

Biblical Marriage – Part 2 | 1/21/18

- Marriage is a reflection of the unity between Christ and the Church.
 - Ephesians 5:31-32
 - “Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**”
 - It’s important that we understand that marriage is a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the church.
 - This speaks to not only the importance but also to how Christ sees it.
 - **Marriage is not to be taken lightly, it should be revered as something that God has ordained.**
 - Matthew 19:6
 - “So, they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”
 - Marriage MUST be respected and taken seriously.
 - Therefore, God DOES care how a husband and a wife treat each other, in fact He has given us guidance in Scripture as to what He expects.
 - In Ephesians we are given instruction on how God expects Wives to treat their husbands and how husbands are to treat their wives.
 - These instructions are then a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the church.
 - **How significant is this truth to you? Does this give you a different perspective on your own marriage and what God expects?**
- How are we supposed to treat each other in our marriage?
 - To answer this question there is perhaps no better passage than that from Ephesians, where we are given a clear picture of how a husband and a wife should treat one another.
 - **We must also remember that how husbands and wives are commanded to treat one another is a reflection of Christ and the church.**
 - While the message is simple, it is absolutely vital that husbands and wives treat each other as told to us in Scripture.
 - **The Scripture teaches us of love and respect. However, if we look at the troubled marriages throughout the world or even those we’ve experienced ourselves, that perhaps these basic truths are not followed.**
 - Wives should submit to their husbands | Ephesians 5:22-24
 - This command from scripture to be submissive is quite misunderstood in our culture today.
 - **If you were to recite this passage to random people and them what they think it means, what might they say?**
 - **Read Ephesians 5:22-24**
 - **We see right away how the submissiveness of the wife is a reflection of the Church and Christ.**
 - Submission does not mean slavery
 - When Scripture says that a wife is to be submissive, this does NOT mean they are an inferior slave who mindlessly obeys every command from their husband.
 - This does not give the husband the ability to command his wife to do his every desire, this completely contradicts the command for how husbands are to treat their wives.
 - In fact, we see the act of being submissive applied to all Christians in the previous verse.

- Ephesians 5:21
 - “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - The act of being submissive was not something only given to the wives, but this same action was given to all Christians in how they should treat one another.
- A wife who is submissive, recognizes that the husband is the head (or leader) of the home as Christ is the head of the Church.
 - **While there is unity, Christ has established a headship both in the church and in the marriage.**
 - God did this with purpose as each person has a God given responsibility and role.
 - Ephesians 5:23
 - “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church...”
 - 1 Corinthians 11:3
 - “But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.”
 - **To be submissive sees the order in leadership that God has established in the home.**
 - **This role of headship is as a leader, not that of a tyrant.**
 - **The wife is submissive to her husband in this way, but it does not take away her voice or make her inferior.**
- To be submissive is to show respect
 - A wife who is submissive is one who respects her husband.
 - Ephesians 5:33b
 - “...and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
 - When a wife and husband are in a God bound marriage, she sees her husband as having the responsibility of headship and respects him for this.
 - **The wife does not see her husband as a buffoon, but as man who God established over the household.**
 - This is an important part of the marriage relationship, if a wife has no respect for the husband it is guaranteed there will be strife and conflict.
- The wife is willingly submissive because she does it out of reverence and obedience to Christ.
 - **When a wife is submissive she does this willingly, NOT because her husband demands it.**
 - This is not something forced, but willing done out her love for and obedience to Christ.
 - Colossians 3:18
 - “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”
 - Ephesians 5:21
 - “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
 - **Her love for Christ and how He desires her to treat her husband is why she does this.**
- For a wife to be submissive does NOT mean that her husband is better than her in the eyes of God.
 - A husband and wife are equal in the eyes of God.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

- “Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.”
 - Galatians 3:28
 - “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
 - **Why do you think God desires for wives to respect their husbands and see them as head of the household?**
 - **Why is it important that this is done willingly?**
- Husbands must love their wives as Christ loves the church. | Ephesians 5:25-28
 - **This passage speaks to the immense responsibility that God has given to the husbands in marriage.**
 - **Christ has commanded husbands to love their wives just as Christ loved the church.**
 - This simple statement carries an incredible amount of weight and responsibility.
 - **Because of all the things we can talk and discuss about how God wants a husband to treat their wife can be summed up in one word....love....**
 - **The husband is not supposed to tell or show his wife that he “likes” her, but that he loves her in the same way that Christ loves us.**
 - Husbands may not always truly understand the love that He has called us to show to our wives.
 - **God is not commanding husbands to flippantly “love” their wives, this love must be REAL and the SAME love that comes from God.**
 - Ephesians 2:4
 - “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,”
 - This love that comes from God is much deeper.
 - What Christ has done for the church we can never say enough that would ever truly appreciate what He did for us and how much He cares for us.
 - **This is how God wants husbands to treat their wives. He wants them to show them so much love that it is incomprehensible.**
 - This love is the highest and most significant use of the word love in the Greek language, it is **the “agape” love.**
 - When agape is used we know there is not greater word for love can be used.
 - It is NOT the “I love pizza” kind of love.
 - It is not a temporary feeling of “butterflies”.
 - It is not a sexual/lustful love.
 - **Agape love is the love that comes from and is God.**
 - 1 John 4:8
 - “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
 - General meanings:
 - The love of God or Christ for humankind.
 - The love of Christians for other persons, corresponding to the love of God for humankind.
 - Unselfish love of one person for another.
 - An extensive list of what it means to show agape love:

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
 - “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends...”
 - **This is the love that Christ commands husbands to show their wives.**
 - **What is the impact on a marriage when a husband obeys God’s command to show his wife agape love? To truly love his wife as Christ loved the church? To show sacrificial love?**
 - **The same sacrificial love that Christ showed on the cross, is the SAME love that a husband must show his wife.**
 - **Christ’s love was so extensive that He gave up His life for us. The love a husband shows to their wife must be the same, to be willing to lay down their life for her.**
 - To sacrifice one’s life is the greatest form of love.
 - Romans 5:8
 - “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - John 15:13
 - “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
 - A husband is called to put his wife first and show selfless love.
 - This of course completely defeats the tyrant role that some think when the wives are called to be submissive.
 - A husband does not live his life for himself with his wife there as his servant. He holds the headship, but through love he puts his wife and family first.
 - Christ put us first, by making himself a sacrifice. The husband too must be selfless and put his wife first.
 - **Husbands...do you think it’s possible that we too often show selfish love as opposed to selfless?**
 - The perfect relationship designed by God between a husband and a wife.
 - It is not by accident that God desired for the wife to be submissive and for the husband to show her agape love.
 - This was done to make a perfect unity between husband and wife in a godly marriage.
 - **What do you think about the perfect unity and responsibilities that God has ordained for husbands and wives?**