

WHEN MARRIAGE GOES RIGHT

God designed marriage to reflect the relationship between Christ/Church. In this way, a Biblical marriage brings glory to God.

Ephesians 5:22-33

- **Christ is the head of the Church/Husband is head of wife**
 - How does Christ lead? By Force?
 - *Not to be served, but to serve- to give life a ransom for many*
 - If man- exercezes leadership in Christ's example
 - Wife will not resent it- serves/meets her needs- worthy of respect
 - Head of House- does not mean superior to/power over: RESPONSIBILITY
- **Church is subject to Christ/Wife is subject to Husband**
 - Subject to- does not mean servitude
 - Means the two understand how to work together
 - Marriage- can't constantly be pulling in opposite directions
 - Two become one- problem is usually decided which one
- **V 25- Christ gave himself up for Church: THIS IS WHAT ITS GOING TO TAKE**
 - Men- out to be willing to die for their wives
 - Die to our ego's, selfishness, insecurities
 - No longer "I"- but "us"
 - Every decision: made in will of God, in best interest of your family

V28-30: Nourish/Take care of

- **How does Christ nourish/take care of the Church?**
 - Attendance: we need motivation/function as a body
 - Giving: commitment, trust, be a giver, detachment from world
 - Sing Praises: we need to praise his greatness, teaches humility
 - Study: I need to understand/stay grounded
 - Lord's Supper: I need to proclaim/remember
- **All in our best interest: we benefit from every part of it**
 - So- faithfulness, honor/respect on our part shouldn't be difficult
- **Husbands: Make sure your family is provided for**
 - Children need discipline
 - Family needs structure- spiritual nourished

- **Statistics show: family will follow the father spiritually**
 - If Mother becomes Christian: 17% chance family join her
 - If Father: 93% chance the family joins him
 - If Mom/Dad are consistency faithful: 75% children continue to be as well
 - If Mom is faithful, dad is not: 2% of children show consistency in their Christianity as adults.
 - If Mom/Dad consistency faithful: 75% children continue in their example

One Lord- One Church- One Spouse

- Wife- not wives, and husband- not husbands
 - Marriage: one woman/one man
- Christian- One Lord, and One Church (*Eph. 4:4*)

V 27- No Spot or Wrinkle

- Scripture is clear: any sexual activity outside of marriage is sin
- Husband and Wife belong to one another and forsake all others
 - Not just physically- but mentally/emotionally as well
- As Christians: we must abstain from even the appearance of evil

Evangelism:

- From the beginning, the intention of marriage was to be fruitful/multiply
 - Marriage is most fulfilling with children
- The intention of the Church is to go out and make disciples
 - There is nothing more fulfilling in our relationship with the Lord than being engaged in the work of spreading the Gospel.

Faithfulness:

- We understand faithfulness in the Church because we understand it in relationship to a husband and a wife.
- Faithfulness doesn't mean "every now and then", or "at least their hearts in the right place"
- When we became a Christian- we took some vows
 - We surrendered ourselves, and made Jesus Christ the Lord of our life
 - Faithfulness to that vow- is an everyday thing