**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Marriage is from Heaven |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Ephesians 5:21-33 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2077 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Churches must be more concerned with being true to the Word of God rather than being big.
   2. Liberal churches are dying on the vine, while Bible-believing churches are growing.
      1. We’re not primarily concerned about whether everybody likes our beliefs on marriage.
   3. Husband and wife are equal in the eyes of God.
      1. Both bear God’s image, but, in differing ways.
      2. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.
      3. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.
         1. Christ died for the church.
         2. God has given the responsibility to: provide, protect and lead the family to the husband.
      4. The wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of the husband as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.
   4. We need to understand the role of marriage from God’s point of view.
      1. This is not settle by human propaganda, but by the Word of God.
   5. We have so many failed marriages because we have thrown away God’s plan for marriage.
   6. Stu Weber quote: “The great problem in America is failure in the highest office of the land, the husband and father.”
   7. Marriage: contract or covenant?
      1. Marriage isn’t a contract, where you try to protect your rights.
      2. If you see marriage as a divine covenant, you’ll accept your responsibilities.
      3. If you see marriage as a contract, you’ll be looking for loopholes in the contract.
   8. This message speaks primarily to the husband and his responsibility to his wife in light of Scripture.
   9. What we believe is based on the Word of God.
      1. The Bible is God’s Word
      2. It’s not up for debate.
   10. God’s Word says a husband and father is responsible to his wife for three major things.
2. servant leadership (ephesians 5:21)
   1. Submitting to one another in the fear of God.
      1. The word “head” means “leader.”
      2. The husband is not a dictator or a top sergeant giving orders.
         1. This doesn’t speak of a chain of command, but a line of responsibility.
      3. To have headship is to have responsibility.
         1. If a wife is to submit to her husband, she is to submit to her husband for loving leadership.
      4. Ephesians 5:23 is the model God has given for marriage.
         1. A husband is the leader in the home, in the same way Christ is the head of the church.
      5. Jesus Christ has never forced a believer to do anything.
         1. He leads and loves us to do many things.
         2. He is the model for the husband.
   2. To be “head” means responsible leadership.
      1. 1 Corinthians 11:3
      2. We serve a triune God.
         1. God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
      3. The Father and the Son are co-equal in worth, power, majesty and glory.
         1. John 14:9
         2. John 10:30
      4. 1 Corinthians 11:3 does not mean that the Son is inferior to the Father.
      5. Philippians 2:6
         1. The headship of one does not mean the inferiority of the other.
         2. The Father has eternal headship, not because the Son is inferior, but because of everlasting love.
      6. Every home needs a head.
         1. Anything with no head is dead and anything with two heads is abnormal.
         2. This does not mean that the wife is inferior.
            1. Both the male and female bear God’s image.

Genesis 1:27

* + - * 1. Both the male and female are heirs of the grace of life.

1 Peter 3:7

* + - * 1. Both are equal in their standing before God if they are saved.

Galatians 3:28

God is no respecter of persons.

We are all one in Christ; He does not divide based on race, gender or socioeconomic status.

* 1. While male and female are equal, they are not alike; God has given them different roles.
     1. The devil attempts to make men and women alike under the guise of making them equal.
        1. God made them male and female; the Bible is against he-women and she-men.
  2. The tendency today is to stress the equality of men and women by minimizing the unique significance of maleness and femaleness.
     1. Consequently, more divorce, homosexuality, sexual abuse, promiscuity, social awkwardness, emotional distress, and suicide.
     2. Mankind has thrown away God‑given identity and the differences between the male and female.
     3. Oneness and equality are not sameness.
        1. God is for oneness, not sameness.
        2. God made us different that He might make us one.
  3. Recognizing the headship of one spouse does not mean the inferiority of the other.
     1. We are to be submissive to our boss at work; but this does not make us inferior to him.
     2. We are to be submissive to a coach on a team; this does not mean we are inferior to him.
     3. We are to be submissive to a teacher in a class; this does not mean we are inferior to him.
     4. We are to be submissive to local authorities; this does not mean we are inferior to them.
     5. It simply means that God has placed order in all society.
  4. Psychologist David McLawland said, “Marriage is not primarily a partnership as much as it is a team.”
     1. In football, every team has a quarterback calling the plays.
     2. Another team member might be better or stronger, but the coach has declared who will call the plays.
     3. Who says that the man is the head in the home? Our Coach says so.
  5. The wife may be superior to the husband in many ways.
     1. The husband, as the head of the home, can delegate duties but not responsibility.
     2. When a wife does well in the duties delegated to her, she is to be praised.
     3. If the wife messes up in her duties, the husband is to get the blame.
        1. Because, ultimately, the responsibility falls on the husband.
  6. The problem in the world today is not primarily rebellious wives.
     1. The problem is slacker husbands who shirk their responsibility to love and lead their wives as Christ loved and led the church.
     2. If the home is wrong, it’s primarily because the man is wrong.
     3. God held Adam responsible for Eve’s sin in the Garden of Eden.
        1. Genesis 3:17
     4. God held Adam responsible for not leading his home as he should have.
  7. What is Servant Leadership?
     1. A leader serves.
        1. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.
        2. Luke 22:25-26
           1. For the husband to be the head of the wife means that he is to serve his wife.
        3. Jesus is the head of the church, yet He washed His disciples’ feet.
           1. Luke 13:13

Jesus never said that He was not Master or Lord.

* + - * 1. Servant leadership is the way you show your headship in the home.
      1. The wife is not there to serve the husband, he is there to serve her.
    1. A leader is gentle.
       1. 1 Thessalonians 2:7
       2. If you are a husband, you need to be a “gentle” man.
       3. Children love their fathers not just for their strength, but because they are gentle.
          1. Psalm 18:35
       4. If you want to have great kids and a great wife, be gentle with them.
    2. A leader guides by example
       1. 1 Peter 5:1-3
          1. Husbands are to lead, not because they have to, but willingly.
          2. “*Not for filthy lucre*” means “not for money.”
       2. Husbands have no right to ask anyone to do something they are not themselves willing to do.
          1. Or to believe a certain thing.
          2. Or to live a certain way.
       3. As the husband, are you an example to your wife as Christ is to the Church?
    3. A leader elicits the strengths of those that it leads.
       1. Husbands, your wife has gifts that you don’t have.
          1. Acts 2:17-18
          2. Children and wives, as much as husbands and males, have a touch from God, wisdom from God, and He has poured out His Spirit upon them.

1. sacrificial love (ephesians 5:25-26)
   1. Husbands are responsible to their wives for sacrificial love.
      1. A husband should be willing to die for his wife.
      2. Jesus modeled this sacrificial love when He gave Himself up for the church.
      3. Die to ego, pride, and ambition.
   2. Sacrificial love is a passionate love.
      1. This is not referring to sexual passion.
      2. But a husband should be willing to give himself up for his wife.
      3. Marriages need two funerals and one wedding.
         1. Both husband and wife die to themselves and come alive to Jesus Christ.
      4. When a man loves his wife passionately, there is nothing too precious for him to give up for her, except his relationship to Almighty God.
      5. Do not sacrifice your home on the altar of your job or your ministry.
         1. The church is the bride of Christ, not ours.
      6. Most women are willing to be in submission to a man who loves her enough to die for her
      7. Demonstrate that love by the way you live for her.
   3. Sacrificial love is a purifying love.
      1. A husband’s chief assignment from God is to make his wife a more radiant, beautiful Christian.
      2. He is to intercede for her, lead, teach, love, and protect her spiritually.
         1. He should not encourage her in any impurity: to drink something that is wrong, to watch something that is wrong, to do anything that is wrong.
   4. Sacrificial love is a protecting love.
      1. A husband wants to protect his body when it’s in danger.
         1. So he is to protect his wife.
      2. You are to protect her because she is “the weaker vessel.”
         1. 1 Peter 3:7
            1. “Weaker vessel” does not mean inferior vessel.
         2. Silk is weaker than denim; silk is not inferior to denim.
         3. Porcelain is weaker than steel but not inferior to steel.
         4. With porcelain you can make a beautiful cup. With steel you can make a sledgehammer to drive a spike.
         5. The cup is weaker. Which is better?
            1. You can’t drink tea out of a sledgehammer.
            2. You can’t drive a wedge with a porcelain cup.
      3. God made us different, that He might make us one.
         1. God gave men, generally, a stronger frame and physiology.
         2. God gave men to protect his wife as Jesus protects the church.
         3. Thank God we’re under His protection.
   5. Sacrificial love is a providing love.
      1. Ephesians 5:29
         1. “Cherish” means “to warm with body heat.”
         2. “Nurture” means “to feed and mature.”
2. steadfast loyalty (ephesians 5:30-31)
   1. God’s plan for marriage is summarized in Ephesians 5:31.
      1. The priority of marriage.
         1. The highest relationship on this earth is not parent‑child, it is husband-wife.
      2. The permanence of marriage.
         1. “*Shall be joined to his wife*” means “welded together.”
         2. Mark 10:9
      3. The purpose of marriage.
         1. Today’s society teaches “safe sex” but sex is not meant to be dangerous.
            1. We need to be teaching sanctified sex.
         2. “*They two shall be one flesh*” speaks of a blending not just of the body, but of the soul and the spirit until they become one.
         3. Today’s kids talk about “going all the way;” this is the one thing they do not do.
            1. You “go all the way” when you give yourself; your body, soul and spirit forever to your husband or wife until death do you part.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. A home ought to be a little bit of the Garden of Eden, the only part we have left until Jesus comes.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. 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