

Sermon Series: *Identity*

8/9/26, “Happy Marriage,” Eph. 5:21-33

INTRODUCTION

MAIN IDEA: Look to God’s idea of marriage for healthier relationships in the church. How? Here are 2 keys.

I. First, submission is an expression of love (21, 22, 24, 33)

Submit (*hupotasso*): to yield one’s own rights for the sake of another, to help others fulfill their God-given purposes (*Fire Bible*)

- A. We submit to Jesus because we love Him (22)
 - 1. because of His sacrifice, we are drawn to Him
 - 2. we trust Him with our welfare because we know how much He loves us...*He’s proved it*
 - 3. we depend on Him—*submitting to Him*
 - 4. He cleanses, nourishes & cherishes us (26, 29)
- B. Jesus calls wives to submit to their husbands
 - 1. trusting husbands because of the love shown
 - 2. recognizing each has different giftings & abilities
- C. Jesus calls wives to respect their husbands...*helping & honoring them because of responsibility Jesus gives them*

Fear of God (*phobo*, 21): fear, reverence, respect, honor

Respect for husband (*phobeo*, 33): to fear, to reverence, to honor

- D. Caution for wives (& each of us): being contentious

Prov. 21:9, MEV: It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

- E. Encouragement: *God lifts us up [in honor] as we humble ourselves.*

Broader Application: Because I have great respect for Jesus, I seek to do His will (serve Him) and submit to other believers.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, headship is really serving first (23, 25-27)

- A. Jesus sets the example
 - 1. gave Himself for the church
 - 2. sanctified & cleansed the church with the Word
 - 3. causing her to be glorious...*without blemish, holy*
- B. Jesus commands husbands to follow His example
 - 1. to love wife (verb tense indicates continuous or repeated action) as Jesus does the church

“He who loves his wife loves himself” (vs. 28)...*needs her help; she completes him as we together help complete Jesus’ body*

Agape love: serving her in ways best for her, unconditionally

- 2. to nourish & cherish her to help her be all God intends her to be...*by Bible study, prayer together, church; helping her with her needs, her work*
- 3. to lay down his life for her
- 4. to leave parents & be one flesh with her, each looking out for the other’s best

- C. Caution: hindered prayers

1Peter 3:7, MEV: you husbands, live considerately with your wives, giving honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they too are also heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- D. Encouragement: *As we lay down our lives for our wives, they are drawn to us.*

Broader Application: I will sacrifice myself for others in His body, and show respect & kindness for those weaker than I am.

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: