

“How to Build a Great Marriage: Wives, Part I”

Ephesians 5:18-27

June 22, 2003 Pastor Harry Skeele

Ephesians 5:17-33

¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy,

cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Review: So far, we've had 3 messages about God's commands to husbands, from Ephesians 5:17-33:

- 1) What headship is: the role defined. (5/25/03)
- 2) What headship does: the influence of the head. (6/1/03)
- 3) What sustains headship: the theological foundation of Christian marriage. (6/8/03)

Message 1

Definition: Marital headship is a husband's loving use of God-given authority to ensure that his home and all who live there will honor God and experience his grace.

Message 2

Seven Commitments the Holy Spirit Enables Christian Husbands to Make to Their Wives

1. I love you personally and sacrificially. (25)
2. I want you to be with me always. (26)
3. I will work to bring out God's glory in you. (27a,b)
4. I want you to be holy and pure in every way. (27c)
5. I see you as profoundly joined to me, you are part of me. (28)
6. I will use my marital authority in the fear of God. (29a)
7. I will care for you with tenderness. (29b)

Message 3

Q: Why does the Bible begin with a wedding and end with one?

Why does God describe himself as a husband?

Why does Jesus claim to be the bridegroom, who has come for his bride?

A: The clearest picture of what Jesus' love for his people looks like, and what our response to Him should be, is found in a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered marriage.