

Ephesians 5:22-33 - Part 1

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 1-6-16

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. New Standards - unity and purity (4:1-5:21) - final section
4. **New Relationships** (5:21-6:24)

Summary of last session

- Three main areas of relationships that touch every human person
- Disinfection
- Two-fold example of Jesus
 - Bestowed dignity to women, children, and the working class
 - Restored a proper understanding of “greatness”
- Four truths:
 - The inherent **dignity** of womanhood, childhood, and servanthood
 - The **equality** before God of all human beings
 - Deep **unity** of all Christian believers.
 - Submissive does not mean **inferior**
- Difference between person and roles
- “Authority” = responsibility and it is always for the benefit of others
- **Principle:** We must submit up to the point where our obedience to human authority would involve disobedience to God.

The Duty of Wives (vv. 22-24)

2 reasons given for a wife’s submission to her husband:

1. Drawn from _____ and concerns the husband’s “headship” of his wife
2. Drawn from _____ and concerns Christ’s “headship” of the church

A Husband’s Headship at Creation

- Cr. I Cor. 11:3-12 & I Tim. 2:11-13 for elaboration
- The order, mode, and purpose of the creation of Eve. She was made _____ Adam, _____ of Adam, and _____ Adam
 - General principle vs. cultural specifics
 - Jesus affirmed this method of going back to Genesis in Matt. 19 (concerning divorce). In creation, God established a particular order for human society that cultures have perverted, but can never destroy.
- Equal, but _____

Christ’s Headship of the Church

- Paul _____ the fact of a husband’s headship in creation, but he _____ it in relation to the headship of Christ the redeemer
 - Cf. 4:15-16 for previous mention of Christ’s headship of the Body
 - From the head that the body derives _____ and grows into _____
 - His headship expresses care rather than control, responsibility rather than rule
 - Headship is not so much about lordship as it is _____.
 - It’s ultimate characteristic = _____ - _____

- V. 24 - If the husband's headship resembles Christ's, the wife's submission resembles the _____
 - Submission is not unthinking obedience to his rule but rather a _____ of his care.
 - Paul is envisioning a voluntary, free, joyful, and thankful partnership

Notes:

The Duty of Husbands (vv. 25-27) ← Read

- Not "lord," but "love"
 - Stoics used *phileo*. Christianity introduces _____:
 - Its origin is in _____ and must be shed abroad in our hearts
- A husband must love his wife as Christ loved his church (vv. 25-27)
 - OT relationship between Yahweh and Israel was referred to as a marriage _____ (cf. Is. 54:5-8; Je. 2:1-3, 31:31-32; Ezk. 23; Hos. 1-3)
 - Jesus the Bridegroom (cf. Mk. 2:18-20; Jn. 3:29)
 - Cf. Eph. 5, II Cor. 11:1-3, and Revelation
 - 5 verbs to indicate the stages of Christ's commitment to his bride (vv. 25-27)
 - "Loved"
 - His love _____ his self-giving
 - "Gave himself"
 - Refers to the _____
 - "Cleanse" - expresses the _____ of his sacrifice
 - By the "washing by water and word"
 - Water = _____
 - Word = explanatory word that defines its significance
 - "Sanctify" - to make _____ by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - He forgives and cleanses in order to _____
 - "Presents" - at the end of time "in splendor"
 - The church will be seen for what we truly are
 - This is the end to which God is at work in us now - that we would be "holy and without blemish" when Christ returns

Summary:

- As Lord, Christ does not _____ the church
- Christ _____ himself to save her in order for her to become everything she was intended to be - glorious, radiant.