

HOW THE GOSPEL CHANGES OUR MARRIAGES

Eph. 5:18-33

INTRO:

- **1 Cor. 16:13 – Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.**
 - “Act like men” – What does it mean to act like men?
 - For the answer to this question, we do not look out to the world, but we look in the Word and when we do, we will see:
 - Our gender is not an accident or arbitrary but by Divine design.
 - Our gender is not just for the purposes of reproduction but also for our responsibilities as gospel men and women.
 - Genesis 1-2 – The Pattern for biblical manhood/womanhood
 - Male-female equality – Men and women bear God’s image equally.
 - Male headship:
 - Initiation not domination (leadership but not dictatorship).
 - Primary responsibility but not sole responsibility (partnership w/wife).
 - Genesis 3 – Problems for biblical manhood/womanhood
 - What should we know about Satan’s attacks?
 - He gets us to doubt God so we will distrust God and ultimately disobey God.
 - Ephesians 5 – Some Particulars of biblical manhood/womanhood

PASSAGE IN A SENTENCE: As believers who are filled with the Spirit, we will reveal Christ and His Church to a watching world as we fulfill our God-given marital roles.

THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS ABOUT MARRIAGE

I. MARRIAGE IS FROM GOD

- **As wives who follow the leadership of our husband and help him guide our home in a God-glorifying manner, we have the opportunity and responsibility of revealing the Church’s response to Christ’s leadership.**
 - As women, you are not called to submit to every man in the world, you are only called to submit to your own husband.
 - All commands from God are for our good and our joy, including submission to our husbands.
 - By submission we mean following the lead of our husband and helping him guide our home in a God-glorifying manner.
 - Hopefully, your submission will not just be a responsibility but a response to the sacrificial leadership of your husband.
 - We never follow our husbands to sin.

- We see equality but also different roles in the Trinity.
 - Your submission to Christ and your husband will be an opportunity for the gospel to advance as you fulfill your Kingdom responsibilities in a world focused on rights.
 - Ultimately, a wife's submission is to the Lord.
- **As husbands, we are called to sacrificially love and lead our wives for their greatest good, just as Christ loved the church.**
 - Sacrificial Love (5:25)
 - Sanctifying Love (5:26-27)
 - Protecting Love
 - Providing Love (5:29)
 - Enduring Love (5:31)

II. MARRIAGE IS FOR GOD

- **Why should we fulfill these roles in our homes?**
 - This is God's will for you. (5:17, 25)
 - This is for your benefit too. (5:28)
 - Your marriage is to be a picture of Christ and the Church. (5:32)

III. MARRIAGE IS BY GOD

- He has provided all we need to be Christ-centered husbands and wives. (Eph. 5:18)
- The great hope of the Gospel is that all God expects of us He provides for us in Jesus.
- Ephesians 5 is not calling us to be good wives or good husbands, but gospel wives and gospel husbands.
- Our only hope for living out Ephesians 5:22-6:4 is that we are regenerate believers whom God continually fills with His Spirit (5:18).

