

Husbands and Wives

Ephesians 5:22-27

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Intro

These last three chapters of Ephesians tell us how we should walk, how we should live in response to all that God has done for us. He has seated us with Christ and given us all the spiritual blessings that are behind the name of Jesus, all that God has done for us.

Our response is specific. We should walk worthy of our calling as sons of God; we should be changed because He has given to us what we could never have on our own.

It should change the way we talk to each other, it changes the way we live – we are to put off falsehood and bursts of anger, we are to put off stealing, and have honest work for an honest wage.

But it also affects our marriages. God is the one who invented marriage so it makes sense that He would know how best to have a marriage.

These are insights from Paul for husbands and wives

I. Husbands Submit to the Lord

- There is an authority structure that God has established for families and it begins with God the Father...

Illus – Some want to be politically correct and have two heads in the marriage, but what does that look like?

What if both insisted the other have their way?

A. Demonstrate submission

- The point that Paul makes to husbands is that they should imitate Christ. He is submitted to the Father and we should be submitted to Him.
- There was a centurion with a sick servant whom he loved and so he sent word requesting Jesus to come. He, too, was a man under a authority, and thus he had authority.

Luke 7:7-8, “for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me;”

- Husbands should lead by demonstrating submission to Christ.

Illus – God wanted the king to stay submitted to God...

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 The king shall write down the law.

B. Love your wife as Christ loves the church

- He tells us how to love our wives... in the same way that Christ loves the church.
- How? By giving Himself up for her.

Illus – “Love is what you get after you take all the selfishness away...”

Illus – We have always taught ‘servant-leadership.’ Be a servant—and lead by building consensus.

- The submitted are not bossy. Jesus edifies and builds up and that is the example that we follow.

Illus – in the same way that Christ relates to the church is how we are to relate to our wives.

Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Illus – In other words, be a ‘low-maintenance’ husband.

II. Wives Respect Your Husbands

- Dr. Emerson Eggrichs does a great job of pointing out that God doesn’t command a wife to love her husband.
- He doesn’t have to; it’s already written on her heart.
- But He does command her to respect her husband.

Illus – I remember a couple who came in to talk with me and starting telling me their problems. “I think I know your problem,” I said...”It’s about love and respect...” They were amazed at such insight, yet it’s right there...

A. Be good soil

- I used to really come down hard on husbands and then I realized I was out of balance...

- One of the words for husband in the Greek is ‘**georgos,**’ which means ‘**farmer**’ – one who produces fruit.
- **The farmer then sows the seed** – and the quality of what he sows will determine the fruit that comes up.
- In that picture, then the wife is the soil, she receives the seed that he sows, **but the quality of the soil will also determine the fruit that comes.**
- Jesus taught the parable of the sower and the soils..

Mark 4:1-9, 13-20 The four types of soil.

B. Trust in the Lord with all your heart

- Paul says that this is a result of being filled with the Spirit.
- Respect your husband because you are trusting in the Lord with all your heart.

Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

- The scripture says that wives are to submit to their husbands. This is not politically correct, but it is the way that God established marriages.
- At some point we must come to a decision that we are going to trust that the Lord knows what is right and best for our lives.

Isaiah 55:8-9, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

III. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s Filling

A. The Spirit sanctifies and cleanses

- It’s so important to see that Paul is saying that this is a result of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- “Be filled,” Paul wrote. We do that by praying for it, by asking the Lord.
- But it’s important that there is a desire, that we want the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and clean it up.

Illus – When I was a manager in the restaurant business, one of the things we always dreaded was when the health inspector came to give and inspection...

Some people think of the Lord the same way, but there is a big difference, the Holy Spirit is an inspector, He comes and cleanses and sanctifies.

- One of the ways he does that is through His Word.
- Vs 26 – sanctifying through the Word.

Illus – “This book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this book.”

➤ **Invite Him in; ask for your life to be rebuilt by the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

B. The Spirit builds up and edifies

- If this is a work of the Holy Spirit, then we need to see that the Spirit desires to edify, to build up.
- We need to do the same thing in our marriages.

Illus – Too many people have marriages that remind us of the famous line from Winston Churchill when Lady Astor said, “If I were your wife I would poison your tea...”

- To criticize is easy, but to build up is godly in every way.

Ephesians 4:29-30, Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Conclusion

The result of being filled by the Holy Spirit then is that we are spiritually being a husband or wife; edifying and building up and not tearing down.