

January 26, 2020 am

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"God's Divine Design for Marriage" Part 2
Ephesians 5:15-33

I. Marriage Displays the Gospel

- A. Wives give a picture of the church to the world.
- B. Husbands give a picture of Christ to the world.
- C. Christ doesn't crush his bride. Christ does for his bride. Christ also purifies his bride.
- D. Christ cleanses his bride spiritually by the water and the word (through the word of the gospel).
- E. The ultimate purpose of marriage is the glory of Christ.
- F. If the starting point for marriage is me, then I'm starting at the wrong place. Marriage exists for Christ's glory.
- G. The biggest problem in marriage is sin. The ultimate solution is the grace of Christ.

II. Marriage Is Designed by God with Unique Roles

- A. Wives, revere Christ through proper submission to and respect for your husband. (5:22-24)
 - 1. Submission—the divine calling of the wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.
 - 2. Problems with submission: culture and men
 - 3. Headship is an indicative, not an imperative.
 - 4. Submission is a matter of order, not value.
 - 5. Submission does not mean he always gets his way.
 - 6. The husband is NOT Christ.
 - 7. Wives are to be conformed to Christ, not their husbands.
 - 8. Wives, respect your husband.
- B. Husbands, reflect Christ by loving your bride (5:25-33)
 - 1. Headship—the divine calling of the husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home.
 - 2. Love your wife with a sacrificial love. (5:25)
 - a. It is a Golgotha love.
 - b. It is a foot-washing love.
 - c. Give yourself away for the good of another.
 - d. "Love is an act of the will accompanied by emotion that leads to action on behalf of its object." (Voddie Baucham)
 - e. "Love is an overflow of your joy in God that gladly meets the needs of others." (John Piper)
 - f. There are ups and downs in every marriage. You must be committed for better and for worse. Jesus did not quit walking to the cross when the road got tough.
 - 3. Love your wife with a sanctifying love. (5:26-27)
 - a. Help your wife grow in likeness to Christ.
 - b. Question: Is your wife more like Christ because she is married to you?
 - c. Do you know how your wife is doing in the following areas?
 - (1) theological knowledge?
 - (2) practice of spiritual disciplines?
 - (3) her spiritual gifts?
 - (4) participation in local church?
 - (5) relationship with children, parents, and others?
 - (6) her fears, hopes, dreams, temptations, and disappointments?
 - 4. Love your wife with a satisfying love. (5:28-30)
 - a. Nourish your wife.
 - b. Cherish your wife.

Conclusion