



Empowering People to Change the World

Building a Glorious Marriage

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The First Church of Jesus Christ was formed in a beautiful garden on the sixth day of Creation!

- Before Abraham, before Israel, before Moses, there was a couple.
- On the sixth day, God formed man in His own image; male and female, He created them.
- The only thing created “in the image of God” was man—male and female.

Genesis 1:26-27

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

He created man and woman to be one.

Genesis 2:23-24

***“And Adam said:
‘This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.’***

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

- The word for “one” in the Hebrew is ekhawd, and it is the same word found in Deuteronomy 6:4, *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is ONE Lord.”*

- The prophetic picture of the Church is marriage! The unity of a husband and wife is being compared to the unity of the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- This is all about the glorious church and a glorious marriage.

Ephesians 5:27

- This passage is about the church and marriage; marriage being an earthly picture of the heavenly family.
- So rather than focusing on the roles in marriage, as important as that may be, the theme of our passage is the unity of a husband and wife.
- Look at verses 31-32; the culmination of the glorious marriage and the glorious church.

Ephesians 5:31-32

The entire passage is about this unity between God and His Church, and about the marriage of a man and woman. This is supposed to be glorious and beautiful, but it is impossible without bringing Christ into the marriage. Both husband and wife have to be filled with the Holy Spirit...

Verses 18-20: The God-Wild Marriage. We've looked at this earlier. My book covers this...

Verses 21-24

- This is a supernatural order. Not natural.
- In everything! Submit in everything! Not natural.
- No wife has ever been submitted to Christ as the church is submitted to Christ; never happened, but it is the Divine Order.
- That is the goal...but you have to be Spirit-filled to be able to do it.

- The fear of God causes us both, husband and wife, to submit to each other; but God has given responsibility to the man to lead a godly wife.

Submission (definition 1): “Yield in love to love”

- Literally means to “yield in love to love.” Yield to love. You yield in love to love! You don’t yield to hatred!
- This is why the next few verses are to the husbands to love their wives. God doesn’t call us to follow Christ out of just duty, but out of love to love!

Submission (definition 2): “sub” “mission,” subbed to a mission

- The Church has a mission given by Christ, and submission is building a church under His mission.
- The marriage is also meant to be a couple who are subbed under a mission. What is the mission of your marriage? What is the mission of your family?

Verse 25

Ex. Babies are cute, and this is a good thing...Babies are selfish:

- They don’t give a lick if you get sleep, bathe, or eat.
- They care about one thing...MEET MY NEEDS.
- Not bad at 8 pounds and 21 inches.
- The problem is when they are 185 pounds and 6 feet tall, and they are called “men.”

Men, you must die for your wife:

- We all like the first part, “wives submit to your husbands.”
- If she'll submit...I will love her!
- Doesn't work that way.
- Let's think through what Christ has done for us: He left heaven and came to the earth and died for us. Jesus left His comfort zone and entered our sin-filled world.
- Each man who really loves his wife the way Christ loves the Church has to leave the comfort zone of his man-world and enter into the woman-world of their wives. You need a passport! It's so different.
- **A husband must leave his “man-world” and enter into his wife’s “feminine woman-world” and die there!**
- **Enter her world and die - sacrificial love.**
 - You can read all the books, listen to tapes, go to seminars, and skirt the issue.
 - This is not a definition but a demonstration.
 - The issue is the Spirit-filled life of sacrificial love.
 - How did Christ give Himself for the church?
 - Sacrificial love is Jesus entering into our world.
 - You must enter her world and die there.
- Jesus stepped into our world, and I must step into her world and love and understand her.

- I must die to myself!

Ex. You will ruin your wife if you come home and want her to serve you, to just take care of you, because you had a bad day:

You want dinner on the table now.

Slippers warm by the fireplace.

Children quiet and perfect, diligently working on their homework.

Newspaper folded by the remote control.

Don't walk in front of the TV except when there is a commercial...a commercial I am not interested in.

Children in bed, homework done, all of the house cleaned up and everything put away.

And when she is completely dead, go upstairs and have some romance.

...and when we're done, you snore for the rest of the night.

- But become an expert! Study your precious wives. Study them, know them, understand them. Women, study your husbands, and know them, too.

Verses 26-27

- The goal of marriage is for the husband and wife to be becoming more holy, more loving, more submitted, more fired up for Christ!

- And this is accomplished by spending time in God's Word. Reading God's Word together; praying together.
- As Christ is refining us, so men, you are there to refine and encourage your wife toward a more holy life. Women, you are to refine and encourage your husband toward Christ.
 - Unconditional love...Christ is sanctifying us.
 - Jesus sees no flaws in you. You are covered with the Blood of Christ.

Ex. We want to put on the gloves and duke it out. Man, we want to get in the ring and joust...that's easy, that's natural, that's normal.

- There are higher purposes than being right...it's about being like Christ.
- This is what our wives need.
- Do you realize that the primary reason for marriage is not having kids, making love, or meeting your needs? It is about you and I becoming more like Christ!
- The purpose of marriage is to make you more like Christ! Ouch!

Ex. When I was behind the Iron Curtain in 1980, I met people who had to wait for 10 years to get a car. Can you imagine how you would treat that car if you knew that was the only car you would ever own?

The maintenance: checking the oil, transmission fluid. Your maintenance habits might change if you knew this was to be your only car.

- Christ loves and cherishes the Church. This is a divine romance. He gave His life for the Church to present us holy and without blemish.
- Christ said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” *Never* means never! Jesus doesn’t say “Hey, you do that again, and that’s it! I’m leaving.”
- A wife should never hear, “You do that again, I’m out of here.” Imagine Jesus saying that.
- “Hey, I’m the King of the universe. I’m not going to put up with that anymore. I’m the Master, you peon.”
- No, we need to be reassured by Christ, encouraged.
- Our wives need to be constantly encouraged.

Verses 28-29

- I’ve never known anyone who doesn’t want a good body, a healthy body, a nice-looking body. They may be lazy about it, they may not have enough discipline or self-control, but they secretly wish they looked better, felt better...
- So then, love your wives in the same way. Love your wife in the same way you love your body.
- Interesting phrase: “He who loves his wife loves himself.”
- This is an illusion to the Great Commandment, “love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Your wife is your closest neighbor!

Verses 30-31

- This is the direction of our passage: Oneness! Unity!

- **The direction of the glorious marriage is oneness.**
- In a mystical way, we are united in Christ as the Church, and we are His body. In a practical way, a marriage is similar.
- A married man and woman should leave their family of origin and become one. Start their own family. Taking the best of both and forming a new church, a new family.
- “Ekhawd” is the deepest kind of unity. It’s about intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It’s about unity between a man and woman.
 - Men really struggle with intimacy. It’s a lot harder for us.
 - But if you have blood-stained allies in your life, you can begin to grow in this.
 - But you also have to leave the familiar world of your family of origin enough to make room in your heart for that new love of your life.

Verse 32

Final Remarks on the Glorious Marriage

- **Husbands, love your wives like you love yourself.**
- **Wives, respect your husbands.**
 - Women feel loved differently than men.
 - Men need respect and honor.
 - Women need intimacy in communication.

Ex. Men and women see things differently. Love is expressed so differently:

- Study each other. Learn your wife's needs: touching, talking, listening, going out.
- Cards mean nothing to me; mean a lot to my wife.
- I don't have any flowers in my office, but I have books.
- We both like sushi!!
- **Women need respect too, but it is demonstrated through love.**
- **Men, need love too, but it is demonstrated by respect.**
- **Verse 22: No woman would write this...only God could say that!**
- **Verse 25: No man could write this...only God could say that!**

Ministry Time: Need to recommit your marriage to the Lord; let's minister to that...

Discussion Questions for Community Groups:

- 1) Wives, how are you doing in "yielding in love (submitting)" to your husband?**
- 2) Husbands, how are you doing in "entering your wife's world" and loving her?**
- 3) What does it mean to your marriage to leave your family of origin and cleave to each other?**