**Sermon Notes**

**“Two Kinds of Christian Marriage.”**

**Ephesians 5:21-33
21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

**Two Visions for Christian Marriage:**

1. Complementarian: roles within marriage should be assigned based on gender.
2. Egalitarian: roles within marriage should not be assigned based on gender.

*“Why spend so much time on this?”*

1. Scripture has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for marriages.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can promote and sustain good marriages, while \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can promote and sustain unhealthy, ungodly, destructive marriages.

**21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.**

**23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.**

**24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**

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**31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**

**33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

 **Values of Complementarians Values of Egalitarians**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Authority/hierarchy | Oneness/mutuality |
| God's instructions (e.g. Ephesians 5:22-33) | God's ideal (Genesis 1-2) |
| Attending cultural context is de-emphasized | Attending cultural context emphasized |
| Godly marriages have an established structure (patriarchy) | Godly marriages have an established priority (mutual submission – Ephesians 5:21) |
| Roles within marriage established by gender | Roles within marriage established by giftedness and competency |
| Ephesians 5:21-33 is holding out God’s ideal for all Christian marriages. | Ephesians 5:21-33 was God’s best for *that particular* situation. But we are able to pursue God’s ideal, and therefore should. |

**The Common Ground: The Meaning of Marriage**

*“Marriage has the power to set the course of your life as a whole. If your marriage is strong, even if all the circumstances in your life around you are filled with trouble and weakness, it won’t matter. You will be able to move out into the world in strength.” Timothy Keller*

1. Marriage is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of “one flesh” unity, where husband and wife can learn to be “naked and not afraid.” (Genesis 2:25)

2. Marriage is designed to be experienced as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s grace, love, care, and support between partners. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

3. Marriage is meant to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_God’s goodness and glory into the world. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What new or fresh-to-me insight did you gain from this message? How do you plan to respond to it?

2. In what ways did this message challenge you?

3. What unresolved question about the topic or Bible passage did the message raise?

4. What emotional reactions did the message cause? Explain.

5. What book have you read that would be a good supplement to or expansion of this sermon?