Love and Respect: The Role of Husbands and Wives

Adam Willingham · Ephesians 5:22–33

INTRODUCTION

- We need not assume that just because those other 50% stay together, that they're automatically pleasing in the eyes of the Lord.
- A successful marriage means more than merely not getting divorced.
- We're going to be in Ephesians, the fifth chapter, as we study about love and respect, these two respective roles of husbands and wives.

1 Be Filled With the Spirit

Ephesians 5:15–21; Colossians 3:16

- Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.
- Paul then does at this third contrast is he unpacks it and gives us three commands of what it looks like for someone to be filled with the Spirit.
- Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. It means to recognize and abide in the authority in various relationships of life.
- Husbands and wives that do not exercise and abide in and express the love and the submission and respect that we read about in their respective roles in this passage are not filled with the Spirit.

2 Wives, Be Subject to Your Own Husbands

Ephesians 5:22–24

- Wives be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church.
- The role that we see here of wives submitting to their husbands was rooted back in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.
- You really can't have a marriage with two heads.
- It doesn't mean that wives are any less valuable before the Lord.
- Although our culture chafes at this command and this idea and balks at it, the church must not.

3 Husbands, Love Your Wives as Christ Loved the Church

Ephesians 5:25–27; John 3:16; Philippians 2:3–4

- Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church. And gave himself up for her.
- The specific command given to wives is to be subject. And the specific command in this context given to husbands is to love your wives.
- A decision love that acts for the good of the other. Selflessly.

- And how did Christ love the church? Selflessly. Sacrificially.
- We as husbands, we need to sacrifice for our wives. And put her needs before our own.

4 Love Your Wives as Your Own Bodies

Ephesians 5:28–31; Genesis 2:24

- Husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.
- What Paul means here is to love your wife and treat her as yourself because she is yourself. You are one flesh with her.
- Husbands and wives are two halves of one flesh.
- When a marriage divorces, you are ripping apart one flesh, and you cannot become the two original parts that you once were.
- Clean the house for her. Cook dinner for her. Get involved with the kids. Be a helper. Be selfless.

5 Love His Own Wife; Respect Her Husband

Ephesians 5:32–33

- Each individual among you also is to love his own wife, even as himself. And the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.
- The relationship of Christ and the church is like a marriage.
- The number one complaint of wives is that their husbands are selfish. And the number one complaint of husbands is that their wives don't respect them.
- These two roles of love on the part of the husband and of respect and submission on the part of the wife that perfectly reflect and correspond to the greatest need of husbands and the greatest need of wives.

THE CHALLENGE

If we, as the Lord's church, remember this and we abide in this love and respect towards one another. That's real love. And not only will we stay together, but we will thrive in our marriage relationships.

MY NOTES