

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- **1 + 1 = 1** >>> may not get someone an A in Math Class, but IS an accurate description of God’s intention for the marriage relationship. A man and woman join themselves together (leave, cleave & weave together) in the covenant of marriage and they become ONE.
- Marriage & The family is the basic building block of every institution or social unit.
- If the family deviates, then it’ll affect everything else (church, government, business, health). The family is unique and irreplaceable in God’s program!
- Prov 14.23 = IN ALL LABOR THERE IS PROFIT. >> this is true in marriage.
- Good and God honoring relationships in marriage just don’t automatically happen.
- Holy & happy marriages are the result of diligent, dedicated, consistent and Bible-based work on the part of both the husband & wife. **But Wayne Mack affirms: in marriage: you’ll need diligent work. It won’t be easy. It’ll take time, effort, serious thought and reflection, painful examination, confession & repentance, honest evaluation. But you will receive great benefit & blessing in so doing!**

Today many are unhappy, unfulfilled, unsure, uncommitted marriages. And, it may be that many are uninterested in their MARRIAGES.

MANY in marriages have lost hope
MANY in marriages have bottled-up guilt/shame
MANY in marriages have stale feelings
MANY in marriages have misplaced priorities
MANY in marriages have child-centered homes
MANY in marriages have extinct or chilled romance
MANY in marriages have unmet expectations/unfulfilled desires

➡ *The God of hope BURSTS in – He invades, He enters, with power and plan and pleasure in marriage...*

• **SIMPLE OBSERVATIONS FROM GENESIS 1-2 on God’s original design & purpose for marriage:**

- ✓God created man in His image [Gen 1.26-27]— personality, communicative, emotion
- ✓God designed gender: Male and Female [Gen 1.27].
- ✓God told the man and the woman to be fruitful & multiply [Gen.1.28]
- ✓God provided a helper for Adam [Gen 2.18]
- ✓God gave Adam headship & authority over the woman [Gen 2.18-23; 1 Cor 11.3]
- ✓Man was to love, work, protect, nurture & enjoy his wife [Gen 2.15-17; 2.23-24]

- ✓God designed sex to be enjoyed with deep knowledge & no shame (pre-fall!) [Gen 2.24-25; 4.1]
- ✓All God-honoring sexual relations must occur within the covenant of marriage alone [Gen 2.24; Prov 2.16-17]
- ✓The first & foundational institution that God ever designed is heterosexual, monogamous, permanent marriage [Gen 2.23].
- ✓Marriage is a mystery that points to the greater marriage of Christ & His Church [Eph 5.31-32].

So marriage must be **primary** and **exclusive** and **permanent** relationship!

- **Marriage is: a covenant between one man & one woman for life. It is a man leaving father & mother & being joined to his wife & become one flesh” >> Thus, a total commitment and a total sharing of the total person with another person until death (Wayne Mack).**

- ****ALL THIS BRINGS US TO OUR DIRE NEED FOR JESUS CHRIST**

- you must be **right** with God (EPH 1-3) — *saved*
- you must be **filled** with Spirit (EPH 5.18) — *sanctified*
- you must be **obedient** to Scripture (EPH 4.1-3) — *submissive*
- you must be **willing** to work (EPH 5.25) — *serious!*

- **When it comes to marriage — a few hooks:**

1. YOUR **PURPOSE** must be *the glory of God*
 1. the home must first be *god centered*, and then *revolving around dad & mom and never the kids*.
2. YOUR **HOPE** must be *the gospel of grace*.
3. YOUR **HOME** must be *the local church*
 1. >woefully neglected in the marriage material.
 2. the local church is the home for Christian marriage.
 3. Sanctification is a community project. The Marriage maturation & union & growth is a community project (in the church)
4. YOUR **POWER** must be *the filling of the Spirit*
 - No wonder Lloyd Jones preached on Eph 5-6 and called this series: “Life in the Spirit” — all interpersonal relationships can only survive and thrive *in so far as you’re **INDWELT BY** (savingly) and **FILLED WITH** (continually) the Spirit!*
 - >> So you are to read ALL of the interpersonal relational material with 5:15-20 **RINGING IN YOUR EAR.**

This is about your SPECIFIC ROLE

THE ROLES THAT GOD has given for man and woman // husband and wife

1. it is not cultural, but it is **biblical**.
2. it is not a response to our worst, but the reflection of **God’s best**.
3. it is not temporary and changing; but **timeless & unchanging** given

4. it is not confusing and muddy; but **clear & spelled** out.

a sermon for everyone — For you who are SINGLE. For you who are YOUNGER. For you KIDS. For you DIVORCED/WIDOWED. For you IN MARRIAGE.

For you? (1) prayer; (2) accountability; (3) implement;

THESIS — What is God’s design? What’s His plan? How’s marriage to work, to function? What are YOU to do in your relationship? *This morning God gives His plan to you...!*

1. Christian wife! Submit to your husband in all things (22-24)
2. Christian husband! Love your wife as Christ loved the church (25-32)

I. CHRISTIAN WIFE! SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBAND IN ALL THINGS (22-24)

- A. What is the Christian wife to *be and to do*? Whatever man she’s married to, however he acts and responds and lives, *what are YOU to do*? How are you to live, think, obey God?
- B. **I’m reminded of** = the wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down (PROV 14.1). >> Here is the woman’s choice = you can either be wise or foolish. You can be discerning and build your house. But the foolish woman is destructive, neglectful, selfish, self-centered and she tears down & overthrows her house (and her marriage).

C. The Exhortation

✚ God Calls you to **Submit** to your own husband (22-24)

1. The **Definition** of submission — the heart-sourced and deliberate placing oneself under the authority that God has put over you.

SUBMISSION IS ****NOT****>>

1. not a concept for women only (Rom 13.1)
2. not meaning that she’s a slave (Prov 31)
3. not meaning she’s a doormat/unimportant/silent
4. not meaning she’s inferior/less-valuable (1 Cor 11.3)

What Submission IS: a good thing! = what it calls for:

1. she must make herself submissive
 2. it is to be continuous
 3. it is commanded, not optional
 4. it is a spiritual matter
 5. it is a positive, God-Blessed concept
 6. it involves the heart-attitude (not actions only)
2. The **Motivation** of Submission - as to the LORD — her willful placing of herself under the authority of her husband *must be like* she places herself under the authority of her Lord. AND, her relationship of submission to her husband **will directly affect** her relationship with her Lord. ***they go together; they affect one another!***
 3. The **Illustration** of Submission - v.23 - “FOR” — the church is subject to Christ — the Church is subject to (obedient to, under authority) to Jesus Christ. He is “**head**” over the Church.

4. The **Proportion** of Submission — v.24b - in everything —in every area of life (not sinful demands, of course); in all things: the husband leads & makes the final call & the wife is called to heartfully & obediently & uncomplainingly submit.
 - ✦God calls you to **RESPECT** your own husband (33) — with great awe, honor!
 - a) profound respect with a great fear of offending or dishonoring him!
- D. Wives: you are also his “Suitable helper” (Gen 2.18) and you’re the gift of God to *complete* him. >>> **Not** to compete with him **but** to complete him!
- E. **The Empowerment**
 1. you must be filled with the Spirit (EPH 5.18, 21)
 2. EPH 1-3 must be true!
- F. **The Enjoyment**
 1. This is God’s design — it’s clear, it’s best, it’s enjoyable, it’s other-worldly (not of this world); it’s gospel-preaching.
 2. This isn’t an opinion editorial in the latest news column. This is God’s glorious & good design! It’s good, it’s best, it’s God-given, it’s *for your JOY & God’s Glory!*

1.Christian wife! Submit to your husband in all things (22-24)

II. CHRISTIAN HUSBAND! LOVE YOUR WIFE AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH! (25-33)

- A. Addressing the wife’s role comprises 3 verses. The husband’s role takes up 9 verses! & A lot of repetition too! *The Bible is *entirely sufficient**, clear, reliable, trustworthy. It calls you, men to **work**, to **humble self**, to **lead**. to **love**, to ***DIE***. >> *Die to self!*
- B. **The exhortation** — God calls you to **love** your wife (25-32)
 1. The **Duty** to love - husbands, ‘love...’ (25) — he doesn’t say “force” or “dominate” or “control”. No condition: “IF she does this, then...” >> The main imperative is to **Love**. All that a husband is to be and do can be summed up in this one *expansive & pregnant verb: LOVE. As tree branches come from the trunk so all of a husband’s conduct should flow out of LOVE.*
 2. The **Example** of love - as Christ loved the Church (26) — *how?* CONSIDER THE LOVE OF CHRIST >> The path to Christian leadership in the home is always THE WAY OF THE CROSS, the PATH OF CHRIST.
 - 1.an unconditional — free love (Rom 5.8)
 - 2.a volitional love [intentional] (Deut 7.7)
 - 3.an intense love (John 13.1)
 - 4.an unending love (Rom8.39; Jer 31.3)
 - 5.an unselfish love (Phil 2.6-7)
 - 6.a purposeful love (Eph.5.26-27)
 - 7.a sacrificial love (1 Pet 3.18)
 - 8.a manifested love (Heb.4.14-16)
 - 9.a knowledgeable love (John 10.27; 1 Pet 3.7)
 3. The **Purpose** of love (to sanctify; to present; to make her holy/blameless) (26-27)

- a) your goal is not to *get* but to *give*. Your ambition is to *sanctify* and to *purify* and to make her spotless and holy IN THE WORD. Your purpose *to make your wife holy*
4. The **Sacrifice** of love - to love wife as you already love yourself (28-30)
- a) so you “ought” — your obligation, responsibility, duty, task, assignment, mission.
- b) as your own body >> SO HOW DO YOU already, daily, thoughtfully care for yourself and your own needs? So, husband, DO THAT to your wife!
5. The **Master-Plan** of love - your marriage is a mystery > to point to Christ’s gospel (31-32). Marriage is a mystery: not known that it *is a microcosm* of the great *macrocosm* relationship of Christ & the Church. **Only a believer understands marriage.**
- a) Your marriage is a walking GOSPEL-SERMON for ALL people to see
1. how you **communicate** preaches the gospel
 2. how you **forgive** preaches the gospel
 3. how you **serve** preaches the gospel
 4. how you **protect** preaches the gospel
 5. how you **rejoice** preaches the gospel
 6. how you **worship** preaches the gospel
 7. how you **show affection** preaches the gospel
 8. how you **remain exclusive** preaches the gospel
 9. how you **spend money** preaches the gospel
 10. how you **honor one another** preaches the gospel
- C. **The WORD also teaches, husbands,** that you are to love and LEAD your wife (Eph 5.23) and you are to LEARN your wife (1 Pet 3.7). You are to be a selfless servant (Mark 10.45) and provide and protect her (John 10).
- D. **The empowerment**
1. filled with the Spirit
 2. fueled with Gospel glory
 3. fixated upon Christ’s love
 4. fervent in exclusive passion
- E. **the ENJOYMENT**
1. this is the blueprint for a happy and holy home.

Some practical questions for you couples to reflect on *together*:

- ➔ talk thru the THINGS THAT PROMOTE ONENESS in your marriage
- think of the barriers/ roadblocks to oneness in your marriage.
 - Young couples – have you REALLY, and FULLY left your parents? Are you following your parents’ example of handling stress, reacting to people, facing problems, decision making, etc. IS your spouse YOUR number one priority in LIFE?? >> ask your spouse what he/she thinks.
- ➔ ARE YOU committed to your spouse? How do you react to their weakness, failures, needs, problems, faults? Does your treatment/behavior depend on their performance? Can you say: I am my beloved’s & my beloved is mine? Ask your spouse?
- ➔ What are the strengths of YOUR marriage? >> What are the weaknesses of YOUR marriage **RIGHT NOW?**

- Make a list of things that you should avoid, or change to maintain a good marriage. Talk thru it together; share your heart; draw each other's heart. Die to self.
- **IN ONE SENTENCE = DESCRIBE YOUR MARRIAGE.** >>> ask your spouse!

The end goal of all this is: **desperation + dependence.**

◆ **DESPERATION - God I *Need* you!**

◆ **DEPENDENCE - God I *Lean* on you!**

The biggest problem in marriage is Sin.

The ultimate solution is the GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST.

Marriage is not some mere social invention but is rooted in the Lordship and glory and plan of Jesus Christ, HE is gracious and you can thus have great hope for your marriage.

Where do you turn when marriage is difficult?

alcohol? hunting? work? money? Porn? A new woman? Apathy?

NO! These are wrong & sinful.

- LOOK TO JESUS CHRIST. Come to Calvary! Savor the Savior!
- Marriage is intended to POINT us to the Redeemer! and Rescuer of marriage!

John Winthrop knew this.

A puritan pastor — lost his wife Mary (of 10 years) in childbirth to the 6th child. Had 4 kids & lost 2 more.

He married Thomasine - she got pregnant but both the child & Thomasine died.

He then remarried a woman named Margaret.

- He rejoiced in the wife that God gave him. He loved his Savior & he loved his wife. In fact, the love of the Savior taught him how to love his wife. And his affections for his wife taught him about his Savior as the ultimate Bridegroom!
- He knew his marital love was a great blessing to his soul as he considered Christ's love for him.
- On one such occasion he meditated on Christ and was "so ravished with Christ's great love towards him, far exceeding the affection of the kindest, best husband, that being awakened," he said, this gave him "a more lively, energetic and fervent passion of the love for Christ than ever before." ***Men: Our love for our SAVIOR should show itself in our love for our wives!***
 > this is what marriage is to do - in suffering, in hardship, in joys, in afflictions, in difficulties, in life together > ***to point to, to remind us of, to demonstrate the great love of Jesus Christ for US!***

So the summary:

husband: love your own wife even as yourself.

wife: see to it that you respect your husband. ***More next time.***