

**Title:** Spirit-Filled Headship

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:21-31

**Review:**

Ephesians 5: What does it mean to be “Spirit-filled”?

- includes having an attitude of submission.
- examples of various relationships: husband-wife, parents-children, masters-bondservants

Marriage

- purpose: reflect the greater relationship between Christ and the Church.

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:22-25 (context: Ephesians 5:15-33)

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

**Initial Observations**

Context of Paul’s writing:

- Men were oppressing women. Culture filled of immorality (concubines, etc.).

Passage is God’s Word

- if offended, wrestle with what God’s Word alone says.
- follow-up with pastoral staff/elders is welcome with any questions as well as discussing practical implications.

**Question:** What does it mean for husband to lead his wife and reflect Christ?

**Marriage**

- purpose: reflect the greater relationship between Christ (man) and the Church (wife)

**Marriage Roles**

Different roles of man and woman

- Equally important.
- Not a result of the fall but part of God’s design.

Fall of Sin (Genesis 3)

- consequence of disobedience:
  - pain in childbearing
  - Woman’s desire for husband = take control (Genesis 4:7)
  - Man’s desire to selfishly rule or exist.

Ephesians: redemptive response

- Woman: submit to husband as unto the Lord
  - submission is not a blank check (review prior sermon)
- Husband: love your wife as Christ loved the church.

### What “headship” does not mean.

*It cannot mean nothing.*

- Culture: roles don’t mean anything anymore. Husband’s do nothing and abdicate his role. Husband’s are passive and lack passion.

*It doesn’t mean headship refers to merely the origin or source/fountainhead.*

- Culture: softening the meaning

*It doesn’t mean spiritually superiority*

- Not looking down on another

*It doesn’t mean husband makes every decision in the home.*

- Not an authoritarian dictatorship

### What does “headship” mean?

- “Head” (word) often used in context of “leader”

Judges 11:11

So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the Lord at Mizpah.

Ephesians 1:22-23

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

- Implies leadership by initiative (it was Christ’s idea to save us)

### **Headship - Definition**

Divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for displaying Christ-like love by leading, protecting, and providing for his family.

### **Headship - what does it entail?**

*Sacrificial love (v.25)*

- Husband’s are called by God to lead by loving and sacrificially as Christ loved the church.
- Use your authority for benefit of family, not personal preference or privilege.
- Shift’s focus from taking charge to taking responsibility.
- From one’s will to giving of self for the good of another.
- Headship more of a function of controlling our nature than controlling our wives.

- When headship is viewed as a sacrificial trust, the tone and culture of the home changes. Submission is not “required” but naturally flows out of love.
- Power to serve (not dominate), power to self-fulfillment (not destroy).
- Husband is to be the cross of Christ.
- Husband’s call is a call to die to self
- Crucifying our flesh rather than giving in to pride, selfishness, or lust.
- The path to leadership in the home is always through the cross.

### Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

### ***Sanctifying Love (v. 26-27)***

#### Ephesians 5:26-27

that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

*Biblical model:*

- Christ washes us and puts His Word in us
- Same idea in John 3, Ezekiel 36, 16 (God washing us)

### John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

*Implications*

- Husband’s are called to help our wives grow in Christ-likeness.
- Keep our wives in the Word, be sanctified by continual exposure/teaching of God’s Word.
- Husband’s are the shepherd over the family.
- Read God’s Word and good books - not because you *like* it but because you *have to*. Your life depends on it!

### ***Satisfying/caring love (v.28-31)***

#### Ephesians 5:28-31

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

- “Nourishes and cherishes” = caring and providing
- Marriage is not about your needs
- Questions: What are you doing to nourishing and cherishing her?

### **Practical Applications**

***Husbands: Remember Christ and His promises. Love your wife as Christ loved the church.***

*“As Christ loved the church”*

- a husband must be secure in his love and identity in Christ.
- Otherwise, will not have resources to serve another.
- Christ’s love is our relational fuel. Without it, we suck love out of the marriage rather than re-fuel and refresh it.

- Our source of Christ-like love is in Christ's love. Only when we rest and know Christ's love can we give it.
- The degree of our confidence and knowledge of God's love will result in the degree of our love to our wives.
- Continue to love even when it is not returned. Why? The Gospel.
  - Meditate on the Gospel. Remember what God has done for us.

### Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### Mark 10:43-45

But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

### *“Love”*

- “I love you” = sacrificial, selfless love.
- Question: Are you willing to give up your dreams and desires for your wife?
- Discipline yourself to do what your wife loves. If helpful, set calendar reminders to relay words of affirmation and love.

### Romans 12:11

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

- Pro-actively find ways to show and reflect love to your wife.
  - Pray with her
  - Initiative fellowship/reading God's Word
  - Discover what she likes.
- Spiritual leadership
- Physical provision

### Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

### 1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

### ***Wives: You cannot demand that your husband take leadership.***

- It can be counter-productive and lead to resentment against the person.
- Pray earnestly that God would awaken with him true manhood.
- Ask and schedule a meeting when not tired so can share heart's desires or thoughts.
  - Two become one = oneness in heart and mind (not just flesh)

**Marriage Purpose:** display glory of Christ.