Husbands and Wives Reflecting Christ and His Bride

Steve Wolfgang · Ephesians 5:25–33

INTRODUCTION

- The marriage relationship between a husband and wife really mirrors the relationship between Christ and the church.
- Yes, marriage is difficult. It's work, it's not something that just happens. It takes constant care and attention, but it does work.
- It's designed by God, and God designed it in order that we might enjoy the benefits and the fruits of our human behaviors and endeavors.

1 Husbands, Love Your Wives as Christ Loved the Church

Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 5:28

- Husbands are to love your wives. And there are two standards given in this text.
- The first one is as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
- Each individual among you is to love his own wife even as himself.
- I'm to treat her as an equal in the Lord and in the relationship.

2 How Do You Treat Your Bride?

Ephesians 5:33

- Love his wife as himself, and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband. It's a mutual relationship.
- How do you treat the bride of Christ?
- Do we treat the body of Christ with indifference or neglect?
- How do you treat your bride? The person that you selected to spend the rest of your days on earth with.

3 More to Faithfulness Than Not Committing Adultery

James 2:24; Romans 1:5; Romans 16:25

- There's more to faithfulness, there's more to fidelity, as we've just sung, than simply not committing adultery.
- Biblical faith is a faith that obeys. It is an active working faith.
- Being faithful, whether as Christians to the Lord or as husbands and wives, involves not just the intellectual aspect of it, but the loyalty aspect and the fervor of love.
- Infidelity, unfaithfulness, disloyalty might also include lying and secretive behaviors, selfish or reckless habits, for instance, withholding love and affection or praise and gratitude.
- If you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

4 What Fidelity Demands

- Fidelity goes way beyond simply not having an affair.
- Fidelity demands maturity in expressing our own needs.
- You have to become a student of your wife.
- Fidelity demands honesty and caution in expressing my needs.
- Fidelity means living with and supporting our loved one even when there are some unmeetable needs.

5 Let's Talk About Forgiveness

- Forgiveness is the peace that you learn to feel when you allow yourself to let go of anger and hurt.
- Don't give them emotional control of your life.
- Forgiveness is not about condoning unkindness.
- Forgiveness can occur even sometimes when reconciliation cannot.

MY NOTES