

“As Christ LOVES The Church”
Ephesians 5:21-33
10/1/23
Message 4
Series – God’s Design For Marriage

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “As Christ LOVES The Church”

- **Purpose for this Series - Understand God’s Design For Marriage**

- **1st The Blueprints - God’s Creation of Marriage (Genesis 1-3)**
 - Creation of Marriage
 - Purpose –
 - Structure of the Family –
 - A Helper
 - ONENESS – INTIMACY
 - LEAVE & CLEAVE
 - Hinderances to ONENESS
 - Relationships / Activities
 - Family
 - Friend
 - Children
 - Hobbies
 - Conflict will come
 - Have a Plan
 - Conflict Over Money

- Conflict Over Sex
- **2nd Using The Blueprints to Building - A Strong Marriage**
 - The Foundation = Jesus (Matthew 7:24-27)
 - Build Your Marriage on JESUS
 - The Walls / Windows = Communication (Ephesians 4:25-32)
 - Good Christ like Communication is Essential
 - The Roof / Covering = Self Sacrificing Love for Each other (1 Corinthians 13 / Galatians 5:22-23)
 - We MUST LOVE each Other like CHRIST Loves US
 - The Power = Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
 - We Need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- **3rd Understand The God GIVEN Roles**
 - Last Week - Women “Respect Your Husband”
 - Number one thing your husband needs!
 - RESPECT

Ephesians 5:33 (NKJV)

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.*

- Respect Your Husband By Being a Great Companion – Helpmate
 - (Genesis 2:18-20)
- Respect Your Husband By Having Godly Character
 - (Ephesians 5:22-24 / 1 Peter 3:1-7 / Proverbs 31)

- 1st Godly Character (Ephesians 5:22-24 / 1 Peter 3:1-7 / Proverbs 31)
- 2nd Seeking Holiness 1 Peter 1:16 / 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 3rd Truthful in Speech and Motives
- 4th Being Gentle and Quiet.
- 5th Being Modest in Dress
- 6th Taking Care of the Home.
- 7th Being a Servant To Others.
- 8th Being Trustworthy
- 9th Being Prudent in Financial Matters.
- 10th Being a Hard Worker.
- 11th Doing the Right Thing and Have a Good Reputation.
- 12th Internalize Biblical Wisdom
- 13th Living Out the Secrets of Womanhood.

Proverbs 31:25 (NKJV)

25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.

• A REMINDER - NEVER Forget

- **1st Remember - It Takes Work**
 - Marriage has a built-in struggle attached to it!!!
 - It's NOT like the Hallmark movies – “Where they live happily ever after”

- WHY?!

- We must learn to Die to ourselves
 - Live for another person first
 - That it takes Time and Attention!!!
- It is like a garden -
 - What you Put Into it is what you get = Plant Tomatoes = Tomatoes
 - Consistent Attention and time – Pulling weeds – Water – etc...

- **2nd Remember - Stop Looking to the World**

- Sadly - Many in the church LOOK to the world for the answers
 - Romance Novels
 - Hallmark Movies
 - Worldly Philosophy
 - Psychology
 - If you look to the world for Solutions, that is what you will get
 - Worldly Solution
 - If you Look to God –
 - You will get TRANSFORMATION
 - You will bet a marriage that God intended for you

- **3rd Remember – Your Covenant**

- **NOW Please hear - If you have gone through this series**

- And you keep looking at what your spouse
- What they are doing or what they are not doing
 - You have missed the WHOLE Point
- Look at yourself –
 - Do what God has CALLED you to do
 - Run in the lane He has called you to run in
 - STOP BLAMING – STOP POINTING FINGERS

- **Remember Your Covenant**

- Marriage is not so much about finding the right person
 - It's MORE ABOUT BEING the right person.
- It Means Choosing...
 - To be loving and caring when you don't feel like it.
 - To stick it out when you don't feel like it
 - To treat each other with affection and kindness that Jesus embraces us with.
- It's not giving 50/50.
 - It's about giving 100% without expecting anything in return.
- Marriage is not about being right
 - It is about giving up your rights.

- Remember the Statement of Intent
 - Husband
 - Do you take WIFE NAME to be your lawfully wedded wife according to God's ordinance in the holy state of matrimony?
 - Do you promise from this day forward to provide for her spiritual leadership?
 - Do you promise to perform unto her all the obligations and responsibilities of a Christian husband?
 - Do you promise to love her & comfort her, nourish her & cherish her; and forsaking all others, remain faithful to her so long as you both shall live?
 - Wife
 - Do you take Husband's Name to be your lawfully wedded husband according to God's ordinance in the holy state of matrimony?
 - Do you promise from this day forward to follow him as your spiritual leader?
 - Do you promise to perform unto him all the obligations and responsibilities of a Christian wife?
 - you promise to love him & comfort him, respect & honor him; and forsaking all others, remain faithful to him so long as you both shall live?
- VOWS – Covenant Promise

- To have and to hold / from this day forward / for better or for worse / for richer or for poorer / in sickness and in health / to love and to cherish / till death do us part

- **Now This Morning - The MEN'S Turn – “As Christ LOVES the Church”**

- Love Your Wife By Being The Leader God Has Called You To Be vs. 23-24
- Love Your Wife Just As Christ Loves The Church vs. 25-32

Love Your Wife By Being The Leader God Has Called You To Be vs. 23-24

- **First: Definition Of Leadership**

Ephesians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 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.

- **1st For the husband is the head of the wife...**
 - Define - Headship and Authority
 - It Means:
 - To have the Appropriate Responsibility to Lead
 - And the Matching Accountability.
 - Again - The Proper Order Designed BY GOD
 - **Show Pic**
 - Christ
 - Man
 - Woman
 - Children

- **2nd Why this Order? = Creation Order**

- **Why did God Make the Husband the leader?**

- Because is superior in every way?! 😊 hahaha
 - NO!!!!!!!!!!!!

- **Creation Order – Order Equality**

- God created Adam first, and gave him responsibility
 - Gave him Eve to help him accomplish the tasks He gave Adam

1 Corinthians 11:7–10 (NKJV)

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man.

9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.

10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

- Note: This happened before the fall.
 - Therefore, this passage makes it clear that before and after the fall
 - God ordained there be different roles between husband and wife.
 - The difference in roles between husband and wife are not the result of the fall, and are not erased by our new life in Jesus.
 - So God Gave Adam The mission and Eve as His help mate
- **3rd Road Blocks to Leading – Men We MUST LEAD**

- **1st Culture**

- The World says we are

- Toxic
 - Note – Outside of Christ there is an ugly side to men and women
- Ridicules US
 - Almost every TV show in the last 60 years has mocked male leadership
- **2nd The Curse on Woman to Rule over us (Genesis 3:16)**
 - A Wife can fight for control –
 - Making hard for a man to lead as God has called him
 - BUT God Calls Us leaders
 - We must LEAD there is no option after you are married!!!
- **3rd Sadly - Many men have sadly Given Up OR Never Led**
 - They Are LAZY
 - They have bought into the lie...
 - World say we are Toxic / Ridicules us
 - Or Excepted they Curse
 - The Curse on Woman to Rule over us
 - It easier to just let it go... got tired of fighting for control
 - BUT your STILL RESPONSIBLE

• **Second: HOW Do We Lead**

○ **The Lord Jesus is our Example**

▪ **1st Be HOLY**

1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

- Are you GROWING in Jesus

▪ **2nd Lead Spiritually –**

- In the WORD
- In PRAYER
- In going to CHURCH

- Men it's your responsibility to lead your family in attending Church

▪ **3rd LOVE HER**

- This is HUGE
 - Which we will go into greater detail in a minute

▪ **4th In Humility**

- A Humble / Servant Leader Seek to lead like Jesus
 - BE the Servant Leader
 - Shows his LOVE by SUBMITTING to Jesus
 - Sacrifice & Serves his family Like JESUS

Mark 10:45 (NKJV)

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.”

- 5th By Providing – Physically

1 Timothy 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Love Your Wife - Just As Christ Loves The Church vs. 25-32

- **Context: Notice the Daunting words**

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

- **“JUST AS”**

- We will Look at **6 Ways** to love your wife JUST AS

- **First: Love Unconditionally vs. 25a**

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

- **1st The word for LOVE here is AGAPE**

- That puts marriage on the Highest plane - God's love for us

- The Lord says...

- I want the love that you have for your wife

- To Reflect the LOVE that I have for you

- A Love that led me to give Myself for you

- Jesus is our example

- **SO - MEN PLEASE HEAR me on this**

- Jesus loves you NO MATTER WHAT

- So - you MUST DO THE SAME FOR YOUR WIFE
- Take this with LOVE
 - I really don't care how or what your wife is or is not doing –
 - LOVE HER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - ***You are the leader***
- ***2nd What AGAPE Love looks like...***
 - **1st It is a love...**
 - Which causes you to SACRIFICE for the BENEFIT of the other person.
 - That seeks to GIVE rather than GET.
 - That keeps on loving even when the other person doesn't RESPOND.
 - That keeps on loving without asking ANYTHING in return.
 - It lasts for better or worse, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer, in life and in death.
 - A love that says I am willing...
 - To lay down...
 - My life
 - My rights
 - My desires
 - All for her!
 - **2nd Not Based on Performance...**

- Is our relationship with God based upon our Performance?
 - Of course not - If it were we would be in trouble.
- So, don't put that kind of pressure on your wife
 - To be something that you yourself can't be before God!
- **3rd It's unconditional and she needs to know that!**
 - Stop trying to fix her!!!
 - That's God's job, love her as He does
 - Illustration
 - Pastor Dave Rolph Story of Chuck Smith 60 Weeding Anniversary - first 40 rough last 20 great

• **Second: Love Willingly v. 25b**

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

- **1st Jesus = Our Example**

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- He GAVE FIRST
- He willingly gave of Himself for us!
- His love may be rejected
- But His love NEVER stops

- Aren't you glad HE DID?
- **2nd Man UP / LOVE HER First**
 - Love HER even if you don't get LOVE back
 - DIE TO YOURSELF / LIVE for JESUS and your WIFE
 - The Church was Jesus' priority...
 - Is your wife your priority

• **Third: Love Sacrificially v. 25c**

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

- **1st Love is NOT BASED on FEELINGS**
 - Now Yes –
 - We do have FEELINGS
 - BUT Remember –
 - Feelings Come & Go
 - In Marriage you will have Ups and Downs
 - Feelings can come and go
 - BUT real LOVE – LOVES
- **2nd Love is a VERB**
 - Love is NOT a FEELING but an act of your will
 - It a VERB action is required
 - It is action on YOUR part.

- Crucify your flesh, and LOVE her
- Sacrifice costs us something / but are we willing to do things sacrificially for our wife?
- **3rd Jesus is our Example showing US Love as a VERB**
 - 5 qualities about this sacrificial love

- **1st It was an Underserved Sacrifice (Romans 5:8)**

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Again - Jesus didn't die for people that He thought deserved to be loved.
- He died for people who were rebellious, shaking their fist at God.

- **2nd It was a Sacrifice characterized by HUMILITY (Phil 2:3-5)**

Philippians 2:3–5 (NKJV)

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

- Jesus' sacrifice started with His humility.
- He thought more of others than He thought of Himself
- Willing to GIVE and GIVE and GIVE

- **3rd It was a Sacrifice of His "RIGHTS" (Phil 2:6)**

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV)

6 *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,*

- Jesus did not feel like He had to demand His "rights" and stay on His throne in heaven.
- Sometimes we get into so much trouble in our relationships
 - Because "WE FEEL"
 - We're getting cheated
 - Things aren't "fair"
 - Our "rights" are being trampled.
 - Jesus let it all go.

▪ **4th It was a Sacrifice of a Servant (Phil 2:7)**

Philippians 2:7 (NKJV)

7 *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

- Becoming a servant to others, then to willingly laying down His life for us.

▪ **5th It was a Sacrifice that led to DEATH (Phil. 2:8)**

Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)

8 *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

- He died for us.
- Will You die for your Wife
 - We SAY YES
 - But the way we die for her is to live for her

- Easy to die for her but – how about when she asks for a glass of water... will you die to yourself and live for her

- **Fourth: Love Spiritually vs. 26-27**

Ephesians 5:26–27 (NKJV)

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.

- **1st By Being a Spiritual Leader**

- **1st Follow Jesus – He MUST be First**

- Again - Is He number 1 in your life?

- **2nd Reading / Teaching the Bible**

- Don't be overwhelmed by this you don't need a 4 point sermon; just be in the Word, share how the Lord has been speaking to you!!!

- **3rd Going to Church:**

- Must be a part of your lifestyle
- Lead by SERVING the church

- **4th Prayer**

- Pray together and men if you're not PRAYING for your wife every day you are in sin

- **5th Be an Example**

- Work at being the best Christian she's ever seen!

- Your wife should be drawing closer to the Lord because of her marriage to you

- **2nd By Understanding Her**

- **1st You Respond To Her With Understanding**

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- "Dwell with them with understanding"
 - Literally "according to knowledge"
 - A Christian husband needs to know his wife's moods, feelings, needs, fears, and hopes.
 - He needs to "listen to her"

- **2nd You Respect Her & Honor Her**

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- "Giving honor to the wife"
 - Husbands who walk with the Lord will be the kind of men who constantly give honor to their wives
 - Speak HIGHLY of HER
 - Privately and PUBLICLY
 - Respects his wife's feelings, thinking, and desires

- **3rd You Refuse To Dominate Her Or Suppress Her**

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- "As to the Weaker Vessel"
 - Who really knows what this part means
 - Physically
 - Emotionally
 - Both
 - She may "weaker",
 - The point is DON'T TAKE advantage of her
 - DON'T DOMINATE HER
 - DON'T SUPPRESS HER
 - DON'T VERBALLY intimidate her
 - **LOVE HER AND BUILD HER UP**
- **4th You Recognize Your Equality & Partnership**

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- Before God "as being heirs together..."
 - Recognize your equality spiritually
- **5th "That your prayers may not be hindered"**

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- This literally means "to be cut off"

- **3rd Affection Due HER**

1 Corinthians 7:3 (NKJV)

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

- Context of this verse
 - Corinthians Not having sex because they thought they would be more holy
 - Paul corrected that problem
 - Makes this statement in verse 3 *affection due her*
- Let Talk About AFFECTION
 - Affection Means
 - A gentle feeling of fondness or liking
 - Feeling of liking and caring for someone or something
 - FONDNESS
 - Greek - (εὐνοία eunoia) from the same as 2132;
 - Goodwill
- State the Obvious
 - Men and Women have different needs
 - Men - Driven by a strong sex drive

- Women – Intimacy / Affection
- Paul also emphasizes what the woman needs
 - But the Affection Due her!!!
 - Not Merely Sexual Relations
 - Men Sex without affection – is WRONG
 - Question - Scale of 1 to 10
 - Ask your wife later today
 - How I am I doing on giving affection?
 - I venture to guess – Low Scores from our wives
 - Some Ways to Show Affection
 - Communication –
 - Not Business – Family Stuff – Real Honest communication – like you did when you were dating
 - Like your BEST FRIENDS Communication
 - Tenderness –
 - Touching without SEX
 - Household Cores – Share
 - Cooking, Dishes, Laundry etc...
 - I Love you Notes – Texts
 - Let them know they are on our minds

- Complements
 - Like you did when you were dating
- Little - I love You Gifts
 - Flowers
- **4th Communication Again - Be Aware of Communication Roadblocks**
 - **1st Misunderstandings in Communications**
 - Communication just misses / crosses
 - Not even sure you are even on the same page
 - **2nd Busyness**
 - We can allow our lives to get so busy we are like ships passing in the night
 - We must find the time / MAKE the time!!!
 - **3rd Routines**
 - Means: it is easy to fall into a routine where you feel like there is nothing to talk about! How's your day? Fine! Anything new?
 - **4th Not Listening!!!**
 - Often stems from busyness!
 - So caught up in what you are doing / Not listening to your spouse
 - Turns into a bad habit where never listen / Sign of Selfishness

- **5th Keys to Keeping good Communication**

- **1st Spend time in Word together**

- Schedule time together

- **2nd Try to keep business side of marriage to once or twice a week!**

- **3rd Learn to talk through Problems**

- AVOID

- Always

- Never

- **4th Remembering - We are Different**

- Realizing that you and your wife are different!!!

- Differences between men and women

- Illustrations

- A Conversation That my Wife had with another gal at church

- Touch each other hair – talked about the color and stuff

- THIS is not a conversation 2 men would have!!!

- The Way Women Process

- When we ask a question that we think should be yes or no

- The need to work through the process on how they got to the yes or no
- Men don't do that -
- **5th Advice before we speak use the acronym: T-H-I-N-K**
 - T- is it True and Timely?
 - H - is it helpful?
 - I - is it inspiring?
 - N - is it necessary?
 - K- is it kind?

• **Fifth: Love Practically vs. 28-29**

Ephesians 5:28–29 (NKJV)

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.*

- **1st This is NOT promoting SELF - ESTEEM**
 - We already LOVE ourselves too much
- **2nd Care for our wife as we do our own bodies**
 - A miracle takes place at weddings 2 become 1
 - Because we are ONE BODY
 - That is what Paul is saying
 - As you take care of yourself / because you know what happen when you don't
 - Take care of Her because YOU ARE ONE BODY
- **3rd HOW?**

- **1st Nourish Her**

- Nourish means to care for, build up - meeting needs
- Just as you would nourish your own body, so you should nourish her
- There should be no starvation for love in the Christian marriage

- **2nd Cherish Her**

- Cherishes - to keep warm; cherish with tender love
- One of the great dangers in marriage is letting the fire go out.
- Our society tells us that if the fire goes out, it's time to dump your spouse and get a new one.
- God tells us to simply relight the fire. And maybe fan the flames a bit

- **Sixth: Love Positionally vs. 30-32**

Ephesians 5:30–32 (NKJV)

30 *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.*

- **1st Once Married = One Flesh!**

- **"Be Joined To"**

- The word actually means WELDED together
- Remove the words "divorce" and "separation" from your vocabularies.

○ **2nd Leave and Cleave!!!!**

▪ **"A man shall leave his father and his mother"**

- 'Azab - to leave, loose, forsake
- No other Relationship is to be as Important as Marriage.
NONE
- Once 2 people are married NO ONE should interfere with that relationship

▪ **BIG Problem in our world**

- Too many people involved in the marriage relationship
- It might be a Parent...Friend

Closing

- Men Love your wife – JUST AS CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH