

January 5, 2024
Ephesians 5:22-33
“Love And Respect” old fashioned teachings in a new fangled world

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Contrary to today’s standards, “submission” is not a curse word! Submission does not mean inferiority of the wife. She simply recognizes that her husband is the head of household. She is to respond to him accordingly without usurping his authority to herself. Now for the husband’s part. A command is issued, husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church. For the record, Jesus loved the church so much that He gave His life for the church, husband, love your wife likewise. This word “love” in this context is the word, “agapaō” meaning seek the highest good for another person, **verse 24**. This kind of love is unselfish. With this kind of love a man will have no desire to lord his position over the precious wife that the Lord has given him to love and cherish. This makes for a beautiful mixture of harmonious partnership in marriage.

As Christ gave Himself for His church, husbands, love your wives as your own body/flesh.

In submitting to the headship of the husband, the wife is thereby obeying the Lord who has sanctioned the marriage covenant. This pastor sees marriage as a covenant between a man, a woman, and God. We are free to walk away from our covenant relationship only because of the hardness of our hearts, see **Matthew 19:8**. God is the ultimate example for believers to follow, He never breaks His covenants. Do likewise.

Genesis 2:24. “The marriage tie takes precedence over every other human relationship and for this reason is to be regarded as inviolable.” *A. Skevington Wood*

“It is because of this exalted biblical view of marital relations that the church has taken its stand on the indissolubility of the marital bond and the impermissibility of polygamy, adultery, or divorce. *A. Skevington Wood*

“Paul does as Jesus himself did (**Matt. 19:8; 22:29**): he goes back to the beginning, to the Scriptures, to the institution of marriage itself. The doctrine and the ethics there established for marriage stand for all time, they were approved by Jesus and by his apostles as being valid also for the New Testament time.” *R. C. H. Lenski*

The word “homemaker” is a wonderful description of the woman who chooses to stay at home with her children to raise and to teach them. I have come to the point that I am not even comfortable with the idea of a Christian school at a church. Homeschool!

God has given wives the responsibility/privilege of being the homemaker, see **Proverbs 31:10-31; Titus 2:3-5**. Dads go to work to make it work. It is his responsibility/privilege to be the leader, provider, and protector of the home, see our passage today and check out; **I Peter 3:7; I Timothy 5:8**. There are always cases that make this impossible at any given time. Do all you can to change those circumstances. Example, too many bills for Mom to quit her job, sell something, relocate, etc. Sometimes it is not that simple, your circumstances are beyond your control, seek out godly counsel, from that point on, ignore the world’s ways and

do things God's way, He will honor your efforts to please Him. To have a godly home is a blessing to all who enter the door of that home. Entrust your family to God's ways.

No institution can function properly without authority and submission. This includes: government, church, and the home. Imagine driving if there were no speed limits for example! Families are the building blocks of society. As the family goes, so goes everything else. For example, homes with absentee fathers are at greater risk for heartache. This group of kids are at greater risk to: drop out of school, end up in prisons, or worse in early graves, commit crimes, become pregnant as teens, become addicts, or face neglect and abuse. There are many source references to verify these findings on the web. The family being run God's way will still have its ups and downs because of sin; but over all it will flourish. A God centered family or a family living by worldly standards. You decide. Christ loved the church and **gave** Himself for her. Guys, love your wives, gals, respect your husbands see **Ephesians 5:33**.

In a perfect world man was to be the head of the woman, remember Adam and Eve?

When people go into a house to look it over in consideration of purchasing it, they may say, this is dated, it's got to go for me to be happy with it. Cannot do that with marriage and expect God's blessing on that marriage. God's things, God's way.

Application:

The Bible speaks to the issues of our day, the fact that we don't like what it has to say does not render it irrelevant. The Bible does not need to be changed, our culture needs to be brought in line with the Bible. Gleaned from *David Jeremiah*

Recommended reading: *Love & Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggeriches ISBN 978-1-59145-187-7

For those who would like to better understand this pastor's position on divorce and remarriage, there is an article available on the stand at the back of the church by John Piper entitled, *Divorce and Remarriage, A Position Paper* One per family please.