

MODERN MARRIAGE

PART 1

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy...

(continued...)

...cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body.

(continued...)

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-33

The Meaning of Marriage

The Unity of Marriage

The Reality of Marriage

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:31

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:24-25

Marriage Is a Covenant:

A permanent and personal binding commitment
you make to another person.

Marriage Vows:

“I promise and covenant, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful husband/wife. I choose to love you in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to serve you as Christ commands. All that I am, all that I have, I give to you as long as we both shall live.”

“Destructive to marriage is the self-fulfillment ethic that assumes marriage and the family are primarily institutions of personal fulfillment, necessary for us to become ‘whole’ and happy. The assumption is that there is someone just right for us to marry and that if we look closely enough we will find the right person. This moral assumption overlooks a crucial aspect to marriage. It fails to appreciate the fact that we always marry the wrong person.

(continued...)

We never know whom we marry; we just think we do. Or even if we first marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage, being [the enormous thing it is] means we are not the same person after we have entered it. The primary problem is... learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married."

Stanley Hauerwas

“As long as my spouse is meeting my needs, then I stay. But if the costs go up and the rewards go down, I bolt. And if a better alternative comes along, I’m gone. So there’s always a threat to the marriage, and couples are always asking, ‘How happy is this [marriage] making me?’”

Rachel Combe, “Till Whatever Do Us Part”

The purpose of marriage is not personal satisfaction; the Bible says the purpose of marriage is personal sanctification.

Marriage is not about your happiness as much as it's about your holiness.

“Today you are young and very much in love and you think that your love will sustain your marriage. It won’t. But your marriage can sustain your love!”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The legal bond of marriage [covenant] creates a space of security where we can open up and reveal our true selves. We can be vulnerable, no longer having to keep up facades. We don’t have to keep selling ourselves. We can lay the last layer of our defenses down and be completely naked, both physically and in every other way.”

Timothy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*