

Series: Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"Spirit-Filled Marriage" # 20
Eph. 5:22-24
12-17-17 Sun AM

Remember the context of 5:18 which is spirit-filled relationships (5:18-6:9).

Paul speaks of submission in the church (vs. 19-21), marriage (vs. 22-33), parents and children (6:1-4), and the workplace (6:5-9).

Q- How does this Spirit-filled life carry over or affect the NT marriage?

Paul exhorts the wives (vs. 22-24) and then the husbands (vs. 25-33) to walk in the Spirit and have a Spirit-Filled marriage.

This passage is important in light of our present culture. We are not only in a culture war but a spiritual war.

The foundation of marriage and the family is crumbling. Culture is redefining the terms like "Gender" and "marriage" and "family."

John Stott says, "Marriage is a heterosexual covenant between one man and one woman, ordained and sealed by God, preceded by leaving of parents, consummated in sexual union, issuing in a permanent mutually supportive partnership, and normally crowned with the gift of children."

Paul teaches the key responsibilities of husbands and wives that gives us an analogy of Christ and the church.

I. Spirit-Filled Wives (5:22-24).

The key word here is "submit." "Submit" means "to arrange under." It is used of subordination of soldiers in an army who come under their superiors. We are to submit to each other in the church, our marriage, and workplace.

The wife is called to submit to a husband who is willing to die for her (6:24). The husband and wife have equal value, yet have different roles in marriage.

Headship of the man is rooted in creation (Gen. 1-2; Matt. 19:4-6; I Tim. 2:11-13).

1. The Instruction (5:22-24, 33).

The wife must revere Christ through proper submission to and respect for her husband. The role of the wife is clear: submission and respect.

v. 33: Let's look at the word "respect." The husband will give an account to God for leading his family and women need love and respect their husband.

The wife should see the responsibility her husband has and respect him, love him, pray for him, and respect his needs.

v. 22: Let's look again at the word "submit." She is to submit to her husband and not every man.

1. The husband is head of the wife and not all women.
2. This submission is voluntary. This is a happy relationship as wives follow the loving leadership of a faithful husband.
3. This does not teach that the husband lying on the couch saying, "Woman bring me the pretzels."
4. Submit means to put the will of the other ahead of your will. To love is to put the needs of the other ahead of your needs.
5. She submits "as to the Lord." The wife should want to glorify Christ. The desire is love for Christ and a desire to be conformed to his image.
6. Submit does not mean to condone his sin and follow him in sin.

2. The Illustration (5:23-24).

Paul illustrates these truths with the illustration of Christ's love for the church.

1. Note the word "head" in v.23. He loved the church (v. 25), He gave himself for her (v.25); He sanctified her (v. 26); He cleansed her (v. 26); He presented her (v.27); and he provides and cares for her (v.29).
2. The purpose of marriage is procreation and giving glory to God with both husband and wife living under his Lordship.

Next time: Spirit-Filled husbands (5:25-33).

I. Spirit-Filled Wives (5:22-24).

II. Spirit-Filled Husbands (5:25-33).