASSAGE (VERSES 25-30) IS DIRECTED TO THE MEN.

TRANSITION: LET'S START THERE.

1) HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES.

- LOVE IS THE ONLY COMMAND FOUND IN THIS PASSAGE.
 - IT IS GIVEN TO THE HUSBANDS
 - SUBMIT IS A PASSIVE PARTICIPLE (WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?)
 - IT IS THE SPIRIT'S INFLUENCE IN OUR LIVES THAT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT (BE BEING FILLED)
- LOVE = AGAPE (LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR US - UNCONDITIONAL)
 - 3 WORDS FOR LOVE
 - EROS = ALL TAKE
 - PHILEO = GIVE & TAKE
 - AGAPE = ALL GIVING

TRANSITION: THIS LEADS US TO WHAT PAUL WRITES FOR WIVES.

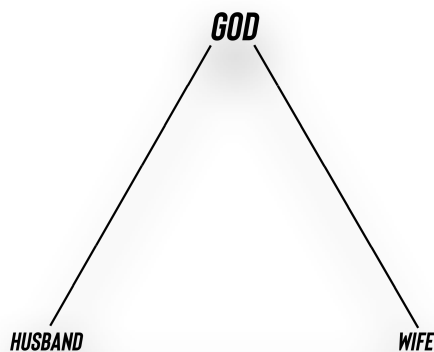
2) WIVES RESPECT YOUR HUSBANDS.

- Verses 22-24 flow out of the submit to one another and reverence for Christ in verse 21
- REVERENCE & RESPECT COME FROM THE SAME ROOT WORD = PHOBEO
 - ATTITUDE OF DEEP RESPECT, HONOR, & DEFERENCE (HUMBLE SUBMISSION)
 - RESPECT BECAUSE OF AUTHORITY
- Verse 33 - Gives the clear response of wives when they are loved by their husbands.

EMERSON EGGERICHS IN HIS BOOK LOVE AND RESPECT SAYS, "GOD DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REDUNDANT. HE HAS HARDWIRED WOMEN TO LOVE AND MEN TO RESPECT"

- WIVES LIVE IN A LOVE DRIVEN WORLD
- MEN LIVE A RESPECT DRIVEN WORLD

LOVE AND RESPECT WORKING IN TANDEM GROW A HUSBAND AND WIFE TOGETHER AND CLOSER TO GOD.



TRANSITION: THIS MUTUAL SUBMISSION DRAWS OUR MIND BACK TO VERSE 21.

3) SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER.

- WHEN LOVE & RESPECT HAPPEN THERE IS A JOY THAT COMES IN MUTUAL SUBMISSION.

I DON'T THINK CHRISTIANITY IS A FORMULAIC PRINCIPLE THAT WE CAN LIVE OUT UNLESS YOU CAN SEE THE FORMULA IN SCRIPTURE.

LOVE + RESPECT
JESUS = *MUTUAL SUBMISSION*

FROM THIS MUTUAL SUBMISSION FLOWS MUTUAL LOVE & RESPECT.

- IN MARRIAGE IT BUILDS A TEAM!!
- WHAT SCRIPTURE CALL ONE FLESH.

ILLUSTRATION: DEACON ASKING ANNE & THEN ME

- WHY DO YOU GUYS ALWAYS WORK TOGETHER AND HAVE THE SAME ANSWER?
- WE ARE TEAMMATES!!

“Teamwork is essential any time more than one person is needed to succeed at something. In our day we are experiencing a crisis of authority, and it is easy to understand why. Sometimes, those in authority over us have mistreated us, and we have difficulty accepting authority any more. We have had presidents who have lied to us. They have been dishonest, unethical, and immoral. Heads of companies have defrauded the company and investors out of billions of dollars. Military officials have abused power.

Politicians have abused power. Nationally recognized religious leaders have abused power. Educators have abused power. Doctors have abused power. Journalists have abused power. Ministers have abused power. We are living in an age of abuse of power, and understandably, this has caused a crisis of authority. This abuse of power has filtered down to the fundamental building block of society—the home. Just as society faces a crisis of authority, so does the home. We have men who won't lead, women who won't follow, children who won't obey, and parents who won't nurture. It is every man for himself. The ship is going down, so every person is out to save his own neck. Against the backdrop of this ominous social upheaval, the Bible still speaks; and it still speaks truth. It still speaks words which, if followed, will bring order and truth and harmony to life. If being a Christian was ever going to make a difference, it needs to make a difference now—in the home. We must not allow the attitude and experience of society to keep us from living biblically. We must each understand our biblical role and fulfill it.” **(DO WE TRUST WHAT GOD’S WORD AS THE AUTHORITY MARRIAGE)**

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL THROUGH YOUR MUTUAL SUBMISSION IN MARRIAGE.

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL THROUGH YOUR DAILY SUBMISSION TO JESUS.

YOU CAN'T COME TO JESUS WITHOUT SUBMISSION.

YOU CAN'T LIVE FOR JESUS WITHOUT DAILY SUBMISSION.

PRAY