

A SPIRIT-FILLED MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:22-33

7/18/10

Read Ephesians 5:18-33

Marriage is hard!!

We all come into marriage with unrealistic expectations.

These expectations ultimately lead to disappointment.

In one way or another our marriages are not what we expected

We are sinners who are married to sinners living together in a messed-up world.

But in all this, your life is under the wise and sovereign plan of God.

God uses the difficulties you face in your marriage to do something in you.

God is working through your marriage to change you.

To rescue you from selfishness

To help develop in you a mature love

Most of us are seeking to get from our marriages what only God can give us.

We want our mates to fulfill our needs and to help us get what we want.

Your spouse either becomes a vehicle to help you get what you want, or an obstacle that gets in the way of what you want.

Their wants, needs, and feelings get in the way of having your want, needs, and feelings satisfied.

We get angry because somehow they get in the way of our plans, schedule, and peace

God knows that sin will again and again get in the way of what your marriage should be.

God knows that you and your spouse tend to be selfish and self-centered.

God knows that you need more than information. You need transformation.

Hope for your marriage is not found in your spouse, but in the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Our passage this morning shows what a Spirit-filled marriage looks like.

1. A Spirit-filled wife will be subject to her husband's leadership. 5:22-24

a. What does it mean to "be subject"?

hupotasso- to align under in order of rank, to submit

Men and women have equal value before God.

Both genders are created in God's image (Gen. 1:26–28)

They are joint heirs of eternal life (Gal. 3:28–29).

But God has appointed the husband to a position of leadership in the home.

b. What does "head" mean?

"Head" (Gk. *kephalē*) refers to one in authority

It is used of Christ's authority over His church in Ephesians 1:22

Even as Christ has authority over the church, God has given the husband authority over his home

This is a Biblical role, not a cultural one

c. Why are wives to be subject to their husbands? vv. 21, 23

21 in the fear of Christ

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church

1. That's the way God designed it.

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

2. God restated His designed order after the fall.

Genesis 3:16 . . . your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.

3. God has made men and women with different strengths and weakness.

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

4. Living in our God ordained roles is a testimony to the angels.

1 Corinthians 11:10 There the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels.

5. Living according to God's design honors God

Titus 2:4-5 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, *5 to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

d. To what degree is she to be subject? 22b, 24

22b as to the Lord

24a as the church is subject to Christ

24b in everything

What if your husband asks you to do something immoral, illegal, or against what the Bible instructs you to do?

Acts 5:29 . . . "We must obey God rather than men.

e. What about the hard cases?

What if your husband is not the loving spiritual leader that the Bible says He should be?

What if the husband is lazy, irresponsible, and unreliable?

What if the husband is emotionally detached?

What if the husband is a dictator?

What if the husband is a workaholic?

What if the husband is spiritually apathetic?

1 Peter 3:1-2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are *disobedient to the word*, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

f. When should a wife seek help?

If there is physical abuse

If there is sexual infidelity or perversion

Divorce is generally not an option.

Mark 10:11-12 And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

Matthew 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

1 Corinthians 7:15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

Next we turn to the husbands' responsibilities in the marriage.

There is three times as much space devoted to the husband's responsibilities compared to the wife's.

2. Spirit-filled husbands love their wives. 5:25-31

a. They love her by leading. 22-24

From God's perspective you are the leader of your home.

Now lead.

Selfish husbands mislead.

Passive leadership - Conflict avoiders

Lazy leadership

Absent leadership

Work - A provider, but not a life-sharer

Recreation and hobbies- selfish and self-absorbed

Abusive leadership

Selfish demanding dictators

Notice, men are never told to make their wives submit.

◇ That is something their wives are responsible to choose to do.

b. They love her as Christ loved the church. 25-27

25a We are commanded to love our wives.

This kind of love is not a feeling, it is a choice.

Saying, “ I don’t love her any more,” or I don’t have feelings for her anymore,” don’t cut it.

We are to keep on actively choosing to love our wives.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

25b We are commanded love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

This is a sacrificial love

We are to seek our wives best, even at our own expense.

This requires a reprioritizing of your commitments

Willing to sacrifice a golf game or hunting trip to meet her needs

Putting her ahead of your friends, hobbies and even career goals.

“Am I interested in doing what is best for my wife and family and not just myself?”

26-27 Our love should seek the best interest of our wives.

c. They love her as their own bodies. 28-30

Nourishing her

Seeking to build her up and strengthen her spiritually

Investing in her life

Cherishing her

Valuing her and spending time with her

Showing attentiveness and acceptance

Letting her know that she is a vital part of your world

- d. They leave their fathers and mothers and cleave to their wives. 31
- e. The mystery of Christ and the church is great. 32

This is profound

The original creation of the husband-and-wife union was modeled on Christ's forthcoming union with the church as his "body"

Marriage from the beginning was created by God to be patterned after Christ's relation to the church.

These commands regarding the roles of husbands and wives do not merely reflect the culture of a past generation, but present God's ideal for all marriages at all times.

The gospel in Ephesians 5:25-28a; Ephesians 2:1ff

Matthew 20:28 the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to **serve**, and to give His life a **ransom** for many."

- f. A Summary 33

Husbands love your wife

As much as Christ loved the church

As much as you love yourself.

Wives submit and show respect for your husband.

God wants to work on you through your marriage.