

Experiencing the Fullness of Christ in Our Marriage

September 22, 2019

“For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two shall become one. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church” - Ephesians 5:31-32 NKJV

I. Introduction

- a. Ephesian 5 – A great or profound mystery, but is revealed to us if we are open to Christ.
- b. The secret of marriage – The Gospel of Salvation in Christ
- c. Our identity, position, and gifting (Eph 1-4) – To be lived out in our i) marriage, ii) home/family, and iii) work. (Eph 5-6)

II. Marriage

- a. Created by God between a man and women – Gen 2:18
- b. Reason and Purpose
 - i. **Historical view** - a permanent contractual union for the sake of mutual love, procreation, and protection (a sacrament – visible signs of God’s grace and love – Catholic emphasis, serves the common good – Protestant emphasis). Social stability in which children can grow and thrive. Uniting of two families, people, or nations.
 - ii. **Current secular worldview** – a contract between two parties for mutual individual growth and satisfaction , not to fulfill responsibilities to God or society.
 - iii. Marriage used to be a public institution for the common good, and now it is a private arrangement for the satisfaction of the individuals. Marriage used to be about us, but today it is about me. Leads to unrealistic expectations to find the “perfect soul mate”.
 - iv. **Biblical view** - a profound mystery – Ephesian 5 – Designed by God and reflects who He is and Christ and the Church – Marriage is not simply a cultural tradition subject to man’s interpretation. The differences in a man and woman are essential for marriage just as the differences in the three persons of the Triune God is essential to who God is.

III. Understanding Marriage

- a. Understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ – Ephesian 5: 21 -33
- b. Submit out of reverence for Christ and as unto the Lord
- c. Husband to love his wife as Christ love the church
 - i. Christ gave himself up for the church - to make her Holy
 - ii. To present the church to himself without blemish, but holy and blameless
 - iii. Husband to love their wives as he loves himself
 - iv. Wives respects her husband
- d. Therefore, marriage is a covenant (promise and commitment) between a man and a woman to help one another to grow and mature in Christ (to be Holy) as members of His body, the church. Marriage is a lesson in Christ’s love for his bride, the Church

IV. Five areas of potential conflicts in marriage to put under the Lordship of Christ

- i. Finances
- ii. Children
- iii. Household chores
- iv. Work (includes ministries)
- v. Sex