



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

1, 2 Peter, Jude Sermon Series

Supports Session 5: Our Relationships

Sermon Title: “A Biblical View of Marriage” (Ephesians 5:22-33)

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### Connection to Session 5

Peter revealed a biblical view of marriage. Paul offers a complementary view of marriage to the church at Ephesus. He provided the church with a calling and a command that is vital for those who desire to reflect biblical marriage to others.

### Introduction/Opening

To leave a legacy means to extend an impression of oneself and character beyond one’s lifetime. The question is not whether we are going to leave a legacy or not, but rather what type of legacy are we going to leave. For those who are married, we have a chance to influence generations beyond ourselves if we embrace the biblical model presented in Scripture. For those of us who are not married but long to be, we can learn from the model presented in Scripture and commit today to not settle for anything less than what the Bible teaches.

### Outline

#### 1. The calling for the wife (vv. 22-24)

- a. When we were growing up, we knew the voice of our parents when they were calling us versus when they were issuing a command. It seemed that a command always came with our middle name. When we heard this, we knew it was important. We need to understand something about this text so that we can accurately apply it to our lives. Yes, the Bible teaches that a wife is to submit to her husband, but this is a calling and not a command. When our parents called us from outside for dinner, we knew it was in our best interest to come inside, but they were not commanding us to come inside. Similarly, the word “submit” (v. 22), while it is a verb, is not written as a command, but rather a calling.
- b. If we understand this is a calling and understand that God would only call us to things for our well-being, then we need to understand what the word means. Simply put, it means to place in proper order. We have an example within the home that can show how this works. If a child needs medical care but does not want to take the bad-tasting medicine, a loving parent will see to it that the child gets what he needs. The child, therefore, would submit to the loving parent and the parent would make the difficult call to ensure the child is treated. In like manner, the wife is to trust her loving husband to make the difficult decision. This does not mean she is to be silent and blindly follow. She is to be a helpmate and provide needed counsel as he strives to make the best decision for the family.
- c. Finally, it is important to point out that the wife is to submit to her husband. The text is not teaching that women are to be subservient to all men. The text is not even teaching that a wife is to be subservient to her husband. Instead, the text

clearly articulates that the wife is to willingly submit to her husband as he strives to lead the family in the ways of the Lord.

## **2. The command for the husband (vv. 25-32)**

- a. Many of us agree that there is a difference between a call and a command. A command can either be answered with obedience or disobedience. If we know the one issuing the command truly loves us, then we are much more apt to follow the command even if it is difficult or does not make sense at the time. As we continue to look at this passage, we quickly discover the only command in this entire passage.<sup>1</sup> Husbands are commanded to love their wives in the same manner that Jesus loves the church.
- b. We have at least two important points to acknowledge in this.
  - i. First is the word love. This is not a love of affection or a brotherly love of watching a sporting event with someone. Instead, this is a love of sacrifice. This is a love that puts the needs of the one being loved well ahead of one's own personal needs. This is the kind of love that God felt when He gave His only begotten Son for the sins of the world.
  - ii. The second truth to be had is that we have a model we can follow when we feel inadequate to emulate this kind of love. Some of us may not have grown up in a home where this kind of love was prevalent. Therefore, we may not feel equipped to share a sacrificial love with another. If this is you, then the good news is that you do have a model and that is Jesus. Let today be the day you begin to ask yourself two questions. First, how does Jesus love me? Second, am I loving my wife this way? Yes, this can feel difficult at times, but we can no longer say that we do not have a model.

## **3. The summary for both (v. 33)**

- a. Paul provides a summary statement that will help reveal the application for us. A husband is to love his wife, and a wife is to respect her husband. If a husband loves his wife the way Jesus loves the church, submission will become significantly less difficult. This does not mean that our wives will always submit to us if we love them sacrificially as we are all still battling our fleshly desires. But our wives will respond to our sacrificial love.
- b. The application for the wives is to respect us, even when we make mistakes. If a man was asked if he would rather be disrespected or unloved, most would say unloved. To be disrespected is worse than being unloved. This does not mean we always deserve respect, but Paul did not put a clause on the statement. Yes, we as men need to strive to live in a respectful manner. We will need grace and patience from our wives as God is not through with us yet.

## **Conclusion**

As a means of conclusion, we need to see one additional truth from the text. Paul stated that Christ is the head of the church, and the church is to submit to Him. The church is not the building, but rather the people. Given this truth the question becomes, have each of us submitted

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<sup>1</sup> The term "love" in Ephesians 5:25 derives from the Greek word *agapao*. It is in the present imperative active tense in this verse.

to Jesus as our authority? If we can say yes, then we can see where He issued a calling and a command. If we want to live according to His word, then we must know what obedience is. If, however, we have not submitted to Him, then the next step is to ask Him to be our Lord and Savior. Simply put, the word “Lord” means boss. When we ask Jesus to be the boss of our lives, we must acknowledge that He is in charge and not us. When we do this, we are equipped to live according to His ways and not our own.

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