

Healthy Church: Unhealthy World
Healthy Churches Build Strong Marriages
Ephesians 5:21-33

Dr. Jimmy Stewart | September 12 & 13, 2020

Sermon Summary

Everyone experiences conflict. Conflict literally means to “strike together”. The bible contains many episodes of real life examples of conflict. Some of the conflict depicted is handled well and some is not. Jesus gave specific instruction regarding how to properly deal with conflict in the church. We will draw on Jesus’ teaching to unpack and apply principles to deal with conflict inside and outside the church.

Diving Into The Message

Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another. Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands. Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ’s love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They’re really doing themselves a favor—since they’re already “one” in marriage. No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That’s how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become “one flesh.” This is a huge mystery, and I don’t pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-3

1. Jesus is the head of the church.

23 The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church,

2. Jesus is the savior of His body, the church.

23 The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing.

3. The church submits to Jesus.

24 So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.

4. Jesus loves the church.

25 Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting.

5. Jesus gave Himself up for the church.

26-27 Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her,

6. Jesus presents the church to Himself.

27-28 Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already “one” in marriage.

7. Jesus cares for the church.

29-30 No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body.

8. Jesus and the church are one.

30-31 That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become “one flesh.”

32-33 This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! Acts 2:21

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Life Application Questions

1. Is your marriage strong or weak right now? How or Why?
2. Would you like your marriage to be stronger than it is right now?
3. Paul gives a strong declaration of marriage and Jesus' relationship with the church in Ephesians 5:21-33. Have someone read these verses out loud. Tell the translation being used. Listen: How many times does Paul reference the church?
4. What Jesus has already done for the church, Paul makes clear that husbands are to do for their wives. Can a wife submit to a husband who is not loving and serving her as Jesus loves and serves him/them?
5. Who is the biblically designated leader in a married couple? Why? How? To what end? What model do husbands have?
6. Should the wife's response to the husbands leadership be more active or passive?
7. Should the husbands leadership to the wife be more passive or active?
8. What benefits/blessings can married couples experience when together they focus on the "oneness" of their relationship?
9. What next steps will you take to make your marriage stronger? Wives? Husbands?
10. BONUS: Healthy churches focus on oneness with Jesus. How will a church become healthier increasing its focus on being one with Jesus?
11. BONUS 2: Why are more and more people choosing to live together rather than marry? How is this trend effecting the church? What can we do to encourage our children and grand children to marry?