

Christ and the Church (and Marriage)

Ephesians 5:18-33

Robby Higginbottom

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

April 30, 2019

Ephesians 5:18-33

¹⁸ ...but be filled with the Spirit ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Table Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think our culture is so confused about men and women, marriage, authority, and submission?
2. How does Jesus Christ redeem our notions of authority and submission?
3. Have you experienced the love of Christ for His church as Paul describes? How?
4. Why is it important to read Ephesians 5:22-33 in the context of verses 18-21?
5. What does it mean for a husband to love and lead his wife? What does it not mean?
6. What does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband? What does it not mean?
7. Why do you think God wants husbands and wives to play these roles?

EPHESIANS

GENEROUS GOD. GENEROUS CHURCH.

In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 5:18-33

“Christ and the Church (and Marriage)”

1. Why is this so hard?

2. How does Christ love the church?

3. How do husbands love their wives?

4. How do wives submit to their husbands?

FEAR

We're afraid of...

What we think the Bible says

What the Bible actually says

God's plan being worse than ours

CONFUSION

We're confused about...

Men and Women

Marriage

Authority & Submission

God

OFFENDED?

**“My ways are higher than your ways,
and My thoughts are higher than your thoughts.”**

Isaiah 55

**“To stay away from Christianity because part of the
Bible is offensive assumes if there is a God
He wouldn't have any views that upset you.”**

Tim Keller

“...the differences between men and women will become an unavoidable issue in every marriage. Everyone comes into marriage with an idea of roles—of how a husband should behave to his wife, a wife to her husband, and children to their parents. This may be the sum of impressions gathered from one’s family of origin, current cultural norms, observations of friends’ marriages, and even...one’s fictional reading or television and movie habits.

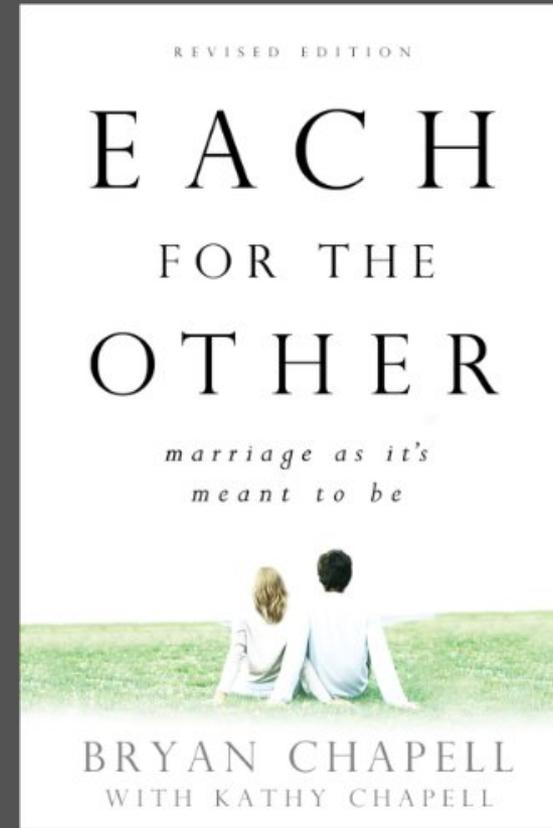
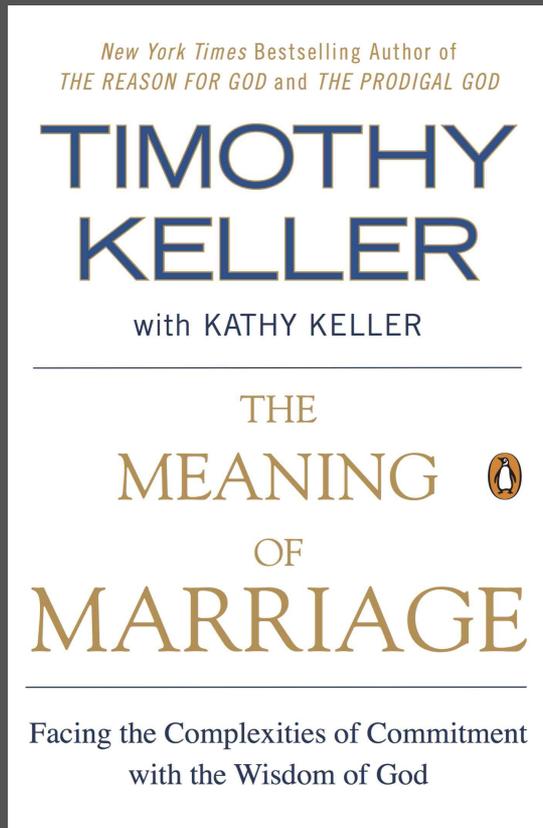
Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*, Ch. 6

"There's no denying that the subject of gender roles in marriage is a contentious and controversial one. I have personally lived at the heart of the controversy myself for more than forty years. I have seen Bible verses used as weapons of both oppression and rebellion. I have also seen the healing and flourishing that can happen in a marriage when hot-button words like 'headship' and 'submission' are understood correctly, with Jesus as the model for both.

Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*, Ch. 6

"We hope that even if you are not comfortable with the idea of distinct, divinely ordained gender roles within marriage, that you will suspend judgment...and consider how God may have intended them for our good."

Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*, Ch. 6



Chapter 6
“Embracing the Other”

Appendix
“Decision Making and Gender Roles”

1. WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

We're confused about MEN and WOMEN.

Are men and women equal in value?

Genesis 1:27

Romans 16

Proverbs 31

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Mt 28, Mk 16, Lk 24, Jn 20

Galatians 3:27-28

1. WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

We're confused about MEN and WOMEN.

Do men and women have different roles?

Marriage

**(Ephesians 5:22-33,
Colossians 3:18-25, 1 Peter 3:1-7)**

Ordained Church Offices

(Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-13)

1. WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

We're confused about MEN and WOMEN.

**How is it possible to have
equal value and different roles?**

**"Being equal in worth does not require
our being the same in function.
To conclude otherwise would require us
to reason that Christ became inferior
when He submitted Himself to the Father,
or that the Spirit deserves less glory because
He submits to the purposes of the Son.**

**Such reasoning is, of course, heretical.
The persons of the Trinity are equally divine
despite their distinctly different functions.
By His Trinitarian nature our God has made it
abundantly clear that equal value
does not require identical roles."**

Bryan Chappell, *Each for the Other*



1. WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

We're confused about MARRIAGE.

How do these issues of equality and roles play out in different kinds of marriages?

View of Marriage	Husband / Wife Roles	Gender Equality	Question
Traditional	Distinctions	Men > Women	Value of Women?
Contemporary	No Distinctions	Men = Women	Gender Distinctions?
Biblical	Distinctions	Men = Women	Distinct <i>and</i> Equal?

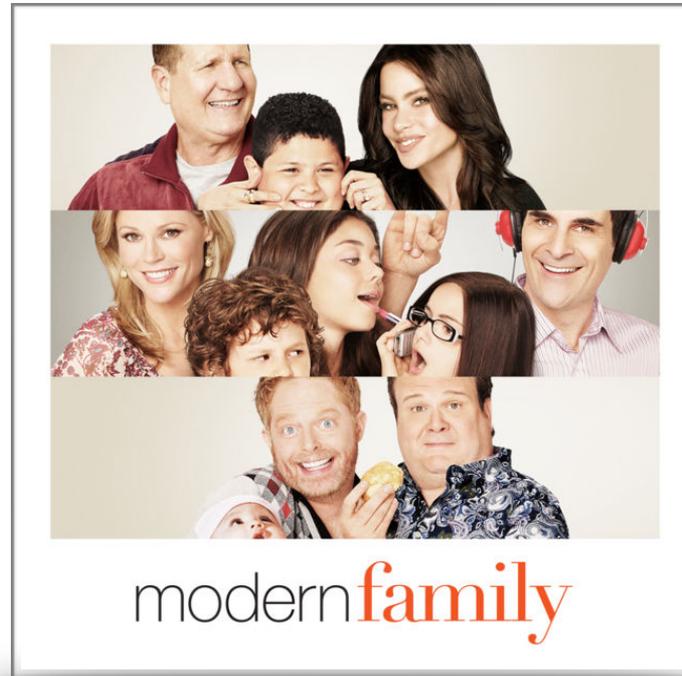
Marriage — Traditional View



Men tempted to dominate or disengage

Women tempted to resist or resign

Marriage — Contemporary View



Women tempted to dominate or disengage

Men tempted to resist or resign

Marriage — Biblical View



1. WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

We're confused about AUTHORITY.

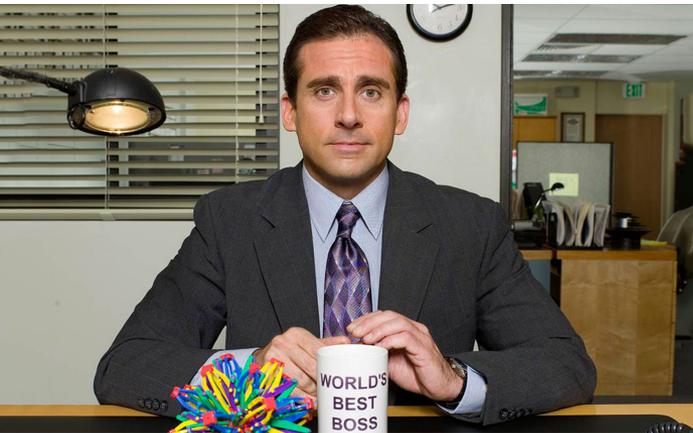
Isn't authority a bad word?



1. WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

We're confused about SUBMISSION.

Isn't submission a bad word?





“Who does he think he is?”

“I am your king!”

“Well, I didn’t vote for you.”

“You don’t vote for kings.”

“Then I could become king, then.”

2. HOW DOES CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

**“This mystery is profound, and I am saying
it refers to Christ and the church.”**

Ephesians 5:32

**“God has built into the order of creation a relationship
which...provides a clue to the Ultimate Relationship.**

**The experience of being a couple in a marriage relationship
points to the Ultimate Couple—Christ and His Bride, the church.**

**This marriage ‘made in heaven’, but forged on earth,
is destined to last for all eternity. And every Christian marriage
is called to reflect and manifest it. Glorious mystery indeed.”**

Sinclair Ferguson, *Let’s Study Ephesians*

2. HOW DOES CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

Head (v. 23)

Cleansed (v. 26)

Savior (v. 23)

Sanctify (v. 26)

Loved us (v. 25)

Present (v. 27)

**Gave Himself up
for us (v. 25)**

One (v. 30)

2. HOW DOES CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

What does Jesus have to do with authority?

**“For even the Son of Man came not to be served
but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”**

Mark 10:45

**“I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”**

John 10:11

2. HOW DOES CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

What does Jesus have to do with submission?

“Not My will, but Yours, be done.”

Luke 22:42

Philippians 2:5-11

2. HOW DOES CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

**Jesus is the ultimate example of
sacrificial love and voluntary submission.**

A King who laid down His life

A Savior who submitted

3. HOW DO HUSBANDS LOVE THEIR WIVES



3. HOW DO HUSBANDS LOVE THEIR WIVES?

**“Husbands, love your wives,
as Christ loved the church...”**

Ephesians 5:25

3. HOW DO HUSBANDS LOVE THEIR WIVES?

**Following Christ (who sacrificed),
relying on His grace, the husband is called to...**

Submit to God

Lead, serve, and initiate

Love her sacrificially

Nourish and cherish her

Use his authority to bless her

Lead her to Jesus

Take responsibility for her

4. HOW DO WIVES SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS?

**“...submitting to one another
out of reverence for Christ.”**

Ephesians 5:21

**“Wives, submit to your own
husbands, as to the Lord...”**

Ephesians 5:22

4. HOW DO WIVES SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS?

**Following Christ (who voluntarily submitted),
relying on His grace, the wife is called to...**

Submit to God

Help complete and complement

Arrange her life under his authority

Be warm, willing, and respectful

Use her gifts to serve and empower

Follow him toward Jesus

***When it comes to marriage,
the Bible is long on vision and short on details.***

“There’s no simple, one-size-fits-all to-do list for husbands and wives. Husbands aren’t commanded to take out the trash. Wives aren’t commanded to change the baby. Instead of giving you set duties, God, in the Bible, does something much better. He gives a few basic principles to help you and your spouse define your roles in a godly way no matter what your life looks like.”

Winston Smith, *Marriage Matters*, p. 211

Remember that husbands and wives are both called to submit (to God) and to sacrifice (for one another).

“Both men *and* women get to ‘play the Jesus role’ in marriage—Jesus in His sacrificial authority, Jesus in His sacrificial submission. By accepting our general roles, and operating within them, we are able to demonstrate to the world concepts that are so counterintuitive as to be completely unintelligible unless they are lived out by men and women in Christian marriages.”

Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*



HOME
Where each
lives for
the other
And all live
for God

***If we're overwhelmed by what this passage asks of us,
remember:***

**No one is more committed
to the glory of God in our lives
than Jesus Christ.**

EPHESIANS

GENEROUS GOD. GENEROUS CHURCH.

In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...

Ephesians 1:7