

“Love & Respect”
Ephesians 5:22-33
5/15/21

Introduction

- Title of the Message is “Love & Respect”

- **Purpose For the Message**

- Context of 1 Cor. 7 was Marriage –
- I Believe the Lord leading to give a Marriage Tune Up this Morning

- **The Need For Grace**

- **Did you guys know I am an Expert on this subject**
 - Studied and taught it more than any other subject in the Bible
 - Taught, Marriage Counseling, Pre- Marriage Counseling. etc...
 - An Expert in Knowledge... NOT always in Application
 - Head BUT not always Heart
 - None of us have arrived – WE Must SHOW GRACE to Each Other
- **If you have been Divorced –**
 - Know that there is GRACE to move forward
- **We are going to look at God's Standards –**
 - But know this we all for short of His standards – So learn and grown in His Grace

- **Marriage Poll**

- **On A scale from 1 to 10**

- How is your Marriage?
 - All the guys 10
 - All the gals 6.5
- This Shows the Discount with Men and Women
 - *Joke - “I once gave my husband the silent treatment for an entire week, at the end of which he declared, ‘Hey, we’re getting along pretty great lately!’” —Actress, writer, and comedian Bonnie McFarlane*
- **KNOW THIS –**
 - At this present time you have the marriage you REALLY WANT to have?
 - If you really wanted a better marriage
 - It’s STARTS WITH YOU
- **NOW - God Wants your marriage to be What He designed it to BE!!**
 - So often we settle for less – easy route
 - Or we may not have knowledge
 - This Morning we want to be equip

• **Keys to a Marriage the way God Designed it to be**

- **1st God MUST BE FIRST**
 - Individually
 - What is your relationship Like with God
 - Scale of 1-10?

- This will give you an idea where your marriage is at as well
- **Corporately**
 - What is your relationship Like with God
 - Scale of 1-10?
- **2nd Follow His Directions for MARRIAGE**
 - **God is the CREATOR of Marriage**
 - First Institution God made (Gen. 2:18-24)
 - Even before the He made the Church!
 - **So if we want your marriage to be a 10**
 - We should seek the way God intended marriage to be
 - We need to look to the One who has the BLUEPRINTS = The Word
- **3rd 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”
 - 2 Sinners Living under the same roof – What can go Wrong
 - WHY?!
 - We must learn to Die to yourselves
 - Live for another person first
 - **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...

○ **4th Stop Looking to the World**

- Sadly - Many in the church LOOK to the world for the answers
 - Romance Novels
 - Hallmark movies
 - Will Set you UP for a FALL
- Sadly - Couples Even look to
 - Psychology
 - Worldly counseling
 - I Have seen So much UNBIBLICAL Advice from this

○ **5th Remember – Your Commitment**

- Marriage is not so much about finding the right person
 - It's MORE ABOUT BEING the right person.
- 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.
- VOWS –

- 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 due us part

• **This Morning Lets Look at Ephesians - For a Marriage Tune Up**

- 2 Main Points in our Message this Morning
 - Follow God's Design vs. 23-24
 - Follow God's Instructions vs. 25-32

Follow God's Design vs. 23-24

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.*

• **First: God's Design**

- **1st The Proper Order Designed BY GOD**
 - 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 (Genesis 2)
 - God created Adam First
 - Gave him Responsibility
 - Named the Animals

- First Time in Creation account something was not Good
 - Man was alone
 - Needed a wife
 - Gave him Eve to help him accomplish the tasks He gave Adam
 - 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.

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.

• Second: God's Design For the Wife

- **1st Submission is NOT a Popular Subject**
 - So MANY Abuses over the years
- **2nd What Does the Biblical Word Submission Mean?**
 - The Word "Submit"
 - NOTE:

- Submission does not mean Inferiority
- Submission does not mean Silence
- IT MEAN'S...
 - Submission mean's - "Sub-Mission."
 - Think of it like this:
 - There is a mission for your marriage
 - That mission is obeying and glorifying God.
 - The wife says, "I'm going to put myself under that MISSION
 - That mission is more important than my individual desires.
 - I am not putting myself below my husband, I'm putting myself below the mission God has for our marriage, for my life.
- **You're a TEAM**
 - **You're working together**
 - **Just have different roles**
- **In Marriage Only**
 - Many abuses have occurred in the history of this world
 - This type of Submission only takes place in Marriage
- **As To the Lord**
 - Sin is never to be submitted to
- **3rd Obstacles To Following God's Design**

- The Curse

Genesis 3:16 (NKJV)

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.*"

- **4th Encouragement to Follow God Design**

- **1st Creation Order**

- Just the way He made it

- **2nd Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church**

- When a wife submits she is really submitting to the original role given to her by God

- **3rd ALL of God's commandments GOOD**

- God commands are not meant to bum us out they are to PROTECT us
- Following all of God's commands will lead to a fulfilled life!!! SAFE

- **4th The church is in no way Degraded by Submitting to Jesus Christ.**

- To the contrary, it is to the church's glory to submit to Christ.
- Same with a wife

- **5th There is JOY – BLESSING in Obedience to God**

- Being FILLED with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18-20).
- Walk Worthy (Eph. 4:1)

- **6th Remember man is also under authority as well, Jesus' (Eph. 5:21 & 25)**
 - He will be the one giving an account for what he did in the leading of the family
- **7th A Christian marriage is to be a powerful witness to a selfish world!**
 - The world should look at Christian marriages and instantly see the difference.
 - They should see a Christian husband
 - Tenderly and selflessly loving his wife as Christ loved the church.
 - The world should see a Christian wife
 - Joyfully submitting to and respecting her husband, always seeking his good.
 - THEY SHOULD see A picture of Christ and the Church
- **8th Jesus Submitted!**
 - Subject to Mary and Joseph as a Kid (Luke 2:51)
 - Submitted to God!!! (Phil 2:5-11)

• **Second: God's Design for the Husband**

- **1st LEAD – For the husband is the head of the wife...**
 - God's Structure
 - Definition Of Leadership - Headship - Authority
 - It Means:
 - **To have the appropriate responsibility to lead and the matching Accountability**

- Men – You are the ones God will hold responsible
- **2nd Men we must LEAD - Road Blocks to Leading**
 - **1st Culture**
 - The World say we are Toxic / Ridicules US / Almost every TV show in the last 50 years
 - **2nd The Curse on Woman to Rule over us**
 - BUT God Calls Us leaders
 - We must LEAD there is no option after you are married!!!
 - Don't want to lead don't get 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 the Curse
 - The Curse on Woman to Rule over us
 - It easier to just let it go... got tired of fighting for control

• **Second: How Do We Lead – Briefly**

- **Lead Spiritually –**
 - In the WORD
 - In PRAYER
 - In Going to CHURCH
- **Love HER**

- Which we will go into greater detail in a minute
- **In Humility**
 - A Humble / Servant Leader Seek to lead 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."

- **By Providing**

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.

Follow God's Instructions vs. 25-32

- **First: Husband's - Love Your Wife Just As Christ Loves The Church vs. 25-32**

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

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

- **Notice the daunting words "...JUST AS..."**

- Seen in 6 ways

- **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
 - Love that led me to give Myself for you / Jesus is our example
- **2nd What AGAPE love looks like...**
 - **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 you
 - **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!
 - **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**
 - Yes we have FEELINGS
 - Remember – Feelings Come & Go
 - In Marriage you will have ups and Downs
- **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 like we're getting cheated, we feel like things aren't "fair", we feel like 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.*

- Jesus continued His path of humility, from His throne in heaven to taking on human flesh, then 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.

- They say you know you're really "dead" when somebody pokes at you and it doesn't hurt.

• **Forth: 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**

- 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

▪ **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**

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.

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

- "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"
 - Ask her what she needs

▪ **2nd You Respect Her And Honor Her**

- "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**

- "As to the weaker vessel"
 - Physically: Since she may weaker, the point is that you not ever take advantage of it
 - She should never, ever feel physically intimidated by you
 - VERBALLY intimidated

- **4th You Recognize Your Equality And Partnership**

- Before God "as being hears together..."
 - Recognize your equality spiritually
 - You Realize The Effect Of Your Marital Relationship
 - Your Prayer Life And Your Relationship To God

- **5th "That your prayers may not be hindered"**

- This literally means "to be cut off"

- **3rd Affection Do 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

- Give The Context

- 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
 - 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
- Flowers
 - Little - I love You Gifts
- That Some of the Affection DUE HER
- **4th Communication -**
 - **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

- **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
 - Treasure Your Treasure

• **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" (5:31) 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

• **Second: Wives Respect Your Husband v. 33**

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.*

- **1st This Verse SUMS up marriage**
 - Women Need Love
 - Men Need Respect
- **2nd Men Need Respect**
 - Disrespect is Shown in
 - Nagging
 - Tearing Down
 - Pushing
 - Always Second Guessing
 - Always Questioning
 - Never Good Enough
 - Not Holding his Confidence
 - These will Shut a man DOWN – So Stop IT

Closing

- A Marriage Tune UP – Always Good