

BIBLICAL FAMILY IN A MODERN WORLD: His & Her's Part 1ⁱ Ephesians 5:21-33

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning! It is so good to see you guys here this morning. I do want to say a special welcome to those of you that are guests with us this morning. We are so glad that you are here. My name is Chris Wigley, I'm one of the pastors here at Trinity. If you are a guest, we'd love to get to connect with. You can provide information to us by texting the keyword, TBCMP, which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mount Pleasant, to the number 94-000. When you send that keyword, a link will be sent back to you and that will take you to a form that is less 30 seconds to fill out. When you click "submit," it notifies me, and I always look forward to following up with our guests each week.

If text messaging isn't your thing, please swing by our information center located in the fellowship area, right out these doors in the lobby. We have a gift there for you just as a way of saying thank you for being our guest today. Again, we are thrilled you have chosen to worship with us today.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Good morning, Trinity! I'm grateful you have joined us this morning. We are in a teaching series we've called, "A Biblical Family in a Modern World." We are looking at the topics of marriage and family according to God's plan. So far, we have discussed God's design for marriage and what it means to build a godly home. Today we begin a two-part approach to the different roles of husband and wife. In this, the first part, we will be talking about a husband's role in a godly marriage. We are going to be talking to men today.

Now, I want to talk through a few disclaimers upfront before we jump into our study. Foundations for today. First, for you fellas that might be thinking, "Oh no. I come to church and boy did I pick the wrong day. I'm going to feel like a total failure today." Let me just say a couple things to that. One, my heart for this message is that it be an encouragement to us as we seek to be the men God is calling us to be. And two, don't assume this preacher has it all figured out either. I have failed miserably at what we are going to talk about today and have even failed this week. Okay?

I always brace myself for preaching on certain topics. Because I know if I'm going to be preaching on something, I'm going to be tested on that very thing.

So, you have to know that I am coming to you today out of a place of weakness, failure, and learning alongside you.

The second disclaimer I want to mention is that today's message is for everyone. Yes, we're talking to men today, but it applies to everyone. For example, singles in the room, what we are talking about is vital for you to work toward becoming. Single ladies, we will talk through things you should be looking for in a husband. Single men, this is who you need to aim to become because you don't become this once you are married, that's not how it works. You become these things now and you carry them into your marriage.

But also, for wives in the room, my prayer is that this message leads you to your knees in prayer for your husband. We live in a culture that seeks to thwart men from being who God has called us to be. And your husband needs his partner, his bride, to battle in prayer for him. There is a war on biblical manhood in our day and we must seek The Lord's lead in living lives that honor Him.

Third disclaimer. We are going to be in Ephesians chapter 5 this morning. So, take your Bibles and turn there with me. But, as you turn, I want to acknowledge the fact that this chapter might be the most misunderstood in the entire Bible. It talks about wives submitting and husbands leading. Certainly a passage that is misunderstood by our culture.

But it is important to understand the audience that the Apostle Paul is talking to. He's writing to the church in Ephesus. These are believers that have trusted Jesus as Lord. And while what he lays out would be great principles for any marriage, what Paul teaches are the roles within a Christian marriage. Having come under the lordship of Christ, we live and order our lives according to Jesus. And this affects all the ways we live and operate.

So, with that said, let's jump into our study this morning as we look at a message I've entitled, "His and Hers: His Role in a Biblical Marriage."

BACKGROUND TEACHING:

This summer we studied through the book of Ephesians. We intentionally skipped over the second part of chapter 5 because we were going to come back to it today. But I think it is important to give a little bit of a background to remind us of what is going on in Ephesians up to this point.

Chapters 1–3, Paul lays out theological foundations of what it means to be “in Christ.” That phrase is repeated many times in those chapters. Then chapters 4–6, Paul speaks practically. Because we are in Christ, we live differently.

In chapter 4, Paul talks about putting on the new self. We are a new creation in Christ. And we relate to each other differently because we are in Christ. Chapter 5 teaches that we are to walk in step with the Holy Spirit and that affects the way to operate in our marriage and our family.

Now, another thing important to realize is that when Paul was writing this letter, he didn’t include chapter and verses.ⁱⁱ So, when we come to the section of husbands and wives, we shouldn’t take it as a separate thought. It is a continuation of being in Christ, walking according to the Spirit. Paul is focusing on walking in the Spirit and is saying, “Let me share with you how this works in and affects marriage.” We have dynamic marriages because The Spirit of God is guiding us. That’s the context.

So, let’s read, beginning in verse 21, as that sets the stage for understanding the whole chapter. *²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵**Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.***

MESSAGE:

As people surrendered to Christ, we submit to one another. That plays out in marriage by the wife respecting her husband and the husband loving his wife.

Now, I know we read the word, “submit,” that that is not understood by our culture. And wives, we are going to talk about your role next week. But I will say this. Men, I believe our wives will have zero issue respecting us when we love her well. This is why we are beginning the discussion of roles by addressing men. Paul addresses women first, but I’m convinced that men that love their wives as Christ loves the church, will make it easy for wives to play their role. There is actually a freedom in that kind of relationship.

So, there are two main aspects that Paul teaches about a man’s role in a Christian marriage: headship and love. That’s what we are going to talk through this morning. First, let’s begin by talking about the idea of...

1) Headship.

Look again at verse 23. *²³For the husband is the **head** of the wife even as Christ is the **head** of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* Husbands, here, are given the role of headship. The question is, what does headship mean?

Let me tell you what it’s not. Headship is not lording over someone. Headship and submission are not about subjugation and oppression.ⁱⁱⁱ Headship, rather, is all about responsibility. And God has placed the responsibility of the welfare of the family on husbands. As we observe culture, I believe, in general, men have abdicated the role of responsibility and headship. That has resulted in a society that is spiraling out of control. We need godly men, husbands and dads, to rise up and take on what God has called us to be. Yes, it’s a challenge. Yes, it’s difficult and a lot of responsibility. But it is what God has called us to.

Let me give you a biblical example of headship. In the Garden of Eden, God made Adam and Eve, and all was well until the serpent came. God said they could eat of any fruit except for the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, the serpent tempted Eve, she ate the fruit and then gave some to Adam. Scripture says their eyes were opened and they hid.

Let’s pick up the story in Genesis 3:8. *⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God **called to the man** and said to him [to the man], “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were*

naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." This is headship in action.

Notice who God addressed about the situation? Adam, the husband. And the conversation occurred between God and Adam. He was responsible for his family, and he had failed. This is biblical headship.

Now, notice what Adam does. He deflects responsibility. The Woman You gave me. I'm out of this, God. Oh no, you're not. This is on you, Adam. Headship.

I want you to follow me here. Back in Genesis chapter 2, verse 15, the Bible says that God put Adam in the Garden and told the man that he could eat of any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But notice who was not on the scene yet, Eve. God had revealed it to Adam and while he obviously communicated it to Eve, because she communicated it to the serpent, it was first given to Adam. Therefore, Adam was ultimately responsible.

Fellas, this passage highlights that we are to be spiritual leaders in our homes. And in so doing, we must take responsibility for our families. It is this position in the home that God has called us to, and we cannot shirk our responsibility.

And understand, this has nothing to do with value, but everything to do with role. Adam and Eve were of equal value to God, both made in the image of God, but different in role.^{iv} And I believe that when we, as men, rise up and take responsibility of our families, not only will our families be blessed, but our society will be blessed as well.

So, the first thing Paul says is that men in the home bear the responsibility of headship. The second thing Paul teaches is that men are to...

2) Love like Jesus.

These are three words that will change your life, your marriage, and even change your wife and your family.^v And these three words show up 4 times, either directly or indirectly, during our passage of study. And the lynch pin verse is verse 25 of Ephesians 5. Paul says, "²⁵Husbands, **love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.**" We are to love like Jesus.

And this begs the question, "How did Jesus love the Church?" I want to make mention of four major ways that we see how Jesus loved the church and how these examples serve as practical ways husbands can love their wives like Jesus. And again, men, when we love like Jesus, our wives will gladly respect us. First, we love like Jesus when we...

A) Serve Her.

Jesus was a servant leader. His entire life was spent serving others, but ultimately serving The Church, those that would place their faith in Jesus as Lord. Perhaps the greatest example of Jesus serving His disciples was when He washed their feet. Taking the role of a servant, Jesus bent down and washed the feet of His disciples. And in that passage, in John 13, Jesus said in verse 15, "*For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*" Listen, loving our wives means that husbands take the role of serving her.

How do you go about serving your wife? We serve our wives when we love them with a singular focused love. Paul says in verse 25, "Husbands, love YOUR wives."

The only thing, men, you are married to is your wife. You are not married to your job, to your hobbies, or to your friends. You are married to your wife. Therefore, we need to prioritize serving her above those other things. And notice it's not someone else's wife. It's YOUR wife. We love our wives when we serve them, and we serve them when we focus on them. Secondly, ...

B) Sacrifice for Her.

We love like Christ when we sacrifice for her. Paul points out the sacrifice Jesus made. Verse 25. ²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her.*** Jesus gave his life, on the cross, for the church. We, in the same way, are to give our lives up for our wives.

The best biblical example I can think of is Philippians 2. Beginning in verse 1, it says, "¹*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, **having the same love,** being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others [or count your wife as] *more significant than yourselves.* ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others [or your wife].*

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Jesus set aside His life in glory and laid down His life for us. He put our need as His primary focus.

Now, sacrificing for your wife doesn't mean just being willing to die for her. I would hope we would all be willing to do that for our wives. But it means that we daily put her needs above our needs. It means that in decisions we make we give her needs and preferences more weight than our own. Where can you sacrifice for your wife?

I have to be honest here. It's a struggle for me. It is very apparent that I can be a selfish person. That's probably the case for all of us. But when we are willing to sacrifice our wants and desires and put our wives needs ahead of our own, it models the same love Christ shows toward us.

So, we are to serve her and sacrifice for her. Thirdly, we are to...

C) Invest in Her.

Not only do we love our wives by serving them and sacrificing for them, but by investing spiritually in them. Look at verse 26 of Ephesians 5. *²⁶that he might **sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.*** The words sanctify and washing with the word are terms referencing sanctification. That is a giant theological word that means growing to be like Jesus. Jesus loved the church this way and we are to love our wives this way. That means our wives' spiritual development should be a priority for us.

The trend, though, is that wives come to church apart from their husbands. Now, I know there are many different reasons for that, I'm not trying to meddle there. But if we are just outsourcing our spiritual development to the church then we are failing at loving our wives in that way.

You might say, "Well, I'm not that knowledgeable of the Bible." I understand. I have a master's degree in theology, and I don't fully understand the Bible. However, we can concern ourselves with our wives' spiritual development. Ask spiritual questions. When you read a verse, discuss it. I don't think Paul is

saying that you have to help her get a seminary degree. No. But we need to be concerned about our family's spiritual development and growth.

So, we love our wives like Christ loved the church by serving her, sacrificing for her, and investing in her. The fourth way we love our wives like Christ loved the church is to...

D) Sustain Her.

Love for our wives must be a permanent love.^{vi} In verse 31, Paul quotes both the Old Testament and Jesus. Look at it with me. *³¹Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* *³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* The becoming one flesh is a permanent deal. Jesus never leaves nor abandons the church, and in the same way we must love our wives with a permanent, consistent love.

Even the way Paul writes this passage grammatically communicates this truth. When he says, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loves the church," he is using a word that describes the highest kind of love. It is the word, agape. That is not a friendship love nor an erotic love, but an unconditional love.

But more than just the word itself, it is an action verb that is present active imperative.^{vii} Imperative that it is a command, we are to love our wives this way. Present active in that it is ongoing. Paul's instruction is that we love our wives actively with a permanent unconditional love.

There are way more examples of how Jesus loved the church, but these main four are vital. We love our wives by serving her, sacrificing for her, investing in her spiritually, and sustaining her with a permanent love.

3) Responding to our Role^{viii}

There are three different ways, fellas, we can respond to the biblical presentation of our role in loving our wives. I have at times responded in all three ways.

Some men refuse to take on their responsibility. Adam did that when he passed blame to Eve and God Himself. He cowered in the moment he needed to lead. When we do this, we accept a position as boys, not as men. Some refuse their role.

Some men abuse their role. Instead of leading in love, they lead in fear. This is the abuse of the position of headship in order to be controlling. The position God has called us to is leadership, not dictatorship. Some men refuse and some men abuse their role.

Thirdly, wise men choose the role. As imperfect as we will ever be, wise men hear the challenge and work toward being who it is that God has called us to be.

CONCLUSION:

I'm going to ask Micah and the team to come back up and lead us in a time of response. Fellas, which will you choose? It is vital that we learn to play the role God has asked us to play. Our wives will benefit, our families will benefit, and our world will benefit.

But here's the deal. Playing this role affectively is impossible apart from the personal relationship with and dependence on Jesus. You cannot love like Christ if you don't have Christ. And you can't love with Jesus when you don't walk with Him. So, the question is have you trusted Jesus as Lord? That's where this journey begins.

We will have elders at the front that will be ready to received you and visit with you about what it means to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. Maybe you have questions about following Jesus or you are ready to trust in Jesus. Simply take us by the hand and say three words, "I need Jesus." That's it! And we would love to visit with you on what that looks like.

Maybe men, you've trusted Jesus, but you would acknowledge that you are not walking with Him. Maybe your response today is a commitment to following Him. How cool would it be if this altar was flooded with men asking God to stir in their hearts in a powerful way. Listen, none of us are perfect, but it begins when we make a commitment to follow Jesus in this way.

I'm going to pray, we will stand and sing, but let's respond to the prompting of The Lord upon our hearts this morning. [PRAY]

ENDNOTES:

ⁱ Works consulted in preparation for this message: John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians*, Moody Press: Chicago, 1986; Klyne Snodgrass, *The NIV Application Commentary: Ephesians*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1996; Connor Bales and Todd Kaunitz, *Gospel in the Home: Turning Chaos Back into Order*, Houston: Lucid Books, 2016; Charles R. Swindoll, *The Strong Family*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1991; Jerry Pipes, *Building A Successful Family*, LifeWay: Nashville, 2002; Al Janssen, *The Marriage Masterpiece: A Bold New Vision for Your Marriage*, Tyldale: Wheaton, 2001; Skip Heitzig, *Smart Home: Following the Blueprint: A Husband's Love*, sermon preached at Calvary Church Albuquerque, August 19, 2018, accessed online: <https://calvarynm.church/connectwithskip/teachings/#/series/30/sermon/262>; J.D. Greear, *Love Incorruptible: God's Laboratories*, sermon preached at Summit Church, March 19, 2017, accessed online: <https://summitchurch.com/message/gods-laboratories>; Jack Graham, *All in the Family*, sermon preached at Prestonwood Baptist Church, April 29, 2018, accessed online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6CT_FRXgJc; Michael Youssef, *Marriage The Way God Intended It: Leadership is the Husband's Role*, published by Leading The Way, accessed online: <https://www.ltw.org/listen/teaching/series/marriage-the-way-god-intended-it/part-2>; Vance Pitman, *Family Matters: Be Subject to One Another*, sermon preached at Hope Church Las Vegas, August 18, 2019, accessed online: <https://hopechurchlv.com/messages/be-subject-to-one-another-pt-2/>.

ⁱⁱ Vance Pitman pointed this out.

ⁱⁱⁱ Janssen, page 152.

^{iv} Pointed out by Bales and Kaunitz, page 34.

^v Quip adapted from Jack Graham.

^{vi} Pointed out by Skip Heitzig.

^{vii} <http://misselbrook.org.uk/Parsing.aspx?PNum=11450>.

^{viii} This section was taken from Connor Bales and Todd Kaunitz, *Gospel in the Home*, pages 35-37.