



The Meaning of Marriage

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

The Meaning of Marriage is:

I. A picture of our union to Christ! (Ephesians 5:32)

Marriage is ‘gospel re-enactment.’

Non-negotiable colors in a gospel-centered marriage portrait:

I. Submission: Submission in marriage displays our ultimate submission to Christ. (Ephesians 5:22; Genesis 3:16)

Submission does not mean:

- * the inferiority of the woman.
- * the dominance of the man.
- * “unconditional obedience” by the woman.
- * independent decision-making on the part of the man.

- Submission says your desires, wishes, and dreams are going to take priority over mine.

- Submission to our spouses is a picture of our ultimate submission to Christ

- Your decision to submit to your spouse out of reverence to Christ creates the potential for God to do something truly great.

2. Sacrifice: Sacrifice in marriage displays how Christ has sacrificed for us. (Ephesians 5:25)

3. Commitment: Commitment in marriage shows God’s commitment to us.

4. Forgiveness: Forgiveness in marriage shows God’s forgiveness of us.

5. Unconditional love: Loving our spouse unconditionally is a way to portray how Christ loves us. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:7)