

Biblical Worldview

Gender, Singleness, Marriage and Family

Week 7: Biblical Marriage Part 2

Day-to-Day Marriage Responsibilities

Ephesians 5:22-33 (CSB)

*²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰since we are members of his body. ³¹**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.** ³²This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.*

First and foremost: marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. God doesn't do random. From the very beginning in the Garden of Eden God was giving us glimpses of Jesus. The marriage relationship is one of those glimpses. We get to see how the gospel provides an amazing relationship between Jesus and the church.

Wife: submit to your husband...how? As to the Lord.

- How does the church submit to the Lord?
 - o Completely. Faithfully. Continuously.
- What about individuality?
 - o While the church completely submits to Christ, Christ actually matures our individual personalities and specific gifts. An individual believer blossoms far more under faithful submission to Christ than living their own life.
 - o A wife can blossom most when faithfully submitting to her husband's leadership in the home. But the emphasis on this statement should be rooted in being equally yoked.
- What about value?
 - o All of those in Christ are of equal value. Submission doesn't devalue. The world will say this, but that is not what the Bible says.
 - o 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 3:28
- What does daily submission practically look like?
 - o Generally speaking: respect
 - words of affirmation, verbal appreciation, acts of service, trust, willingness to follow

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How does God's definition of marriage and the world's definition of marriage contrast?
- ❖ Why is the idea of "submitting to your husband" difficult for a wife to embrace?
- ❖ What does a wife submitting to her husband practically look like?
- ❖ What does the church submitting to Christ practically look like?

Husband: love your wife...how? As Christ loved the church.

- How did Christ show His love to the church?
 - o Gave Himself up...for the purpose of:
 - making holy, cleansing, washing in the Word.
- What is the result of Christ's love to the church?
 - o Completion:
 - Presented the church in splendor, without spot, without wrinkle, holy, blameless.
- What did Christ do for the church and is doing for the church?
 - o Provided and providing. Therefore:
 - Leaving and joining together implies responsibility.
 - Husbands have the responsibility to provide for their wife.
- What does daily loving your wife practically look like?
 - o Acts of helps
 - o emotional consistency
 - o creating an atmosphere for spiritual, mental and emotional growth

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How did and does Christ show His love for the church?
- ❖ Why does Christ love the church?
- ❖ How can a husband show his love for his wife?
- ❖ What is the husband's goal in faithfully loving his wife?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that love is an action verb?

Conclusion

Wives should be overly excited to follow their husbands, as the church should be overly excited to follow Jesus. Husbands should be loving their wives with every word, attitude and action, as Christ fully gave Himself to the church.

Ultimately, marriage is an illustration to the world of the relationship between Christ and the church. A married couple should view their marriage as an opportunity to be lights to a dark world.

The glorification of God is at the center of all we do, marriage included. Each of us will be tempted to be self-focused. Which is why it's important to remember all we do is for the glory of God.