

I. Intro

A. Text: **Eph. 5:22-32**

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their 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 Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:22-32)

B. Series Overview

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. Recap

- a. Biblical Marriage = Covenant
- b. Biblical Covenant is more than a Promise
- c. Biblical Marriage Has Eternal Implications

Sanctification: *holiness, to be set apart, to be distinguished as different in character and activity.*

- d. God Designed Marriage, not to make us happy... But to make us more like Him: Holy

II. Body

A. Sanctification in Community

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:1-3)

- 1. God is producing some things in our walk.
 - a. Humility, gentleness, patience
 - b. Maintaining the unity of the spirit
- 2. God gave offices with purpose... to produce some things

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (Eph. 4:11-13)

- a. To equip (in community)
- b. To produce a unified faith
- c. To produce maturity

- 3. Walk in the Love of Christ

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph. 5:1-2)

- 4. God called us to imitate Him (in community), thereby producing a Christ-like love.

¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for

everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Eph. 5:19-21)

- a. Speaking the word over each other.
- b. Singing with each other to the Lord.
- c. Giving thanks to the Lord together.
- d. Submitting to one another.

5. This type of spiritual growth is only developed in the context of a community.
6. Sanctification in Community (Repeat)

B. Sanctification in Submission

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. Unprecedented Opportunity to Cling to the Leadership of Jesus
2. Wives, this type of submission is more to Jesus than to your husband.
 - a. God knows that your husband is a terrible leader.
 - a. But Jesus is a perfect leader.

2. Sanctification in Submission

C. Sanctification in Sacrifice

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, ²⁷that 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
2. Jesus' love is sacrificial in nature
 - a. When Jesus loves, he gave his very life...
 - b. He gave his ALL to those who didn't deserve it.
 - c. He gave, even though the recipients weren't necessarily loving Him back at the time.
 - d. When man loves, our motive is an immediate return on our investment.
 - e. We often love impatiently as a means to get others to make an immediate response that fits our liking.
3. Husbands, we've been called to love like Jesus loved the church (which challenges us to follow the Leadership of Jesus).
 - a. This type of love is more a product of your love for Jesus than your love for her.
 - b. Your marriage becomes the platform for God to display His grace.
 - c. God knows that you are a terrible leader, yet he asked her to submit to your leadership anyway.
 - i. Responsibility is crazy!
 - d. God knows that your love is weak and selfish, yet he instructed you to love her like Jesus.

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 a greater marriage: The marriage between Christ and the Church.

- a. Greatest love story this world has ever witnessed.
- 2. Yahweh, the creator of heaven and earth called forth a people (who would be committed only to Him).
 - a. He cut covenant with them.
- 3. Jesus, the Eternal Son is therefore, the Bridegroom King.
 - a. His Bride is made up of everyone who has ever accepted Him as their long-awaited Savior, Deliverer, Redeemer.
 - b. Every believer in Jesus makes up 1 corporate body: The Bride of Christ.
- 4. Christ loved His Bride so much that He came to pay a ridiculous dowry to redeem her from slavery.
 - a. He purchased her freedom with His own blood.
 - b. He promised to lead His Bride by sacrificially serving her, washing her.
 - c. He promised to transform her into a spotless, ready Bride who is waiting for His return.

B. The great mystery: Earthly marriage is a replica of the Eternal union between Christ and His church.

- 1. Community (Marriage) is one of the primary places where God is preparing His people to meet with Him.
- 2. Community (Marriage) is one of the primary places where Christ is telling His grace-filled, jaw-dropping story.
 - a. Submit to those who don't deserve it.
 - b. Serve those who don't deserve it.