

Home Builder's

Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

Lesson 6: Who Does What? Roles and Expectations in Marriage

Text: Ephesians 5:21-33

- I. Wives are called to submit to their husbands as the church is subject to Christ. (22-24)
 - A. Wives are called to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord.
 1. "Submit" is defined as "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".
 - B. The Husband is the head of the wife as the Christ is the head of the church.
 1. Christ, as head of the church, provides for the church growth and direction. (Ephesians 4:15-16)
 2. Christ causes the church to flourish.
 3. The headship of a husband should reflect the headship of Christ in that he facilitates, or helps along, his wife's growth and flourishing.
 - C. As the church submits to Christ, so should a wife submit to their own husbands in everything.
- II. Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. (25-33)
 - A. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church.
 1. This word for love, *agapao*, describes a totally unselfish love that seeks the best for the object of love.
 - a. Christ's love for the church is manifest in that He gave Himself to sanctify the church and cleanse it.
 - b. This act of Christ's love beautifies the church.
 - c. In other words, a husband's love for his wife should enhance her and seek her best possible good physically and spiritually.
 - d. "All those who occupy positions of authority in society are responsible both to the God who has entrusted it to them and to the person or persons for whose benefit they have been given it. In a word, the biblical concept of authority spells not tyranny but responsibility."
 - B. God's plan for marriage is grounded in the creation account.
 1. In marriage, both spouses commit to making each other their priority.
 2. The two become "one flesh".
 - C. The sum of their duties to each other are for husbands to love their wives and for wives to respect their husbands.

Big Idea:

Christian couples walk worthy of their calling by fulfilling their roles of love and respect.

Application/Discussion:

- What does this mean for the question, “who does what?”
- Notice the Bible does not get down into the weeds to answer questions, “who should take out the trash?” or “who should mow the lawn?”. Instead, the Bible is much more interested in providing a general framework for how the home should function.
 - Husbands are to provide loving leadership to his family.
 - It is the husband’s duty to nurture his family spiritually, physically, and emotionally.
 - Wives are to submit to the leadership of the husband.
 - It is the wife’s duty to work with husband and follow his leadership.
- What does society try to teach us concerning gender roles?
- How does the Bible give liberty to Christian couples?
- What are the areas which are non-negotiable?

For Next Week:

Lesson Title: Money Matters: Finances in Marriage

How does the Bible instruct us to steward our finances?