

Ephesians 5:18-24

Walking in the Spirit – Wives

¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God.

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in everything.

Intro: A Pastor was visiting a 4th grade Sunday school class before he was to preach on Sunday.

A)Hey Kids – Today I am going to be talking to your parents about marriage

- Who here knows what the Bible says about marriage

B)Little boy named Brian quickly raised his hand – yes Brian what does the Bible say about Marriage?

1)Father forgive them for they know not what they do!

C)I think anyone who is married or has been married for a while – would attest to that reality. –

1)I had no idea what I was getting myself into. – Harder than you thought

I remind the couples at Thrive all the time- Marriage is like a garden

A)Neglect – things die – weeds grow { Constant care and attention

B)You get out of it what you put into

C)(Thankful that the Lord doesn't leave us in the dark as it relates to marriage –

1)He addresses the subject several places in His word

D)Ephesians Chapter 5 is one of the most comprehensive areas

So for the next few weeks we are going to consider the subject of the marriage relationship

A)Disclaimer – Those who are single don't get excited – marriage – because it doesn't relate to your life right now.

B)Single people: Say three things- #1 These passages are relatable to all of us married or single –

1)because they are as much about Jesus as about us
Marriage is a picture between – the Church and Jesus

C)So this passage has a lot to teach us about the relationship that Jesus has with us –

1)as it is about the Husband and wife's relationship to each other

The 2nd thing that I would say to single people is this

A)This passage is relevant to you because – you might one day get married

B)Important that you know what the Bible says

C)3rd reason why this is important for singles is this:

- 1)When married people are struggling in their marriage – they often seek comfort/counsel in single friends –
- 2) (The grass is greener mentality)

D)It is important that you know how to Biblically and properly counsel your married friends who come to you. (God's instrument to help save)

So for today and the following two weeks we are going to be looking the subject of Marriage –

A)Now most people believe tend to think that Paul's teaching on Marriage starts in V. 22 Wives submit

B)Need to remember – that this is part of the 2nd section – the walk of the believer

1)4:1 Walk in a manner worthy of your calling
Manner of life = to your identity in Jesus

C)V.18 is the transitional verse of the Passage

1)**Be filled..... Be continually being filled**

D)Key to all that Paul said Prior – spirits power and leading to walk in a manner worthy calling

And this exhortation to be continually being filled is a Key for all our relationships – especially marriage

A)Why is that so important? –

B)Because what he says to both – goes against our natural tendencies –

1)Wife's natural tendency as a fallen Human is not to submit –

2)Part of the curse – your desire will be to rule over your husband –

For the Husband – your natural tendency as a fallen Human is not to Love your wife with a self-sacrificing love that prefers her needs above your own.

A)You need help – you need a power – and a sensitivity –

B)Called to Nourish and Cherish your wife as your own body- what? How? In tune

C)How – We need the help of that continual filling and dependency upon the Holy Spirit

1)Develop a sensitivity to the Spirit –

2) Learning to walk in his Power and respond to His promptings is a Key to life – key for marriage.

D)V.21 is also Key- Paul speaks in V.21 of a mutual submission –

1)Submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord – Respect for the Lord

Picture of Two people who are 1st submitted to Jesus

A){Yielded to the Spirit – Yielded to his leading

B)Two people who are going to pattern their life and marriage according to what God says in his word – more than anything else

1)More than culture/ parents/ friends/

C)Parable of the Builders – Sand and Rock – hear and put into practice vs those who hear and ignore

1)We want our marriage and family to be patterned after your word / heart

Today Wives – then the next two weeks husbands

A)Why 2 weeks – what Paul says to them is 3x as long {More next week

let's consider what Paul says to the wife!

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Wives Submit to your own Husbands as to the Lord

A)The idea of submission is a tough one for many women in our Culture today. –

Aa)Has been for a long time - Lewis T Talbot

B)It is true that this particular passage - principle causes a lot of problems in our culture!

- 1) The confusion ranges from **IGNORING** on side of women and **ABUSING** on the side of the men!

Hopefully today we can clear up some of the confusion on this subject and take away some of the negative connotations involved with Submission

A)Consider 3 things –

- #1 What does the word submission mean in a Marriage?
- #2 Why does the Lord call a wife to submit?
- #3 When is the wife to submit?

B) 1st WHAT DOES THE WORD SUBMISSION MEAN in Marriage.

- To come alongside your husband in a supportive role that respects the responsibility that God has given him be the servant leader of the family.

C)Interesting to note that in the first century Roman culture that Paul was writing to – Women were viewed more as property than companions

1)Submission was the norm

D)Woman had no rights – in the Roman culture.

1)They couldn't vote, they were not allowed to testify in court

E)The overall sentiment of women was this: We have wives for bearing children and concubines for serving, and mistresses for pleasure

1)That is how women were treated in that day and age.

But the Bible elevates the view of women:

A) God ordained marriage – Adam’s Aloneness – Not good [Interesting in light of Adam’s relationship with God] Adam asleep - made Eve

B)Taken from Adam’s rib - Not his foot – to be under – not his head to be over – but his rib – next to his side.

C)Adam wakes up – Bone of my Bone & Flesh of my flesh- WOW - It was there that God ordained and sanctioned Marriage

1) This incredible Union between a man and a Woman

D)Somewhere after that the debate started why did God make Eve?

6 REASONS WHY GOD CREATED EVE !!!!

#6. God knew that Adam would always be lost in the garden because He knew men would never ask for directions.

#5. God knew that Adam would never make a doctor's appointment for himself.

#4. God knew that if the world was to be populated there would have to someone to bear children because men would never be able to handle it.

#3. As Keeper of the Garden Adam would never remember where he put his tools.

#2. As the Bible says, "It is not good for man to be alone", he only ends up getting himself in trouble. **And the NUMBER ONE reason...**

#1. When God finished the creation of Adam he stepped back, scratched his head & said, **"I can do better than that."**

The right answer is God knew that Adam was going to need a companion – and partner.

A)The Wife is given a great title in Genesis 2:18
¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man

should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Aa) HELPER – we hear that and think – house keeper/ cook / laundry - even servant – negative slave – how feel treated

B)Helper = Ezer – meaning of strength and power

1)the wife is a strength and power comparable to her husband

C) Ezer appears twenty-one times in the Old Testament—twice in reference to the first woman,

1)three times in reference to nations to whom Israel appealed for military support,

2)and sixteen times in reference to God as the helper of Israel.

Examples: the Hebrew term *Ezer*, or “helper,” is employed to describe God, the consummate intervener—

A)The helper of the fatherless (Psalm 10:14)

➤ King David’s helper and deliverer (Psalm 70:5)

➤ Israel’s shield and helper (Deuteronomy 33:29)

B)In Genesis 2, *ezer* is combined with the word *kenegdo* to mean something like “a helper of the same nature,” or a corresponding character.

1)*Kenegdo* literally means “as in front of him,”

2)Suggesting that the *ezer* of Genesis 2 is Adam’s perfect match, the yin to his yang, the water to his fire.

C)Everything about this title implies mutuality, harmony, and partnership.

That was God’s design seen in the very first married couple

A)Marriage was to be a partnership – God gave the first married couple a mission. Genesis 1:28
28 God blessed them and said to them.....

B)He didn’t just bless Adam and talk to Adam – Eve was not scene as the servant girl to help Adam carry out his mission

1)No- **God blessed them and said to them "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."**

C)The Mission: Love God, Love each other and take care of what God had put into their hands!

D)True of every Married couple since then – God has blessed you and given you a mission –

1)Love Him – Love each other and take care of ...hands

E)What is in your hands? Time, resources, sphere of influences, Children, Friendships –

1)Your life together is to reflect this partnership – what we are doing with what God has given us

So God has this high view of the Wife – the Ezer Kenegdo!

A)She has this special role in the family – to come alongside her husband in a way that is supportive of the role God has called him to.

B)But that brings us to question #2 Why does God call the wife to Submit?

1)Two reasons – **The first is about order –**

God see's marriage from a standpoint of Equality – but it is an ordered equality –

A)Husband and wife have roles

Aa)Company CEO Chief executive.... and CFO – Work together

B)The Husbands role is to be the servant leader of his family – the wife's role is to be the supportive partner –

1)They are working together to fulfill the mission that God has given them in this world.

C)Encourage you ladies to embrace your role – see how special it is!

1)not a burden, but a blessing and an honor – **this special title, calling and GIFTING – WIRED!**

Husbands to understand – God has brought your wife to you because he knew you need a companion.

A)A partner – someone that God views as your equal – Fellow heir of the grace of life

B)She has been given her own unique set of giftings and tendencies that have been designed by God to complement you – work with you.

Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a wise wife is a gift from the LORD. NCV

C)Husbands and wives realize that and embrace that –and they work together it is beautiful

D)But when they ignore their roles and fight against their roles it will be a disaster.

Thrive example – I had a vision – In knew what I wanted it to look like/ Function – dinner/ speakers

A)I wasn't concerned about the details – I thought – we have a great dinner – great price –

B)We have great speakers – what more do we need

1)I was thinking like a guy: Food/ price/ speakers
☺

C)Problem was Denise was all about the Details

1)**Room set up / décor/ flow of the night / child care**

I had a vision – she had a plan

D)When we first started doing We fought every month – over set up/ flow function/ –

1)things she wanted to do I didn't like – things she wanted to add – I thought unnecessary

E)By the time the night would start – Denise and I didn't even like each other. – Disaster

The disaster really stemmed from my stubbornness and stupidity – failing to realize – Denise wasn't trying to change my vision – make it better

A)She had the insight to make it better – more special – something the women would appreciate – table clothes center pieces – back drops videos

B)So we were going to need to work together – I pick speakers set calendar – when the date comes

1)**I get the guys & clear the room – set the tables for # of people**

C)Denise and a team of ladies would come in afterwards and make it look beautiful and wonderful

1)**There is harmony – wonderful**

2)**No longer fight on Thrive days – AWESOME**

D) That is how God wants the marriage to FUNCTION – partnership – both people recognize the gifts and blessings of their spouse

E) Beautiful team work – Synergy – pulling in the same direction – same goals same purpose –
1) vs Pulling against each other

F) So the first reason is a matter of order –

The 2nd reason is this: The relationship between the husband and the wife is to be a picture of Christ and the Church –

A) Paul states this plainly in our text

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

B) The husband is the head of the wife like Christ is the head of the church.

1) What kind of head is Jesus – Servant leader –

C) I didn't come to be served – I came to serve give my life as a ransom for many –

1) Jesus example is one of self-sacrificing love – Savior of the body

We who are a part of the Church owe everything to him

A) He sacrificed everything for our benefit – our blessing – our salvation

B) That is the example of the head that Jesus is – perfect, loving servant

C) The Bible tells us that our love for Jesus is out of a response to his love for us – we love him because he first loved us.

D) The wives love respect and support for her husband is going to be the same – a response to her husband's love and service to her

1) That is marriage in the ideal scene

E) Two people fulfilling their roles – responding to one another in love and grace and respect – as members of Jesus

That is the ideal – the problem is we are flawed and broken and selfish!

A) We are constantly battling our old sin nature – constantly battling our flesh – so we don't always get this right

B) Husbands are not always the servants they are supposed to be

C) So the question arises often from women – if my husband is not fulfilling the role that he has been given – am I still responsible to fulfill my role?

1) Am I still called to submit?

#3 When is the wife to submit?

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything

A) Now at first glance it would seem that Paul is saying in v.24 – A wife cannot pick and Choose when she is going to submit

B) However in Col 3:18 Paul gives us further insight { Acception – Colossians 3:18 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

C) *as is fitting in the Lord.* - AGREEMENT W/ THE LORD !!

D) SO Anything that goes against Scripture is not required!!!!!!!!!!

I have heard about Weird things] or Anytime your personal safety is in danger

A) God doesn't call you to be a punching bag- Get out of there as fast as you can!

B) So if your husband is asking you to do things that go against God's revealed will in his word –

1) you Don't need to submit to that AT ALL!!!

C) My Husband doesn't want me to come to Church? What do? Heb 10:25 *Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together*

What if my Husband is not walking with the Lord? Even harder but listen to what Peter says: 1 Peter 3:1

1 Peter 3:1-2 *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, [Unbeliever or a believer who is not*

walking] they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear

A) You submit in those things that are fitting in the Lord – let your conduct be the thing that wins him to Christ –

B) See ladies look back at V.22 ²² **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.**

C) **As to the Lord is a key** Phrase: Here is what it means –

D) You are seeking to support your husband – come alongside your husband

1) Not because he deserves it / not because he does everything right /

But because you are first and foremost submitted to Jesus –

A) who loves you perfectly and knows what is best for you – YOU TRUST HIM

B) I am going to walk in the role that you have given me – because I believe that you know best –
1) Yielded to that – Love for you – my trust in You

In Closing I want to give you ladies 6 reasons why it is good for you to embrace God's plan in this
A) Why it is good for you to embrace your role as the Ezer Kenegdo to your husband

REASON #1 – It is pleasing to God: You are fulfilling God's desire for your life – that should be our #1 goal.

Prov 18: 22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.

NLT Proverbs 18:22 ²²The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the LORD.

REASON #2 Submission communicates your love to your Husband

A) It is a great feeling when a man knows that he has his wife's support

REASON #3 You are allowing yourself to be a willing helper for your husband which allows him to better fulfill his calling from the Lord.

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones. Proverbs 12:14

REASON #4 You are placing your husband in a position where he can be further molded and shaped by the Lord

A) Some women stunt the spiritual growth of their husbands by refusing to allow him to lead or by following his leadership

REASON # 5 By doing so a wife actually is showing that she respects her Husband. V 33
Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

A) Submission is actually an attitude of respect first for the Lord and then for one's husband

B) A wife who respects her Husband affirms his strengths – she actually becomes an oasis where he can flourish

C) Respect also means that she helps him manage his weaknesses –
1) she would rather support than expose them

REASON #6 By submitting to her husband she becomes a picture to her Children and those around her of the Church submitted to Jesus