



June 12, 2016  
Celebration | 9:00 am  
Pastor David Mitchell

## Enjoying the Ideal Marriage Ephesians 5:21-33

### **Marriage based on an attitude of submission.** Ephesians 5:21-24

*“And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. 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, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”*

Submission =

Genesis 2:18 Helper suitable =

Psalms 30:10

Genesis 3:16 Desire =

### **Marriage that grows from an unconditional love.** Ephesians 5:25-30

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.”*

- **It is a sacrificial service of love.** (vs 25)  
Romans 5:8; John 13:34; I John 3:16
- **It is a sanctifying love.** (vs. 26, 27)  
I Corinthians 7:14
- **It is a sensitive love.** (vs. 28-30)
  - Nourish =
  - Cherish =  
Deuteronomy 22:6; I Thessalonians 2:7

### **Marriage that endures over time from a deep commitment to each other.** Ephesians 5:31-33

*“FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, 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.”*

- **Cleave =**  
Job 19:20  
*“A lasting marriage pictures the lasting love of Christ for His church.”*
- **Respect =**  
Hebrews 12:28

## Digging Deeper:

One of God's earliest creations in the history of this world was marriage. Genesis 2:24, 25 are familiar to most students of the Bible. Moses recorded those words from God so we could know the basics of a marriage relationship. God's desire is that marriage is a newly formed relationship in which a husband and wife can be fully open, transparent and free of all shame so they can enjoy one another and fulfill the plan of God which will bring Him glory.

In today's passage, Paul adds to the beauty of marriage by comparing the husband wife relationship to Christ and the church. The marriage of a couple is to portray or be a picture of the "marriage" of Christ as our groom and the church as the bride. This is primarily an important description of God's original intent for marriage, which is often misunderstood, and why there still remains conflict.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

Read the following verses and discuss what is new to you below and based on Ephesians 5:21-33 from the front outline. How can you grow in your marriage or help another in their marriage?

No one ever gets married so they can be miserable in that relationship. And yet, that happens so often. Why?

What did God conclude about Adam being alone in Genesis 2:18?

What term did God use for Adam's future wife in Genesis 2:18?

The NASB translates that Hebrew term as "helper suitable." How do many interpret that word?

To grow towards a healthy marriage, we must reclaim what God intended in that term. Too many treat a wife or women in general as "just helpers," like an apprentice or intern in a job. They do the menial tasks that the boss, or sometimes the husband, does not want to do. You will never have the marriage God intended in the Garden of Eden with that mindset.

A "helper suitable" should be understood in the following way to begin to have a healthy and biblical view of a wife. "Helper" in the Hebrew is "azar." This is a term for God. Psalm 54:4 uses that same term: "Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul."

As God is our helper, so my wife fulfills a godly role of helping. God is all powerful and we need His help in life. So, God looked at Adam and said you need a "God-sized helper" to carry out my mission for you in cultivating and tilling this world. A biblical husband will view his wife with honor and respect much as he would view God. She is a God-given resource to help her husband fulfill God's plans. That is a high calling and position, not one to look down upon or diminish.

The word "suitable" means prominently before, to place a matter high and conspicuous before a person. A biblical husband places his wife prominently before himself. Therefore, a husband living according to the Bible views his wife as a God-sized and appointed person he places prominently before himself. Providing the biblical headship of Ephesians 5:23 begins by treating his wife in this way.

So, why are there so many problems? When sin entered the world, this order of marriage became distorted. After Adam and Eve's sin, God said Genesis 3:16. What does God say about the wife and husband now? The "desire" of the wife can be to control someone as used in Genesis 4:7 of sin's desire to control Cain. Also, now the husband will seek to "rule" his wife. The husband and wife now work against each other rather than together. This can create conflict which marriages still struggle with today.

## Next Steps:

1. **Register to go to the "Celebrate Your Marriage Conference" at the Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim.** This is a Friday night, Saturday morning conference hosted by Jay + Laura Laffoon, who are excellent, funny communicators. You may remember when or where you got married, but do you remember WHY? Conference is August 19-20 and early bird rate of \$59.99 ends on June 19. For more info, pick up a flyer in the lobby or visit [calvarylife.org/marriage](http://calvarylife.org/marriage)
2. **Practice the 60 second blessing as suggested by marriage365.org.** Here's how it works. You begin by speaking 60 seconds of encouragement to your spouse. Once you're finished, your spouse spends the next 60 seconds sharing what they love about you. It's that simple! Sit down with your spouse and try this out. Watch how the power of your words will transform your marriage. If you find this helpful, we encourage you to do this at least 5 times a week.
3. **Become a student of your marriage.** Two great places to start. First, pick up a book in our Corner Bookstore. Based on today's message, an interesting book would be, "Just How Married Do You Want to Be?" by Jim and Sarah Sumner. Also, check out Francis and Lisa Chan's book, "You and Me Forever." There is an accompanying video series with it that can be found through Calvary's free resource RightNow Media. If you are not already a part, sign up at [calvarylife.org/rightnow](http://calvarylife.org/rightnow)