

Relationships – Marriage

Ephesians 5:17-21 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- We want to understand what the will of the Lord is, and he gives us the key to it right here: be filled with the spirit.
- But he starts off with do not be drunk with wine.
 - Why? Is being drunk so bad? Yes, but... this is a contrast.
 - Drunk = loss of control, lack of clarity, under the influence of something
 - Filled with the spirit = full control, under the influence of God, thinking with the mind of Christ
- In the same manner that you can choose to be under the influence of drunkenness, you can choose rather to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- A continuous dependent relationship with God is what fills us. God is the one who meets our needs and our role is to let Him meet those needs.
- This is the foundation for approaching everything in our lives.
- It's also the foundation for approaching your marriage, and your role in it.

Vs. 19-20 talk about the home what it should be like:

- Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
 - This suggests speaking and singing
 - Psalms – the deep, vulnerable things of our lives
 - Hymns – The songs of others. Singing known songs
 - Spiritual songs – Spontaneous worship. Naturally praising
 - Our homes should be places where praise is heard. Where we talk about God and spiritual things.

- Giving thanks always
 - If you are filled with the Spirit, you will be filled with thanksgiving.
 - God is continually pouring out his benefits; yet we deserve nothing of his kindness; therefore give him thanks for his unmerited blessings.
 - **Psalm 103:1-5** Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- Submitting to one another in the fear of God
 - How do you submit to each other? Submitting does not mean obey!
 - Submit is to put the other before yourself.
 - **Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.
- All this is done to honor God!

This creates an atmosphere of spirituality in the home – our homes should be spiritually safe. Your home should be an environment where you are comfortable talking about spiritual things. Giving thanks to God, honoring each other.

The Roles - Wives

Ephesians 5:22-24 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.

- Primary role – be submissive.

- Specifically, because the husband is the head.
- So in other words, allow the husband to do his role, which is to be the head.
- Vs. 24 Says just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.
 - The word subject means to subordinate, to obey.
 - Does this mean that women are to just obey their husbands? No. Here's why:

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

- The curse is that men would desire to rule over their wives, that women would feel helpless without a man (scared, unprotected)
- We do not want to live under the curse, so why structure our marriages by the curse?

Also

We cannot read the roles of husband and wife without going back to verse 18. But we also cannot read them correctly without reading Ephesians 6:5

- **Ephesians 6:5** Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;
- The word bondservant is literally slave
- This passage does not condone slavery. We all know that. It instructs how to live within the cultural situation where slavery exists.

So the passage of men's and women's roles is also to be taken within the context of the culture that it was written to.

- In Ephesus, men generally were expected to lead in all things. Business, church and family.
- Women were to honor their husbands and not necessarily fight to change the culture.

- But also, there is a defined limit to their submission – They submit as unto the Lord. So if the husband ever went contrary to the commands of God, the wife is not obligated to follow.
- So the wife should never try to be a tyrant of the household. There is no my way or the highway. There should be no manipulation to get what you want.
- And sadly, the fun phrase Happy wife, Happy life is counter-scriptural.

And of note – husbands being the head of the wife is not listed in instructions to the husband. It is included as a clarifier in the role of the wife. Yet most men think of this as their primary role.

Don't spend more time studying the instructions God gave to others than you do studying what He has told you to do.

The Roles – Husbands

Ephesians 5:25-29 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, 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.

- Primary role – Love your wife.
- Love her like Christ loved the church. He gave Himself for her. He served her. He gave her everything she would need to flourish, even laying down His life for the church.
 - **Mark 10:44-45** And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - (Clarke) as Christ gave himself for the Church to save it, so husbands should, by all means in their power, labor to promote

the salvation of their wives, and their constant edification in righteousness. Thus we find that the authority of the man over the woman is founded on his love to her, and this love must be such as to lead him to risk his life for her.

- Nourishes and cherishes – Takes care of. Adores her.

Roles – For both

Ephesians 5:30-32 For we are members of His body, 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.

- Husbands and wives are to become one flesh.
- They are a team. They have shared life.
- They are forsaking all other relationships besides God to make each other the primary relationship.
- Leave – forsake or abandon. The parents are no longer the authority. They switch to a position of honor, but they are no longer authority. That is a role for a child/parent relationship. Marriage is adulting. Be a grown up.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- Just a passage noting that marriage and all that applies to it is not just intended to show us how to be married. Rather it is a model of Christ and the church.

In Summary

Ephesians 5:33 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.

- Men – love your wife. Love her the most. Outdo her love for you. Love her more than sports, than movies, than friends, than parents, than chai tea, than smoked brisket, than Reeses. Love her like Jesus loves you.
- Women – Give respect to your husbands. Honor them. Don't nag or manipulate. Respect them as having an authority that is given from God. Show them you believe in them. Don't belittle them. Your husband is your greatest asset.

So who has the harder job, men or women? That's a trick question. The answer is God. If we go back to the empowerment – Be filled – then it is God that does all the work and we rest in Him. When we walk in the spirit, all this is the result. It is fruit. It will manifest. It's not about doing, it's about being.