

Men and Women in Marriage

Winter Teaching Series 2021 Talk 2

[Ephesians 5:18-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 3:1-7]

The Context of Ephesians 5: Chapters 1-3

4:25-5:2

Introduction

*Ephesians 5:*¹⁸ *And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:*¹⁹ *speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord,*²⁰ *giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*²¹ *submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.*

5:21 The heading for the section

Instructions for wives 5:22-24

*Ephesians 5:*²² *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord,*²³ *because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body.*²⁴ *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.*

'Submit', 'Head' [1 Cor. 11:3]

Wrong meaning (verse 22): The wife must always submit to her husband no matter what.

A wife must not ask questions or think for herself. She must always do what her husband tells her to do, even if he asks her to sin or submit to abuse. If she does not submit to him, then he is allowed to punish her.

Correct meaning (verse 22): A wife chooses to submit. Her husband must not force, pressure or punish her.

The Bible teaches that a wife should freely choose to submit to her husband. It is a gift she gives. A husband must never force or pressure his wife to submit. He must never punish her if she does not submit. If a wife cannot say no, then her submission cannot be free. Sometimes a wife should not submit. She must be free to say no to sin. She should not submit to abuse.

Wrong meaning (verse 23): The husband may do anything he likes.

The husband has all the power, because he is the head. He can do what he wants. He can make all the decisions. He can tell his wife what to do, but she can never tell him what to do. For example, he may demand sex whenever he wants, and she has no right to refuse.

Correct meaning (verse 23): The husband's responsibility is to serve his wife.

"Christ is the head of the Church." This means that he loved us and sacrificed himself for us. A husband must be the head of his wife in the same way. He must do all he can to love and protect her. He must encourage and care for his wife like his own body (Ephesians 5:29-30)

'The Use and Misuse of Scripture with Regard to Domestic Abuse' Sydney Diocesan Doctrine Commission 2018

1 Peter 3:1-6

Instructions to Husbands

*Ephesians 5:*²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her*²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word.*²⁷ *He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.*²⁸ *In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*²⁹ *For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church,*³⁰ *since we are members of his body.*³¹ ***For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.***³² *This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.*³³ *To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.*

1 Peter 3:7 'considerately' – 'according to knowledge'

Col. 3:18-19

v. 31 Genesis 2:24 – the foundation of the analogy

How is this expressed?

How is it sustained?

How is it taught, transmitted?

How is it protected from abuse?

Summary

Reading:

Claire Smith God's Good design Mathias Media 2012

C. John Collins Reading Genesis Well Zondervan 2018

James Hurley Man and Woman in Biblical Perspective IVP 1981

Kevin De Young Men and Women in the Church Crossway 2021

Rachel Gilson Born again this way Good Book, 2020

Sharon James God's design for Women EP Books 2010

'The Use and Misuse of Scripture with Regard to Domestic Abuse' Sydney
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