

Title: Spirit-Filled Submission

Passage: Ephesians 5:15-33

Context of Passage:

Book of Ephesians

First part: What is the Gospel and what does it do in a person's life? (Chapters 1-3)

Second part: What are the implications of the Gospel? Practical aspects (Chapters 4-6)

Chapter 5

- first part: how the Gospel transforms our thinking.
- second part: how the Gospel transforms our relationships.

Spirit-filled (Ephesians 5:18)

Ephesians 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

- Meaning = submission to Holy Spirit. Allowing more of your life to be led/directed by God

Passage: Ephesians 5:15-33

be filled with the Spirit...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, 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. 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." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Initial Observations:

Ephesus

- widely-known for selfish immorality (similar to today's culture)

Question: Who are you submitting yourself to?

- To God's Word?
- Or to the world's culture?

Truth

- Truth is trans-cultural (not Western or Eastern)
- Truth is ageless/timeless

God's Word is Truth.

- consider it's ageless and timeless truth.
- examine the Bible and seek Biblical counsel with any follow-up questions or thoughts.

Acts 17:11

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, *examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

Marriage

- it is not the epitome of living.
- if single, God is honored through your singleness.

MARRIAGE

- first institution created by God.
- Definition: marriage is an exclusive heterosexual covenant between one man and woman ordained and sealed by God.

Genesis 2:18-23

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."...But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Marriage was the foundation of all other institutions
examples:

- education began in the home where all other institutions flowed
- earliest healthcare developed in home
- earliest center of human government

Why marriage so important?

- Historically: Red flag that society is on the slippery slope of destruction = marriage is undermined and destroyed.
- When marriage is not seen as God intended to be, all other things collapse.

Marriages are meant to reflect a greater truth:

- The Gospel (relationship between Christ and His church.)

Ephesians 5:28-30

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.

- When a husband cherishes and nourishes his wife, he is reflecting how God cherishes and nourishes His people.
- If you want to understand God's meaning of marriage, understand we are dealing with a copy of the original (God's marriage to His people; God's covenant love and care for His people)

ROLES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

- Man and woman are equal in value and worth in God's eyes but different roles.
- Rooted in Christ's relationship with the church.
 - not arbitrary or reversible
- Husband's role (v.23): headship
 - as Christ offered headship to the church.
- Wife's role (v.22): submission
 - As the church submitted to Christ's headship.

Reference: Bruce Ware conference (available on Trinity's website) - 10 reasons.

Male headship (origin from Genesis 2, affirmed in New Testament)

- order of creation (man created first)

1 Timothy 2:13

For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

- Means of woman's creation is out of man (takes a rib from man)

1 Corinthians 11:8

For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

- Woman was created for man's sake to be his helper

1 Corinthians 11:9

Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

- Man named before and after sin.
- Man (not woman) was given God's moral commandment

What happened?

- consequence of sin: temptations of flesh
 - man wants to rule harshly.
 - woman wants to control the husband.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

Christ's response

- man: give yourself up for your wife as Christ gave Himself up.
 - fight against flesh to want to rule harshly

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- woman: humbly submit to your husband's headship
 - fight against flesh to want to control

Headship - what is it? (J. Piper)

- divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home.

Submission

- divine calling and responsibility of wife to honor and affirm husband's leadership and help him carry it through according to her gifts.

Common Objection: *Mutual submission*

- Objection: Mutual submission means husband and wife submit to one another equally.

Response:

- the context of passage is about various examples of submission with three orderly-authority relationships (husbands-wives, parents-children, masters-slaves)
- "one another" does not mean to be done equally

Revelation 6:4

And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

- "one another" could not mean everyone will kill each other.

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- carry "one other's" burden = cannot mean bear equally. some carry greater burdens for others who have less

Submission out of reverence of Christ.

Luke 2:51 (Jesus)

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Luke 10:17 (demons)

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

Romans 13:1 (citizens)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

1 Corinthians 15:27

For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Ephesians 5:24

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Practical Implications (v.22-24)

Context

- “Own husbands”
- Submission is only in context of husband-wife.

Motivation

- “as to the Lord”
- Do not submit with anything sinful.

1 Peter 3:1-2

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

What Submission is not:

- husband’s word is not absolute. Christ’s Word is absolute.
- not to speak or comment.
- implying one is inferior in value or worth

Submission - What is it?

- inclination to support and the disposition to support husband’s initiatives
- respecting husband out of respect as he leads with servant-leadership. (As Christ gave Himself up for the church in selfless care and nourishment)

Questions to consider:

- How can we honor God?
- How can the church help each other understand God's Word is for good?