

A Biblical View of Marriage and Family

June 11th & 12th, 2016

Ephesians 5:21-33

As we look at the teaching of marriage throughout the Bible, we see that this is one of the few established structures that God ordained before the fall of Adam and Eve, which continues to have great purpose today in society. When we apply the biblical teaching of marriage to our lives, we often find out that in its application, there is greater purpose to marriage than we imagine.

Marriage is an institution designed and established by God.

Ephesians 5: 31-32 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

Romans 8:28-29 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

- ❖ In marriage, God is going to use our differences and similarities along with our strengths and weaknesses to make us more like Christ.
- ❖ We are predestined and called to continually grow into the image of Christ.
- ❖ In our selfishness, we seek our own good continually; yet in His divine purpose, marriage is given by God to exercise real love and to help us grow toward Christian maturity.
- ❖ Families are formed by people with many issues who are in need of maturity. When it is understood in a biblical way, marriage and family become the avenue in which God gives us purpose to serve and practice the will of the Lord, not only in regard to our spouse but also with the children that God has entrusted to us.
- ❖ Understanding the sovereignty of God in marriage is vital. If we do, it will transform our perspective. As we see the differences and challenges that exist between ourselves and our spouses, we should ask ourselves, “What is God trying to change in me?”

Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.”

Husband and wife, different individuals with different roles

Ephesians 5:21-24 “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands”

- ❖ Throughout Ephesians 5, it is vital for us to see that the Lord has been addressing how we are to walk as Christians, even submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. But as we get to verse 22, His instruction is now focusing on the character of a believer inside his very home and family.
- ❖ Throughout history, the call for wives to submit to their husbands in marriage has been a challenge, a controversy and abused by many in the church.
- ❖ Often these verses on roles and submission are diminished by liberal teaching, and they are overstressed by legalistic teaching and abusive men in the church.

Matthew 19:3-6 “And Pharisees came up to Him and tested Him by asking, ‘Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?’ He answered, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.’”

- ❖ Jesus is declaring the biblical importance of understanding that, from the beginning, God created us different from one another.
- ❖ The Bible teaches that men and women fulfil different roles in relation to each other, charging man with a unique leadership role. This differentiation is not based on cultural views or norms but on permanent facts of creation. The foundation of this differentiation is traced back to the way things were in Eden before sin warped our relationships.

📖 *1 Corinthians 11:3,8-9*

📖 *1 Timothy 2:11-14*

- ❖ We know that God made Adam first, and then God said: *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”* (*Genesis 2:18*) Adam was the head of his wife before the fall in the garden, and when Eve was deceived by the serpent and Adam did not take responsibility but gave in to sin, God called Adam and made him accountable for their sin in the garden.
- ❖ As a result of the fall, the roles in marriage have caused controversy and abuse.
 - Genesis 3:16 “To the woman He said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’”*
 - Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,”*
 - Ephesians 5:28-29 “In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,”*
- ❖ Godly submission by the wife and godly leadership by the husband are biblical principles that we struggle to establish in our marriages.

“The tendency today is to stress the equality of men and women by minimizing the unique significance of our maleness or femaleness. But this depreciation of male and female personhood is a great loss. It is taking a tremendous toll on generations of young men and women who do not know what it means to be a man or a woman. Confusion over the meaning of sexual personhood today is epidemic. The consequence of this confusion is not a free and happy harmony among gender-free persons relating on the basis of abstract competencies. The consequence rather is more divorce, more homosexuality, more sexual abuse, more promiscuity, more social awkwardness, and more emotional distress and suicide that come with the loss of God-given identity.”¹

- ❖ We stress the importance of understanding that God created both man and woman according to His image and equal before His eyes, and that we are both heirs of the grace of life in Christ. Yet we also ask the question, “If God created us equal but with different roles and responsibilities in marriage, what defines men as men and women as women?”

“At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect women in ways appropriate to man’s differing relationships. At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman’s differing relationships.”¹

God is calling the Church to be rooted in the Bible regarding the issues that are grinding down the core of our families. The biblical foundation of manhood and womanhood will strengthen our marriages, and strong marriages are the core of dynamic families that glorify God.

Endnotes:

¹ Piper, John. *What's the Difference?: Manhood and Womanhood Defined According to the Bible*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1990. Print.

♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.