The Mystery of Marriage // Eph. 5:22-33

Main Idea: Husbands and wives have a special role in representing Jesus to each other and the world.

- Wives are called to submit to their husbands:
  - As to the Lord (v 22) = as an act of submission to the Lord
  - As God's appointed authority in the home (v 23)
  - In everything* (v 24) = in all categories
  - By respecting him (v 33)
  - *Submission in marriage doesn't mean:
    - Obeying your husband if it means disobeying God by omission or commission. – Acts 5:29; 1 Samuel 25
    - Suffering in silence in a situation that is unsafe for you or your children. – Acts 22:28; 25:9–12; 1 Samuel 25
  - Submitting to your husband is a sign that you are filled with the Spirit and that you submit to Jesus (Ephesians 5:18-22)
  - Submission is about strength, not weakness: – Proverbs 14:1; John 6:38; Matt 17:27
  - Submission is about faith, not fear – 1 Peter 3:5-6
  - Submission is about respect, not silence – Proverbs 31:26; 1 Samuel 25:1-35
- Husbands are called to love their wives:
  - As Christ loved the church* (v 25)
  - As his own body (v 28)
  - As he loves himself (v 33)
  - Meeting her spiritual needs (v 26-27)
  - Meeting her physical needs (v28-29)
  - Meeting her emotional needs (v 29)
  - Forsaking other relationships to hold fast to her (v 31)
  - Godly authority – Matthew 20:25–28
    - The best way you can lead your wife is by submitting yourself to Jesus.
- As the head of the wife, the husband should:
  - Not domineer his wife – 1 Tim 3:3
  - Not be domineered by his wife – 1 Tim 3:4
- What spouses have in common:
  - Both spouses are to fulfill their role in submission to God.
  - Both spouses are called to die to themselves in marriage, just in different ways.
    - Husbands are called to self-denial by sacrificially loving their wives.
    - Wives are called to self-denial by respectfully submitting to their husbands.
- Gentle Men – Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7
- Gentle Women – 1 Peter 3:4; Proverbs 21:9
- Why this matters:
  - The wife's witness to the world and her husband – Titus 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:1-2
  - Accepting your role shows you understand the gospel:
    - Husbands: sacrificial love shows you understand, appreciate, and experience Jesus's sacrificial love for you (v 25)
    - Wives: submission shows you understand, appreciate, and experience Jesus's lordship in your life (v 22)
  - Accepting your role shows the gospel to the world:
    - Christian marriage displays Christ's relationship with the Church to the world – v 32

Discussion

- How has Scripture changed the way you see marriage?
- Why do you think submission is such an unpopular subject in our society? (Romans 1:21)
- Why do you think submission is so important to God? (Romans 13:1-2; Ephesians 5:21)
- Why is it important for Christian couples to get God's design for marriage right?
- How does fulfilling your role, even if your spouse isn't doing their part, help make you more like Jesus?