

November 21, 2021

Mr. and Mrs.

Ephesians 5:22-33

Introduction

I was in the car with my friend Jacqueline when we were in college and I asked her, **“Do you have any friends who are beautiful and saved?”** She said, “I have one... Lela.” I sent Lela a text and she responded, **“Who are you?”** I said, “I’m a friend of Jacqueline’s.” She said- “Any friend of Jacqueline’s is a friend of mine.” One of my **teammates** knew Lela and told her about me. Our first date was at the U-Village Starbuck’s, and it was right after football practice. I told Lela I wanted to be a Pastor, but she didn’t believe me. **God bless Lela for being a PK and a PW!** God is doing a work in my marriage, and he is doing a work in your marriage. This sermon is not just for married couples, but it’s also for those who are not married.

Outline

- I. Ladies First (v. 22-24)
- II. Leaders Second (v. 25-33)

Ladies First (v. 22-24)

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.

Chivalry is courteous behavior which includes opening the door for a lady or providing a jacket when it’s cold. Husbands should put the needs of their wives ahead of their own needs. **When a husband puts his wife first, submission becomes a joy.** A wife will gladly submit to a husband who is selfless and caring.

Husband (head) Christ (head)



Wife



Church

The words “in everything” should not be taken literal. A wife has no obligation to submit to a husband who is **physically abusive**. If you are being abused, separate immediately and seek refuge. The Scripture requires us to submit to leadership, but it **does not require submission to sin**. A wife has no obligation to submit to a husband’s sinful request because her ultimate goal is obedience to Christ (v. 22).

Action items for married women or single women who desire marriage

1. Pray for your husband/future husband to be selfless and caring
2. Prepare your heart to submit to leadership
3. Commit yourself to knowing and obeying God’s Word

Transition: Wives should submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ. Now, let’s take a look at the leadership role of a husband.

Leaders Second (v. 25-33)

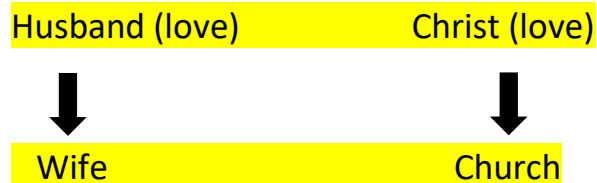
²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy 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. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Paul had a much longer word for husbands! The wives got a few verses, but the husbands get a good talking to! Why is that? **The husbands are the leaders.** The best leaders put themselves second. This is the towel & basin mentality of Jesus.

Mark 10:43-45

⁴³ But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

This past Summer, God gracefully revealed to me that I was not showing the love of Christ to my wife and boys. My love was not unconditional and sacrificial. I made a decision to take three weeks’ vacation to focus on my family. During this time, I learned how to serve my family. I became comfortable around the house.



The love that a husband shows his wife should emulate the love that Christ shows the church (v. 25). **During my time away, I worked on a family pivot plan.** This was probably the most important ministry project I worked on all year. I searched the Scriptures as the foundation for how I would pivot as a leader.

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Our wives are co-heirs with us of the grace of life! **It’s not just about us.** I met with a friend who was in town for the Summer and told him about my struggle. **He asked me, “Do you pray with your wife?”** I told him, “Not really... prayer is very important to me, but Lela and I don’t pray together as often as we should.” My friend told me that he and his wife would pray over their boys together.

My wife and I have started praying together. **I love praying with Lela!** Her prayers are beautiful, and it shows me her heart for God. Praying with my wife allows me

to connect with her in a whole different way. The best marriage advice I can give you: **Pray with your wife.** "Couples who pray together, stay together."

Action items for married men or single men who desire marriage

1. Show your wife/future wife unconditional, sacrificial love
2. Make leadership pivots that are based on Scripture
3. Pray with your wife/future wife

Marriage was God's idea from Genesis chapter 2. God said that it was not good for man to be alone, so he made a helper fit for him. **Marriage is a good thing!** Here is a clear summary of the role of a husband and wife (v. 33).

³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The hope for all widowers and widows is found in the gospel. My father was a widower nearly his entire adult life and I know he missed my Mother. Scripture is clear that widows have a special place in God's heart. God provided for my Father, who never remarried, all those years...

Conclusion

Prayer Challenge: Nov. 22nd - Dec. 12th