

I. Intro

A. Text: **Eph. 5:15-32**

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:15-32)

B. Recap

1. **TRC Definition:** Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church...
2. Before God Called Mankind to Marriage, He called Mankind to Himself.
3. God Chose Family to Make Himself Known in Earth.
4. God Chose Family to Make us more like Him in the Earth.

C. Eph. 5 Background

1. Walk in Love & Light
 - a. Be imitators of God as dear children... Walk in love as Christ loved us. (**Eph. 5:1-2**)
 - b. Once darkness, but now light in the Lord... Walk as children of light (**Eph. 5:8**)

2. Be careful. Be wise. Redeem the time (**Eph. 5:15-17**)

*¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (**Eph. 5:15-16**)*

- a. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.
 - b. Don't be unwise. Understand God's will for your life (**Eph. 5:17**)

3. Don't Miss the Necessary Step: Be Filled

*¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (**Eph. 5:18**)*

- a. Be filled, controlled, influenced by another acting upon you... acting within you.

4. Results (of spirit-filled living in the context of community) are staggering.

*¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. (**Eph. 5:19-21**)*

- a. A new culture of worship and surrender in the home.

II. Body: God Incredible Standards for Marriage

A. The Wife's Lofty Standard (**Eph. 5:22-24**)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. (Eph. 5:22-24)

1. Wives, love him like he's Jesus.
 - a. **Problem:** He's not Jesus (Sisters).
2. Unprecedented Opportunity to Cling to the Leadership of Jesus
 - a. Wives, this type of submission is more to Jesus than to your husband.
 - b. God knows that your husband is a terrible leader.
 - c. But Jesus is a perfect leader.

B. The Husband's Loftier Standard (Eph. 5:25-27)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:25-27)

1. Husbands, love her like you're Jesus
 - a. **Problem:** You're not Jesus (Brothers).
 - b. **Subproblem:** Only Jesus would put up with some of the...
2. Unprecedented Opportunity to Cling to Leadership of Jesus
 - a. Husbands, this type of love is more a product of your love for Jesus than your love for her.
 - b. Entrusting you with your wife gives God the opportunity to display His glory through grace.
 - c. God knows that you are a terrible leader, yet he asked her to submit to your leadership anyway.

- d. God knows that your love is weak and selfish, yet he told you to love her like Jesus.
- 3. Loving like Jesus, requires the super-natural filling of Holy Spirit.
 - a. When man loves, our motive is an immediate return on our investment.
 - b. When God loves, His motive is eternal return on His investment.

- C. **The Point of Transformation:** There is a place where we not only come to the realization that our spouses are incapable of meeting God's standard for marriage, but we come face to face with the fact that we too are completely incapable of meeting the standard.
- 1. That realization is either crippling or liberating.

III. Conclusion

- A. God is using the institution of marriage to further His story: The story about the covenant union between God and His people.

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:32)

- 1. Marriage between a man and a woman is secondary to the larger story line.
 - a. Yahweh, the creator of heaven and earth has always wanted a family.
- 2. Throughout the scripture, God has revealed Himself repeatedly as a Bridegroom, Husband, Lover of our souls.
 - a. A few Bridegroom/ Husband references
 - i. **Jn. 3:29-30:** *"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."*
 - ii. **Matt. 22:2:** *The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son...*

- iii. **Matt. 25:1:** *Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*
- iv. **Isaiah 54:5:** *"For your Maker is your Husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of this earth".*
- v. **Jer. 2:2:** *Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ² "Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.*
- vi. Song of Solomon: Entire Book

3. The reason it is so difficult for many of us to accept Jesus' Bridegroom identity is because it would imply that God is in love with us, finds pleasure in us, is passionate about us, that His emotions are fiery toward us.

- a. It's easier to see God as stoic and standoffish.
- b. Like a Husband who is head over heels for His Bride, He's the God who is jealous, jealous... for us.
- c. He's the God who delights in us.
- d. The great mystery is about Christ and the Church.
 - i. That He loves you... as a husband would try to love his bride.

4. Jesus is the Bridegroom King. His Bride is made up of everyone who has ever accepted Him as their long-awaited Savior, Deliverer, Redeemer.

- a. Every Truster in Him, surrenderer to Him, depender on Him (past, present and future).

B. Jesus' 2nd Coming is Centered Around a Wedding Banquet. (Photo)

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (Rev. 19:6-7)

1. All of redemptive history is progressing rapidly toward that wedding.
 - a. The very same God who dwells in inapproachable light, called Adam and Eve to approach Him...
 - i. To meet with Him in the cool of the day. (Gen. 3:8)
2. Tragically, the same corporate man that God called into partnership with Him... rebelled against Him.
 - a. God chose to display his glory by loving a people back to Himself.
 - b. God set the stage by promising to reveal His glory in a people (a corporate Bride) that He would win over to Himself by His jealous, all-consuming love.

¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her. ¹⁵ I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ "And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' And no longer call Me 'My Master,' (Hos. 2:14-16)

- c. And they (this corporate Bride) would rule and reign with Him forever (as Bride reigns and rules in covenant partnership with her Bridegroom/King).

**What started out in a garden was promised to crescendo into a wedding.*

C. Jesus' 1st Coming Was Completely Centered Around An Engagement/Betrothal. (Photo)

1. Jesus came to the earth to reveal Himself to His Bride, to woo her unto Himself and pay the dowry for her release to Him.

- a. His selfless, radical, mind-boggling love set the bar for all other husbands to measure their weak love.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (Eph. 5:25)

2. Jesus came to the earth to find His Bride... To encounter His wife. To choose her.

- a. And He chose... us.

- b. We didn't choose Him. He chose us (Jn. 15:16).

3. He gladly offered an incredible dowry for us.

- a. A dowry assures a father "*that I am well able to provide and protect the one I enter covenant with*".

- b. The dowry that Jesus paid for His Bride (the Church) was His very life.

- c. In Middle Eastern culture, when a son gets married, the new couple doesn't go find a new apartment to live new independent lives that are disconnected from parents.

- i. All the young men of the family stay in the father's house.

- ii. If a young man gets married, their Bride comes into the home with the family.

4. It's with this understanding that Jesus, the Bridegroom King went back to His Father's house to prepare for us (as a Bridegroom prepares for His Bride).

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3)

- a. Jesus' 1st came to the earth to find His Bride, woo her unto Himself, and pay the dowry (his life) for her.
 - i. Then He returned to His Father's house to prepare rooms in the house in anticipation for the wedding.
 - ii. There's going to be a wedding!
- b. Jesus is coming back to the earth again... for the long anticipated wedding banquet of the ages (where He will receive His Bride unto Himself in covenant partnership forever).
 - i. And how we (the Bride) wait for that day.