

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** A Magnificent Marriage

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Ephesians 5:22-31

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1181

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Ephesians 5 is a classic passage of Scripture dealing with the relationship of husbands and wives.
- b) There are many today who have miserable marriages.
- c) There are others who have mediocre marriages.
  - i) They are making it through, but the glow of God is not upon that marriage.
- d) The Bible teaches that we could have and should have a magnificent marriage.
- e) Marriage is meant to be a very wonderful thing.
  - i) The Bible says that marriage is honorable in all.
    - (1) Hebrews 13:4
    - ii) Solomon said that whoever finds a wife finds a good thing.
      - (1) Proverbs 18:22
- f) The devil has worked to do all that he can do to destroy homes.
  - i) 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.
      - (a) If there is no God, then man is nothing but an animal.
        - (i) This is called humanism.
      - (3) He wants to deny Christian morals.
        - (a) If man is but a higher form of the animals, then why can he not live as animals live?
          - (i) Animals live for self-gratification, self-propagation, and self-preservation.
            1. This is what the average person is living for today.
              - a. He has an animalistic desire.
      - (4) He wants to destroy homes.
        - (a) If there is no basic morality, then there is nothing to hold the home together.
      - (5) He wants to dominate the world.
        - (a) If the home goes, then society goes.
  - ii) This is what the devil is up to.
    - (1) It starts with just removing our belief in the Sovereign God.
- g) God has given us directions on how to have a magnificent home and marriage.
- h) The Apostle Paul, in explaining to us what marriage is to be like, gave us an object lesson.
  - i) 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.
- i) In today's message, we will look more closely at the blueprint God has given for a magnificent marriage.

## 2) GOD'S PATTERN FOR AN IDEAL WIFE

- a) Ephesians 5:22-24
- b) There is a requirement placed upon the woman.
  - i) She is to submit to her own husband as unto the Lord.
  - ii) 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.
      - (a) This is contrary to the Word of God.
      - (b) Jesus Christ taught just the opposite.
        - (i) We are never more like the Lord Jesus than when we willingly submit.
  - iii) In the Bible, submission is one equal voluntarily placing himself under another equal that God may therefore be glorified.
- c) What is the reason for submission?
  - i) Ephesians 5:23
  - ii) 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.
  - iii) The husband is the head of the wife.
    - (1) This does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband.
  - iv) 1 Corinthians 11:3
    - (1) Here is God's chain of command:
      - (a) God the Father
      - (b) God the Son
      - (c) The man
      - (d) 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.
      - (a) That is not what God is saying at all.
      - (b) Is Jesus Christ inferior to God the Father?
        - (i) Absolutely not.
          1. Philippians 2:6
          2. John 10:30
          3. John 14:9
        - (ii) The basic tenant of Christianity is that Jesus Christ is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father.
      - (c) The man is not superior to the woman.
        - (i) Men and women before God are equal.
        - (ii) Galatians 3:28
          1. We are all one in Christ.
          2. There is no inferiority and no superiority in the Lord Jesus.
    - v) 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.
  - vi) 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.
  - d) What is the realm of submission?
    - i) Ephesians 5:24
    - ii) 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.
    - iii) 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.
    - iv) Submission does not restrict us; it liberates us.
    - v) 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.
- 3) GOD'S REQUIREMENT FOR THE IDEAL HUSBAND
- a) The husband's position:
    - i) 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.
    - ii) He is to be a loving leader.
    - iii) The husband is to be the "Jesus" of the house.
      - (1) He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.
  - b) The husband's pattern:
    - i) Ephesians 5:23
      - (1) In this passage, the word "as" means that the husband is not a top sergeant telling his wife to submit.
    - ii) The Lord Jesus does not force us to submit.
      - (1) He loves us, and we love Him because He first loved us.
        - (a) 1 John 4:19
    - iii) The husband is not to coerce his wife into submission.
      - (1) He is to love his wife into submission.
  - c) The husband's pattern leads to his practices.
    - i) 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.
  - (a) It is the word for God-like love.
    - (i) It is called agape love.
- d) Seven ways that a husband can love his wife:
  - i) He is to love her selflessly.
    - (1) Ephesians 5:25
      - (a) Jesus gave Himself.
        - (i) Jesus left the splendors of Heaven and came into this world of woe.
        - (ii) Jesus turned His back on His possessions.
        - (iii) He gave all to us.
          1. Jesus gave Himself to the church.
      - (2) When a man marries, he gives himself to another person.
      - (3) Her welfare is to be considered in all of his decisions.
        - (a) His wife’s welfare is to be considered first in all of his decisions.
          - (i) If he doesn’t, then he is selfish.
          - (b) He is not to put his ambitions, ideals, or desires first.
          - (c) He is to live for her welfare.
    - ii) He is to love her sacrificially.
      - (1) Ephesians 5:25
        - (a) 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.
        - (a) 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.
        - (a) 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.
        - (a) This is not what the Bible teaches.
        - (b) That is not the way Christ loves the church.
          - (i) He gave Himself to us to sacrifice for us.
      - (6) If a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, then he is going to love her selflessly and sacrificially.
    - iii) He is to love her sanctifyingly.
      - (1) Ephesians 5:26-27
        - (a) When Jesus Christ saves us, He forgives all of our sins.
          - (i) He buries those sins in the grave of His forgetfulness, never to be brought up again.
          - (b) He begins to work on us to make us more and more like Himself to purify us.
        - (2) Jesus is the priest and prophet to the church.

- (a) The husband is to be his wife's priest and prophet.
  - (i) He is to intercede for her; Christ intercedes for the church.
  - (ii) He is to lead her; Christ leads the church.
  - (iii) He is to teach her; Christ teaches the church.
  - (iv) He is to protect her; Christ protects the church.
- (3) He is to be her spiritual companion; the Lord Jesus is our spiritual companion.
  - (a) Somehow, we have gotten the idea that the woman is the only one who is supposed to have the religion in the home.
- (4) No husband should ever do anything that would lead his wife into any kind of impurity.
  - (a) He should protect her from any kind of impurity.
  - (b) He should never do anything that would degrade her.
- iv) He is to love her satisfyingly.
  - (1) Ephesians 5:28-29
    - (a) If a man hates his own flesh, then he is sick.
    - (b) 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.
    - (a) 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.
    - (a) If a man does not care for his wife, then he is committing matrimonial suicide.
      - (i) After a while, that marriage will die.
      - (ii) A man has to care for his wife.
  - (4) What is wrong with many marriages is that the husbands treat their wives as a possession rather than as a part of themselves.
  - (5) He is to satisfy her needs.
    - (a) As he would seek to meet his own needs, he ought to seek to meet the needs of his wife.
      - (i) It doesn't mean that she is there to wait on him; it really means just the opposite.
  - (6) How important it is that husbands learn to love their wives as they love their own bodies.
- v) He is to love her supremely.
  - (1) Ephesians 5:30-31
    - (a) The husband is to leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife.
      - (i) Genesis 2:24
  - (2) The husband's relationship to his wife is the supreme physical, earthly relationship.

- (a) Many people think that the highest relationship of all earthly relationships is the relationship between parent and child, but it is not.
  - (i) A husband and wife were married before the children came, and they will be married after the children go.
- vi) He is to love her sharingly.
  - (1) Ephesians 5:30-31
    - (a) 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.
    - (a) Jesus said to the church (His disciples) that He would no longer call them servants but friends.
      - (i) John 15:15
      - (ii) The servant does not know what his master does.
    - (b) Jesus shares His life with us.
      - (i) That's the reason we have the Holy Spirit in us is; to commune with us.
      - (ii) John 16:14
  - (4) There is no part of our lives that should be private.
- vii) He is to love her steadfastly.
  - (1) Ephesians 5:30-31
  - (2) Matthew 19:6
  - (3) A national tragedy in America is divorce.
    - (a) Some will say that their husband or wife did them wrong.
      - (i) How many times have we done Jesus wrong?
        - 1. Romans 8:38-39
  - (4) Marriage is for keeps.
    - (a) When Jesus saves someone, Jesus gives that person an eternal security.
      - (i) There are some wives and husbands that need that kind of security.
  - (5) We do not come to Jesus saying that we will take Him only for a while.
    - (a) When we are saved, Jesus becomes our Lord and Savior from then on.
      - (i) We belong to Him, and He belongs to us.
        - 1. That is the way marriage is to be.

#### 4) CONCLUSION

- a) Ephesians 5:24-25
- b) 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.
  - i) Even marriages that are mediocre marriages will become magnificent marriages.

- (1) May it be so in your home.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) 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.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16