



June 12, 2016  
Elevation | 11:00 am  
Pastor Matt Davis

## We Are One Ephesians 5:21-33

### Household Code

“And now that it is clear what are the component parts of the state, we have first of all to discuss household management; for every state is composed of households. Household management falls into departments corresponding to the parts of which the household in its turn is composed; and the household in its perfect form consists of slaves and freemen. The investigation of everything should begin with its smallest parts, and the primary and smallest parts of the household are master and slave, husband and wife, father and children; we ought therefore to examine the proper constitution and character of each of these three relationships.” Aristotle, 350BC, Household Code; Aristotle, Politics 1.1253b

### We are called to submit to one another. Ephesians 5:21-24

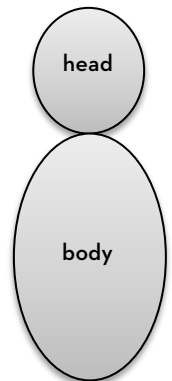
“...be subject to one another in the fear of Christ...” (v.21)

- **Unpacking the power struggle within marriage and relationships**

“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.” (Ephesians 5:22-23)

- A “helper suitable”

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.’” (Genesis 2:18-25)



### We are called to love one another within marriage. Ephesians 5:25-30

“...be subject to one another in the fear of Christ...” (v.21)

- **A love that is sacrificial (v.25)**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...” (Ephesians 5:25)

- **A love that is sanctifying (v.26-27)**

“...so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...” (Ephesians 5:26)

- **A self-love (v.28-30)**

“He who loves his own wife loves himself...” (Ephesians 5:28)

### We are called to become one together. 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.” (v.31)

- **Becoming one together involves leaving and cleaving (v.31)**

“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.” (Ephesians 5:31)

- **Becoming one together points to a greater marriage to come (v.32) (cf. Revelation 19:7-9)**

“This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:32)

- **Becoming one together involves love and respect (v.33)**

“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.” (Ephesians 5:33)

## Digging Deeper:

Marriage in the pagan world was in shambles. Check out some of these quotes on marriage from the ancient world.

- “We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure; we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation; we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately, and for having a faithful guardian for all our household affairs.” – Demosthenes
- The woman of the respectable classes in Greece led a completely secluded life. She took no part in public life; she never appeared on the streets alone; she never even appeared at meals or at social occasions. It was the aim that, as had it, “she might see as little as possible, hear as little as possible and ask as little as possible.” – Xenophon
- “Is there anyone to whom you entrust more serious matters than to your wife--and is there anyone to whom you talk less?” – Socrates

Even the Jews had a low view of women. In the Jewish form of morning prayer there was a sentence in which a Jewish man every morning gave thanks that God had not made him ‘a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.’ Under Jewish law, a woman was an object. She was not considered a person. And broadly speaking, a husband under Jewish law could divorce his wife for any cause; a wife could divorce her husband for no cause.

Roman life was even worse. Seneca writes that women were married to be divorced and divorced to be married. It was against this background that Paul writes. To compound the problem, he risked stating an unpopular view, especially to the community in Ephesus: “There is a better way.”

That better way to look at marriage from the perspective of the one Who created it, God. We often underestimate the power that words have in our marriage. It’s amazing what a simple compliment can do to lighten the mood and grow love. On the other hand, it’s even more amazing how a critical word can put a chill in the air and put distance between the two of you. Go through some of the passages and questions below, as well as many of the resources listed in the Next Steps as you grow in your relationships.

## LifeGroup Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Ephesians 5:22-24 together.** In terms of the man being the “head of the household” and the wife “called to submission,” what was your parents’ marriage like? If you are married, does this passage of Scripture bear any relevance or resemblance to your marriage today? If you are single, have you been in relationships where you have seen these dynamics play out? What were all of these like?
2. What is the cultural view and perspective of women within your family of origin? How is this perspective being lived out in your marriage today, or to what extent have you tried to distance yourself from that perspective?
3. We believe that one day we will stand before Jesus and have to give an account for how we lived out our days here on earth. Many of us live our lives preparing for that encounter. What would it look like for you to live out your life to help prepare your spouse, significant other and even friends, to prepare them for that day?

## 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)