MARRIAGE

- **Unlearn**
- **Let go**
- **Open up → Ephesians 5:22-33**

Ephesians 5:21-22
submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ (= *Spirit-filled*)

Ephesians 5:22-33
Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [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. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Ephesians 5:25-30
Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27] 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. [28] In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, [30] because we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:31-33
[31] "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. [33] However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The Word of God frames marriage as a living, breathing illustration of the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church.

Therefore, ultimately, marriage is NOT centered on romance, personal happiness, self-fulfillment or me/us.

Marriage is the Gospel on display.

→ The spiritual reality of marriage shapes the relational dynamics within marriage.

3 Challenges:

1) **To ascend marriage**

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2) **To build and sustain marriage by grace**
3) **To live primarily from the will of the husband and wife**

Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Ephesians 5:22-24

- **Command to the wife, not tool for the husband**
  - **Voluntarily!!**
- **About order, not value**
- **Husbands will give wives reasons not to *submit***
  - **Submission ends where abuse begins.**

Submission Defined:

An inner disposition and inclination of the will to say 'Yes!' to and encourage the husband's initiatives and leadership.

The Problem: Husbands are *not* Jesus!

- **Husbands are still sinful and mistake prone; (Admit it!)**
- **Husbands ought to want their wives to be excited about decisions & directions (Christ wants that from the church)**
- **Wives: expression—in disagreement—can still display submission**

Ephesians 5:25-30

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Ephesians 5:25-30

- **Sacrificial, servant leadership**
- **Draw out spiritual beauty**
- **Uses the Word of God**
- **In the direction of holiness**

The Mountaintop View:

- **Giver – Giver: *experience genuine & reciprocal blessing***
- **Taker – Taker: *feels like a fight***
- **Giver – Taker: *feels like abuse or under appreciation/neglect***

Six Questions Every Marriage Should Continually Ask:

1) What is my/our current marriage frame of reference?

2) What is current fuel of my/our marriage?

Bad Fuel:

- **The past**
- **Personal preferences**
- **Pain**
- **Performance**

The danger of bad fuel:

- **Withholding what the Scripture commands and the Gospel displays.**

3) Where is the Cross currently in our marriage?
→ On display? In operation?

Tendencies in Wives that Hide the Cross:

- **Toward control (*perhaps w/words as power tool*)**
- **Toward enabling**

Tendencies in Husbands that Hide the Cross:

- **Toward domination**
- **Toward abdication**

Let each one of us ask: *How do I hide the Cross?*

4) Is sanctification (*mine and theirs*) currently part of our marriage?

5) Are we currently aware of and alert for the serpent in our marriage?

All the serpent has to do is to suggest or prompt me to make it about me.

6) In wisdom, what tools do we have at our disposal and are we currently using them?