

## **Introduction**

### **Brandon**

- **Paul said that the church must work at keeping the unity that Jesus has secured for us.**

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

**I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

- **Paul said to keep that unity we must be imitators of God.**

**Ephesians 5:1**

**1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.**

- **Paul then explains what being an imitator of God looks like in the church. (Ephesians 5:2-21)**

**Ephesians 5:2**

**And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.**

**NKJV**

- **Paul explains what being an imitator of God looks like in a Christian marriage.(Ephesians 5:22-33)**

### **Jerry**

**Why did Paul talk about marriage to the church? He was a single guy. Why was this important for the church to hear?**

**When Jesus talked about marriage, He pointed His disciples back to the beginning. (Matthew 19:1-10)**

**Genesis 1:26-28**

**26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

**27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

**28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

**NKJV**

**Genesis 2:18-25**

**18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."**

**19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.**

**20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.**

**21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.**

**22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.**

**23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."**

**24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

**25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.**

**NKJV**

- **The bible says God created the first man and first woman in His image.**
- **The bible says God created them to rule this world.**
- **The bible says that God created marriage to provide a way for His purpose for mankind to be fulfilled.**

**Brandon**

- 1. His first command was to be fruitful and multiply.**

**Jerry**

**That would have been difficult for either one of them to do alone.**

**Brandon**

- 2. He made them to rule together as one flesh.**

**The image of God could not be revealed the way God wanted it to be revealed in the creation of just one gender. The dominion of mankind over the world would be best served by a man and a woman ruling together in perfect harmony as one flesh.**

**Jerry**

**What a great environment to raise children in! Children would be raised in an environment that was characterized by security and peace. They would be educated in what God was like just by watching their parents love one another and work together in harmony. And as children they would complete the trinity.**

**Brandon**

**This design of marriage and family your describing sounds incredible!**

**Jerry**

**It was incredible!**

**Brandon**

**It was incredible until the fall of man happened before the first child was even born. That perfect harmony with God and with one another was broken by sin. You can see it in the story of the fall. Suddenly they are both suffering from shame and hiding from God. Then you have the blame game. Then you have God's judgment and the curses of the fall.**

**Genesis 3:16-19**

**16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."**

**17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is**

**the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.**

**18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.**

**19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."**

### **Jerry**

**All those curses are hard. It seems to me that the woman got a raw deal. You must really trust God on this one. The order of man and woman ruling together is changed. The man becomes the head of the woman. It was not that way in the beginning. Yes, and God said it was going to remain that way until He establishes a new heaven and a new earth where sin is not a problem.**

### **Body**

#### **Brandon**

**So, this is the background on marriage to what Paul said in Ephesians 5:22-33.**

#### **Ephesians 5:22-33**

**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.**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,**

**26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,**

**27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

**28 So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord does the church.**

**30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.**

**31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."**

**32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

**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.**

**NKJV**

**Jerry**

**To summarize this passage, we could say....**

- 1. The husband should lead (verses 22-24)**
- 2. The husband should love (verses 25-33)**

**Brandon**

- 1. The husband should lead.**

**This is just Paul reiterating the order for government in the family that God established in Genesis 3. The gentiles at Ephesus would have been ignorant of this. And Paul wanted to make sure that everyone understood that becoming Christians did not remove this curse from the fall of man. Not yet anyway. Like death it will one day be removed.**

**Jerry**

**That is going to make a lot of Christian woman very happy.**

**Brandon**

**But what is the husband to lead his wife to do?**

**Jerry**

**The husband should be leading his wife to love God!**

**Isn't that what Jesus did for His church? Isn't that what Jesus said it means to be His disciple of Jesus. You lead others to love God.**

**Brandon**

**So, it is more than using His authority as the head to tell His wife what to do and she should obey him?**

**Jerry**

**Well, wherever there is a God appointed position of authority in any institution, God gives that authority the right to make decisions for the institution. But, in a Christian marriage, the husband's primary responsibility is to lead His wife to love God.**

**Brandon**

**So, how does a husband lead His wife to love God?**

**Jerry**

- **The husband should love.**

**The husband should love God and love His wife.**

**Brandon**

**What does a husband loving God look like?**

**What can we learn from the life of Jesus?**

- **He spends time alone with God and His Word (Luke 5:16)**
- **He loves God's church. (Matthew 16:18)**  
**He faithfully attends. He faithfully serves. He faithfully gives. He intentionally grows as a disciple-maker.**
- **He obeys God. (John 5:19)**  
**In these ways, He leads His wife to love God.**

**Jerry**

**So, a wife learns to love God by her husband's example of loving God?**

**Brandon**

**Yes, it the reverse of what happened at the fall of man when neither one of them loved God above themselves. God chose the man to be the leader to His wife and any children that He might give them. He leads them to love God by loving God and loving them.**

**What does a husband loving his wife look like?**

**Jerry**

**God is always taking things that sin ruined and redeeming them for His purposes. That is what He does with a husband and wife in marriage.**

**Paul's said that the love a Christiana husband has for his wife should reveal to the world the love Jesus Christ has for His church.**

**In other words, the love that a husband should have for His wife should cause the world to take notice and believe in Christianity.**

**Brandon**

**God's design for marriage is a husband loving his wife in a way that makes the world take notice?! I can hear some woman out there saying, "I'd like some of that kind of love!"**

**Jerry**

**Well Houston, we have a problem. The biggest complaint that Pastors hear over and over in the church is woman complaining that their husbands are falling short when it comes to love. Falling short may be way to politically correct. For some we might want to call it a failure to launch.**

**Brandon**

**A lot of Christian men get married with the wrong intentions. Their main reason for getting married is to fulfill their lusts.**

**Some Christian men get married with great intentions, but they do not end up leading their wife to love God and they do not end up loving their wife like Christ loves the church.**

## **Jerry**

**As a result, professing Christians are getting divorces at about the same rate that non-Christians are getting divorced. And the main problem is husbands in the church who do not love God. When you do not love God first, you do not have the power to love your wife.**

## **Brandon**

**So, for those husbands that do love God, what does a husband loving His wife look like? Ephesus was a church known for its love, and Paul knew they needed some instruction. Christian husbands need some instructions on how to lead and love like Jesus leads and loves.**

**We have already read what Paul said in Ephesians 5. I thought I would take a moment and read some other passages for husbands and then we could summarize what they collectively say...**

### **1 Peter 3:7**

**7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.**

**NKJV**

### **Colossians 3:19**

**19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.**

**NKJV**

**Jerry (invite Rachael)**

**To love your wife means...**

- **You sacrifice your life to provide for her needs. (Ephesians 5:25)**  
**(Jacob worked 14 years for Rachel because of his love for her.)**
- **You study your wife to know what she needs. (1 Peter 3:7)**
- **You handle your wife with gentleness and kindness. (1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19)**
- **You cherish your wife like she is your own body. (Ephesians 5:28-31)**
- **You seek your wife's wisdom and counsel. (1 Peter 3:7)**

## **Conclusion**

**It seems like to me that many husbands in the church have set the bar way to low.**

**Brandon**

**We tend to do that when we do not love God and we do not have faith in God. It seems we want to squeak by on our own efforts as husbands. Biblical marriage requires husbands to depend on God. We cannot love our wives like He loves without His help.**

**Jerry**

**I have met a lot of older Christian couples that consider their marriage to be a success Just because they have stayed together.**

**Well, there is something to be said for Christian endurance to protect the reputation of Jesus and His church.**

**But Paul said the love a husband has for his wife should reveal to the world the love that Jesus Christ has for His church.**

**Brandon**

**I guess to some that means Jesus and His church do not really like one another but they are staying together for the sake of appearances.**

## **Invitation**

**Jerry**

**But now that we know what God expects from us men in His church, what are we going to do about it? What are you going to do about this brothers?**

**Brandon**

**Here is what we believe we should do...**

**We should make sure that we are Christians. You cannot love God if you are not a Christian. (Share gospel)**

**Jerry**

**We should get connected to a group of men that are committed to leading their wives to love God and to loving their wives as Christ loves the church.**

**I am in! Are you in Brandon?**

**Brandon**

**I am in! Are you in brothers?**