

Marriage: Christ and the Church

September 25, 2022

Genesis 2:16-25 and Ephesians 5:22-33

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 ^[e]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, ^[h]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. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5:22-33

“The great problem in America is failure in the highest office of the land: the husband and father.” ~ **Stu Weber**

We are equal with different roles. It's the devil's attempt to make men and women align under the guise of making them equal. The devil's slick, did you know that?

“The tendency today is to stress the equality of men and women by minimizing the unique significance of maleness and femaleness. And you look around in society and you're going to see what has happened. The consequence is more divorce, more homosexuality, more sexual abuse, more promiscuity, more social awkwardness, more emotional distress, more suicide. Why? Because people have thrown away the God-given identity and the differences between the male and the female. Oneness and equality are not sameness. God is for oneness; God is not for sameness. God made us different that He might make us one. ‘God made them male and female,’ (Mark 10:6) and for one to recognize the headship of the other does not mean the inferiority of the other.” ~ **Adrian Rogers**

Satan wants to dethrone God (Did God create man or did man create God?).

He wanted to get Adam and Eve to question God in the Garden, the same thing he wants us to do today.

Satan wants to deny Christianity and Christian morals.

Satan wants to destroy the family.

Every 12 marriages: 4 will end in divorce, 6 will stay hitched but for other reasons (kids, money, etc.), 2 happy marriages/ families.

God's flow of marriage:

Both be believers: Do not be unequally yoked. (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)

Submission for the wife.

We all submit to someone.

Based on this passage, the main role of the woman in marriage is to submit.

Submission does not mean subservient or less than, but someone has to take the lead and from the beginning that was man, per God's command.

Wife is the “help mate”.

Reason

Order and God's plan (God, Son, Husband, Wife)

Subjection does not mean inferiority.

They are equal, but not alike.

Submission does not take freedom, it gives it.

"David McLaughlin, who was here one time, gave the best illustration of this. He says that marriage is not primarily a partnership so much as it is a team, and the husband is the quarterback on the team. Every team—if you're a football fan, we're using the idiom of football—every team has to have a quarterback who, in the huddle, calls the plays. Whether he gets the plays from the bench, or whether he has them in his heart and mind, it makes no difference—he is the one who ultimately must call the play. Now, the quarterback may have a running back who is stronger and better than the quarterback. Maybe the quarterback, when he gets out of school, will just take a regular job. The running back may go to the NFL, be a multimillionaire. But, in this situation, it is the quarterback who is calling the play. Now, he can get advice from the other players, but if the bench calls the play, he'll call that play regardless of what the other players say. But he may not even call the best play, but at least the team will all be going in the same direction. Now, the quarterback does not call the plays primarily because he's the best player; he calls the plays because somebody has to call the play. And who says that he's going to call the play? The coach says he's going to call the play. Who says that the man is the head of the home? Our Coach says so. I mean, that's all there is to it. You see, the wife may be superior to the husband in many ways. I know that Joyce is superior to me in some ways, and I'm superior to her in some ways. Now, if you're the head of the home, you can delegate duty, sir, but you cannot delegate responsibility. In our home, Joyce does the finances, and I'm so grateful for that. She writes all the checks, and she balances the books. She makes all deposits. She does all of that. God bless her for it. I'm so grateful that she does. Now, if she is right, when she does that, she is to be praised. But if she messes up, I'm the one to be blamed because it is not her responsibility; it is my responsibility. I have delegated that to her. Now, I am convinced that the problem in America today and in the world today is not primarily rebellious wives but it is slacker, shirker, quitter husbands who do not take their responsibility to love their wives and lead their wives as Christ loved the Church and led the Church. You see, if the home is wrong, it is primarily because the man is wrong." ~ **Adrian Rogers**

Headship (husband)

Not dictator but leader.

Jesus made the Church submissive by loving the Church and dying for her.

Love our wife as we love our self.

A leader serves (Luke 22:25-26). Christ faithfully served.

A leader is gentle. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

A leader guides by example. (1 Peter 5:1-3)

When we do our part it easier for our wife to do her part!

Practical Application:

Prayer Focus:

- **(Ladies) Am I submitting?**
- **(Men) Am I leading?**
- **Am I loving and leading my children?**