

MARRIAGE: BUILDING ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATIONS

August 12, 2012 Ephesians 5:21-33 by Bob Branch
Living Out Our Inheritance In Christ, Part 24

MAIN IDEA: Building a solid foundation for a lasting and engaging Christian marriage from Ephesians 5.

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, [submit yourselves] to your own husbands as [you do] to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. **Ephesians 5:21–33 NIV**

1. The **RIPPLE EFFECT** of Christ’s Work in You!

Do you not realize that **Christ Jesus is in you** 2 Corinthians 13:5 (Col. 1:27)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because **the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.** 1 John 4:4 (John 14:17)

God has moved! (Eph. 1-2)	Live in the Light (5:8-14)
The new self (2:1-10, 15)	Live Wisely (5:15-17)
Live Connected (3:16-17)	Live Spirit-filled (5:18-21)
Live Loved (3:17-19)	Live Submitted-Accountable (5:21)
Live Worthy (4:1)	
Live Together (4:2-16)	
Live Renewed (4:22-24)	
Live Loving (4:2; 4:32-5:2)	

2. The **REVOLUTIONARY** Nature of Christian Marriage.

Not like THEM—all about social status, upward mobility

Not like US—all about romantic love, sexual attraction, & happiness

Not like TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE—rules and roles

“submitting to one another out of fear for Christ.” **Ephesians 5:21**

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—**just as** the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Mt. 20:25-28**

3. The **REFLECTION** of the Gospel in Marriage... it takes the shape of the Gospel as its vision.

The GOSPEL: How God loves and sacrifices, how the church responds, and what it does to us.

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²⁴ as the church submits to Christ

²⁵ just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Holy...

Clean...

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