



IN CHRIST

EPHESIANS

Lesson #42
Married to Christ
(Ephesians 5:19-32)

Living As Christians in the World (Ephesians 5)

- (v. 1) IMITATE GOD.
- (v. 2) WALK in love as Christ loves us.
- (vv. 3-7) DO NOT LIVE as the world in actions or words. Separate ourselves from those who live as the world.
- (v. 8) WALK as children of light as He is in the Light.
- (vv. 9-14) “Wearing” visible fruits of ALL goodness, righteousness, and truth.
- (v. 15) WALK circumspectly in an evil world.
- (v. 16) REDEEM the time given to us as a gift.
- (v. 17) STUDYING, UNDERSTANDING, and living the will of God.
- (vv. 18) FILLED with the Spirit.
- (v. 19) Having the Word of God fill and abide in us.
- (v. 21) Submitting to each other – WALKING in humility as Christ walked.

Verses 22-33 - What Is Paul’s Main Point?

- (v. 32) “I speak concerning Christ and the Church.
- Paul, as he has been since the middle of chapter 2, is speaking of the Church as ONE BODY.
- This passage is primarily used to describe what CHURCH is in God’s eyes. It is an organism with a HEAD and a BODY. That HEAD and BODY are intimately in union with each other. Each member belonging to each other, serving each other, and growing together.

We ARE One with Christ (Eph. 5:31)

- In the true mystery of marriage husband and wife become ONE.
(Mark 10:6-9)

- We ARE the Body of Christ! (Ephesians 1:22-23)
- In our marriage with Christ we become ONE with Christ! The Bride and the Bridegroom become one.
 - See John 17:11, 21-22 – Christ prayed that His Bride be ONE with Him *just as* He and the Father ARE ONE.
- What does this mean?
 - ① All that is Christ's is ours.
 - We are JOINT HEIRS with Christ. (Romans 8:17)
 - He IS our righteousness. (1 Corinthians 1:30; Jeremiah 33:16)
 - ② Christ, the Groom, assumes all of my debt.
 - ③ He has prepared a home for us. (John 14:1-6; 17:24)

Honor Marriage: A Call to Purity (Hebrews 13:4)

- The Bible gives us at least **three** reasons for marriage:
 - ① Propagation of children. Marriage is the means that God designed to multiply the population (Genesis 1:28).
 - God's purpose for marriage is to bring into the world a **godly seed** (Malachi 2:15)
 - ② Prevention of sexual sin. (1 Corinthians 7:2)
 - ③ Provide companionship. (Genesis 2:18)
- **According to GOD** marriage is **honorable**. Contrast this to what the world is saying about marriage.
 - τίμιος timios {tim'-ee-os} – as of great price, precious, held in honour, esteemed, respected, very costly.
 - Marriage is not to be taken lightly.
 - Marriage is the foundation of the family; the family is the foundation of society; society is the foundation of a nation.
 - In destroying the sanctity, the honour, the sacredness of marriage you destroy the family, in turn you destroy society, and you destroy a nation.
- **How Do We Honour Marriage?** By acknowledging . . .
 - Marriage is an institution created by God. Man has no right to redefine it!
 - **According to GOD** marriage is between **one man** and **one woman**.
 - Marriage is a **life time covenant** between one man and one woman.
 - Marriage is for **LIFE**. (Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:39)
 - Marriage is **indissoluble**. Marriage is the coming **together** of one man and one woman to **become** one flesh. (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7-8; Ephesians 5:31)

- Christ **commands**, “What God has brought together let **no man** (no wife, no husband, no judge) put asunder (χωρῶν χωρίζω – to separate, to divide, to part). (Matthew 19:5-6)
- Christians are to marry Christians. (1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14-17; Deuteronomy 7:3-4)
- Marriage is based on a **covenant**. A covenant made before God as a witness and other witnesses (guests). (See Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Leviticus 5:4-6; Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Numbers 30:-3; Matthew 5:37)
 - Forsaking all other.
 - To love and cherish. - In good times and in bad times.
 - In joy and pain. - In sickness and health
 - In riches and poverty. - For better or for worse.
 - **Till death do we part.**
- Our God-given roles in marriage by living our married life according to God’s Word.
 - By maintaining the God-given hierarchy in marriage despite what the world says.
 - Husband are to **lead** and be the **head** of the wife and family. (1 Cor. 11:3; Ephesians 5:23; Matthew 20:28)
 - Husbands are to **honour** their wives. (1 Peter 3:7)
 - Wives are to submit to their husbands **as** the church submits to her LORD!. (1 Peter 3:1, 6; Ephesians 5:22, 24)
 - Parents are to raise their children as Christians. (Ephesians 6:4)
- Divorce and Remarriage are Sins.
 - God **hates** divorce. (Malachi 2:16) This should end any discussion of divorce among Christians!!
 - Husbands and wives are not to divorce and if they are separated they are to **remain** unmarried or be reconciled to each other. (1 Corinthians 7:10,11, 27)
 - Those who remarry after divorce commit adultery. (Luke 16:18)
- Marriage is a picture of Christ’s relationship with His Church (Bride). (Eph. 5:22-33)
 - In our marriages we are to model (imitate) Christ’s covenant with His Bride.
 - To treat marriage in a dishonouring way is to bring dishonour on this PRECIOUS picture.

The Marriage Bed Is To Be Undeiled

- According to GOD sex is for **one husband** and **one wife**.
- When one married person has sex with another person they commit the sin of **ADULTERY!**
- When unmarried persons have sex with each other outside the bound of marriage they commit the sin of **SEXUAL IMMORALITY**.
- Christians are commanded to **“flee sexual immorality”** (1 Corinthians 6:18) because immorality brings with it **great consequences** that **hurt** many others other than just the two who participate in it!
 - ★ Consider the consequences of David’s sin: **2 Samuel 12:9-14**.
 - ★ Sexual immorality (and adultery) is a VILE sin in that we, **who are the temple of the Holy Spirit**. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

God Promises to Judge Those Who Defile the Marriage Bed

- “but fornicators and adulterers God **will** judge”
- In both Testaments God uses the strongest language to discourage any of this people from participating in any sexual immorality.
- Consider just in the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-6; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-6; Revelation 21:8; 22:15.

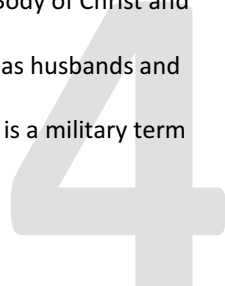
Young People Be Warned!

There Is Forgiveness!

- Some have sinned in keeping **their own** marriages honourable.
- Some have sinned and divorced and remarried.
- Some have committed sexual immorality and adultery.
- There is FORGIVENESS in Christ Jesus! (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- “Go and sin no more!” (John 8:11)

Submit to Each Other (Ephesians 5:21)

- Marriage is a PICTURE of the UNION of Christ and His Church. (v. 32)
- We can learn of OUR great privilege of being the Body of Christ and our responsibilities in this relationship.
- We can also learn how God COMMANDS us to be as husbands and wives.
- (v. 21) The word “to submit” or “to be subject to” is a military term meaning to arrange or rank under.
 - We are to submit or be subject to each other.



- The Greek term has the idea that one gives up his or her RIGHTS to another person.
- To submit means to see the other more important than yourself. (Philip. 2:3; Luke 18:14; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:5)

The BRIDE (The Wives) (Ephesians 5:22-24)

- “Wives” carries with it “without exception.” – ALL WIVES.
- “own” has the idea of ownership – The husband does not own the wife more than the wife owns the husband. There is a mutual ownership and submissiveness.
 - The husband’s body belongs to the wife and the wife’s body belongs to the husband. (1 Corinthians 7:4)
- The wife is NOT commanded to OBEY the husband as children obey their parents (Eph. 6:1) or as slaves obey their masters (Eph. 6:5).
 - Husbands are not to treat their wives as slaves, servants or children.
- The husband is the HEAD of the wife, *as* Christ is the HEAD of His Bride.
 - This is God mandated hierarchy.
 - There is NO SUGGESTION is superiority or inferiority.
 - JUST AS Christ is the Head of the Church in which He is ONE with it.
- The Bride and wives are to be subject to the HEAD in **everything**.
- Our Husband is our LORD and we are to submit to Him in everything.

The Groom (the Husbands) (Ephesians 5:25-29)

- Husbands are to love their wives **just as** Christ loved the Church.
 - ① He came into the world as a SERVANT. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:4-8; John 13:4-17; Luke 22:27) **Love is demonstrated in service.**
 - ② He did not come into the world because the world deserved it. He came to the will of the Father. We are to love our wives because it is the will of the Father.
 - ③ Christ’s love was UNCONDITIONAL. Our love must be UNCONDITIONAL.
 - ④ Christ’s love was PERFECT and UNCHANGING. (John 13:1)
 - ⑤ Christ’s love is not depended on what we do or what we do not do. Husbands love your wives **just as** Christ loves His Bride.
 - ⑥ Christ’s love was so great that He ***gave Himself completely for His Bride.*** (See 1 John 3:16)

- ⑦ Christ's love demonstrated or demonstrates itself in Christ assuming the protection, **purity**, and providing for His Bride. A husband must do the same.
- ⑧ Christ's servanthood serves as an example to the Church. A husband's submissiveness should be an example to the wife.

CLEAVED Together Forever (Ephesians 5:30-31)

- προσκολλάω (proskollao) means to be glued together, cemented together, to be joined together.
- Christ and His Bride are in a union that is so close that they are considered to be ONE.
- When a husband takes a wife they become ONE.
- What can separate Christ's Bride from His love? NOTHING. (Romans 8:35, 38-39)
- Husband and wives are to remain married until DEATH. (Romans 7:2-3)

The BOTTOMLINE (Ephesians 5:33)

- Husbands love your wives as you love yourself.
- Wives revere and respect your husband.
- Church love, revere, be in awe of, and willingly submit to your Husband.