**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Magnificent Marriage |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Ephesians 5:22-31 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1181 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Ephesians 5 is a classic passage of Scripture dealing with the relationship of husbands and wives.
   2. There are many today who have miserable marriages.
   3. There are others who have mediocre marriages.
      1. They are making it through, but the glow of God is not upon that marriage.
   4. The Bible teaches that we could have and should have a magnificent marriage.
   5. Marriage is meant to be a very wonderful thing.
      1. The Bible says that marriage is honorable in all.
         1. Hebrews 13:4
      2. Solomon said that whoever finds a wife finds a good thing.
         1. Proverbs 18:22
   6. The devil has worked to do all that he can do to destroy homes.
      1. He has a five-fold plan:
         1. He wants to dethrone God in the minds of men to a mere superstition.
         2. He wants to debase man.
            1. If there is no God, then man is nothing but an animal.

This is called humanism.

* + - 1. He wants to deny Christian morals.
         1. If man is but a higher form of the animals, then why can he not live as animals live?

Animals live for self-gratification, self-propagation, and self-preservation.

This is what the average person is living for today.

He has an animalistic desire.

* + - 1. He wants to destroy homes.
         1. If there is no basic morality, then there is nothing to hold the home together.
      2. He wants to dominate the world.
         1. If the home goes, then society goes.
    1. This is what the devil is up to.
       1. It starts with just removing our belief in the Sovereign God.
  1. God has given us directions on how to have a magnificent home and marriage.
  2. The Apostle Paul, in explaining to us what marriage is to be like, gave us an object lesson.
     1. He said that marriage is like the relationship between Christ and the church.
        1. Husbands and wives are to base their homes and their relationship to one another on the relationship between Christ and the church.
  3. In today’s message, we will look more closely at the blueprint God has given for a magnificent marriage.

1. god’s pattern for an ideal wife
   1. Ephesians 5:22-24
   2. There is a requirement placed upon the woman.
      1. She is to submit to her own husband as unto the Lord.
      2. When the word “submit” is used today, a red flag goes up.
         1. We are told in this generation of me-ism that it takes away part of our dignity.
         2. We are told that it makes a person a doormat.
            1. This is contrary to the Word of God.
            2. Jesus Christ taught just the opposite.

We are never more like the Lord Jesus than when we willingly submit.

* + 1. In the Bible, submission is one equal voluntarily placing himself under another equal that God may therefore be glorified.
  1. What is the reason for submission?
     1. Ephesians 5:23
     2. The reason wives are told to submit is because God knows that in the home, as in the church, there needs to be authority.
        1. Nothing can function as it should without a head.
     3. The husband is the head of the wife.
        1. This does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband.
     4. 1 Corinthians 11:3
        1. Here is God’s chain of command:
           1. God the Father
           2. God the Son
           3. The man
           4. The woman
        2. Some may say that this is a hierarchy with God the Father at the top, and down at the bottom is the woman.
           1. That is not what God is saying at all.
           2. Is Jesus Christ inferior to God the Father?

Absolutely not.

Philippians 2:6

John 10:30

John 14:9

The basic tenant of Christianity is that Jesus Christ is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father.

* + - * 1. The man is not superior to the woman.

Men and women before God are equal.

Galatians 3:28

We are all one in Christ.

There is no inferiority and no superiority in the Lord Jesus.

* + 1. While men and women are equal, men and women are not the same.
       1. God made us different that He might make us one.
       2. It is the devil’s attempt to make men and women alike under the guise and the pretense of making them equal.
       3. God never wanted them to be alike.
    2. God gives headship because anything without a head is dead, and anything with two heads is a freak.
       1. God knows that there must be in the home a certain chain of command.
  1. What is the realm of submission?
     1. Ephesians 5:24
     2. Many wives think that they will never be able to fulfill themselves or be the person they ought to be if they submit.
        1. But it is in submission that a wife truly becomes the person God wants her to be.
     3. Submission never restrains; submission always releases.
        1. When we submit to the Lord Jesus, He then energizes us and releases in us tremendous power.
        2. Anyone who is submitted to Jesus Christ knows the power and the authority of Jesus Christ.
     4. Submission does not restrict us; it liberates us.
     5. God has given us certain tracks to run on.
        1. These tracks don’t restrict us or restrain us.
        2. They literally free us to be all that we ought to be.

1. god’s requirement for the ideal husband
   1. The husband’s position:
      1. Ephesians 5:23
         1. This Scripture does not say that the husband is the dictator of the house.
         2. He is the head of the house.
      2. He is to be a loving leader.
      3. The husband is to be the “Jesus” of the house.
         1. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.
   2. The husband’s pattern:
      1. Ephesians 5:23
         1. In this passage, the word “as” means that the husband is not a top sergeant telling his wife to submit.
      2. The Lord Jesus does not force us to submit.
         1. He loves us, and we love Him because He first loved us.
            1. 1 John 4:19
      3. The husband is not to coerce his wife into submission.
         1. He is to love his wife into submission.
   3. The husband’s pattern leads to his practices.
      1. His pattern is Christ, and his practices are found in Ephesians 5:24-25.
         1. In this Scripture, the word “love” is not the word for sexual love, nor is it the word for friendship love.
            1. It is the word for God-like love.

It is called agape love.

* 1. Seven ways that a husband can love his wife:
     1. He is to love her selflessly.
        1. Ephesians 5:25
           1. Jesus gave Himself.

Jesus left the splendors of Heaven and came into this world of woe.

Jesus turned His back on His possessions.

He gave all to us.

Jesus gave Himself to the church.

* + - 1. When a man marries, he gives himself to another person.
      2. Her welfare is to be considered in all of his decisions.
         1. His wife’s welfare is to be considered first in all of his decisions.

If he doesn’t, then he is selfish.

* + - * 1. He is not to put his ambitions, ideals, or desires first.
        2. He is to live for her welfare.
    1. He is to love her sacrificially.
       1. Ephesians 5:25
          1. The Lord Jesus died for the church.
       2. A man does not have to die physically to die to his ambitions or pride.
       3. A person has to die to self to receive Christ as his personal Savior.
          1. The Lord Jesus had to die on the cross before He could save us.
       4. Most marriages need two funerals and a wedding where the husband and the wife die to themselves and then are married to one another.
          1. Then, they can begin to live sacrificially, giving themselves one to another.
       5. Many people think that when the Bible tells the wife to submit to her husband, that it means that the wife is to wait on him.
          1. This is not what the Bible teaches.
          2. That is not the way Christ loves the church.

He gave Himself to us to sacrifice for us.

* + - 1. If a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, then he is going to love her selflessly and sacrificially.
    1. He is to love her sanctifyingly.
       1. Ephesians 5:26-27
          1. When Jesus Christ saves us, He forgives all of our sins.

He buries those sins in the grave of His forgetfulness, never to be brought up again.

* + - * 1. He begins to work on us to make us more and more like Himself to purify us.
      1. Jesus is the priest and prophet to the church.
         1. The husband is to be his wife’s priest and prophet.

He is to intercede for her; Christ intercedes for the church.

He is to lead her; Christ leads the church.

He is to teach her; Christ teaches the church.

He is to protect her; Christ protects the church.

* + - 1. He is to be her spiritual companion; the Lord Jesus is our spiritual companion.
         1. Somehow, we have gotten the idea that the woman is the only one who is supposed to have the religion in the home.
      2. No husband should ever do anything that would lead his wife into any kind of impurity.
         1. He should protect her from any kind of impurity.
         2. He should never do anything that would degrade her.
    1. He is to love her satisfyingly.
       1. Ephesians 5:28-29
          1. If a man hates his own flesh, then he is sick.
          2. In this passage, the word “nourish” means “to feed,” “to mature,” “to see to it that every need is met.”
       2. Sometimes it may seem hard for a man to nurture and to protect.
          1. But a man is sick who does not care for his wife.
       3. If a man does not care for his body, then he is committing slow physical suicide.
          1. If a man does not care for his wife, then he is committing matrimonial suicide.

After a while, that marriage will die.

A man has to care for his wife.

* + - 1. What is wrong with many marriages is that the husbands treat their wives as a possession rather than as a part of themselves.
      2. He is to satisfy her needs.
         1. As he would seek to meet his own needs, he ought to seek to meet the needs of his wife.

It doesn’t mean that she is there to wait on him; it really means just the opposite.

* + - 1. How important it is that husbands learn to love their wives as they love their own bodies.
    1. He is to love her supremely.
       1. Ephesians 5:30-31
          1. The husband is to leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife.

Genesis 2:24

* + - 1. The husband’s relationship to his wife is the supreme physical, earthly relationship.
         1. Many people think that the highest relationship of all earthly relationships is the relationship between parent and child, but it is not.

A husband and wife were married before the children came, and they will be married after the children go.

* + 1. He is to love her sharingly.
       1. Ephesians 5:30-31
          1. God’s arithmetic is 1 + 1 = 1.
       2. There is no part of our lives that we are not to share.
       3. Jesus shares with the church.
          1. Jesus said to the church (His disciples) that He would no longer call them servants but friends.

John 15:15

The servant does not know what his master does.

* + - * 1. Jesus shares His life with us.

That’s the reason we have the Holy Spirit in us is; to commune with us.

John 16:14

* + - 1. There is no part of our lives that should be private.
    1. He is to love her steadfastly.
       1. Ephesians 5:30-31
       2. Matthew 19:6
       3. A national tragedy in America is divorce.
          1. Some will say that their husband or wife did them wrong.

How many times have we done Jesus wrong?

Romans 8:38-39

* + - 1. Marriage is for keeps.
         1. When Jesus saves someone, Jesus gives that person an eternal security.

There are some wives and husbands that need that kind of security.

* + - 1. We do not come to Jesus saying that we will take Him only for a while.
         1. When we are saved, Jesus becomes our Lord and Savior from then on.

We belong to Him, and He belongs to us.

That is the way marriage is to be.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Ephesians 5:24-25
   2. When we look at Christ and the church and apply that to husbands and wives, then we are going to turn miserable marriages into magnificent marriages.
      1. Even marriages that are mediocre marriages will become magnificent marriages.
         1. May it be so in your home.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16