



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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The LOVE vs. SUBMIT Question

Message preached on Sunday Morning, October 9, 2022

BELOVED: A church is only as strong as the families in the church.

Yes, being single is not a bad thing...as a matter of fact, if you are single you can focus on your gifting and calling to a higher order (Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 7:7).

But, he does say that marriage is a good thing! It is a God thing!

Most people know how to live with themselves (kinda), but it living and sharing a life with one another that makes things challenging!

So, we need to work at having a strong marriage so we can fulfill God's calling on our lives.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Deuteronomy 32:30 – “How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?”

Proverbs 18:22 – “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.”

No where in the Bible is woman finding a man called a towb thing...weird.

(see Proverbs 31 about a woman being a good find)

“good” – towb

Genesis 2:18 – “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

“help meet” – one who stands besides you, aid, parallel

(NLT) – “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

(AMP) – “Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.”

BELOVED: This is what God created a man and wife to be...parallel! Suited for each other!

UNDERSTAND: It doesn't mean there are not challenges in a marriage where we are suited for each other...quite the opposite. Two people becoming one is a big challenge.

Instead of going to the world and getting a worldly view of things...it is best that Christians go to the Word and focus on what God says about marriage.

YOU SAY: “But a psychologist says...”, beloved, what does God say!

Most messed up views of a wife is taken from the beginning of time:

Genesis 3:16 – “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; **and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**”

This shows us that when sin entered the earth...the woman went from parallel, to less than...under!
GUESS WHAT? We’ve been redeemed from the curse.

Galatians 3:13,14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

BELOVED: When you are a child of God...especially in the NT...you are not subject to the curse. (Deuteronomy 28).

Even in the Old Testament, when the children of Israel were in good standing with God...they didn’t operate according to the curse.

ILLUSTRATION: The ladies in Goshen and their babies POPPING out quickly!

YOU MAY SAY: “Yes, all that stuff is under the curse, so I can control my husband and if he questions it I will just say, “I ain’t under no curse!”

BELOVED: All we need to do is to go to the New Covenant reality of the Christian life and find that both Paul and Peter tell us women are to submit!

Hmmm...well, didn’t they get the memo?

Let’s take a look!

Ephesians 5:22-32 (turn...don’t read yet)

We see two directions given to the husband and wife.

- a.) husbands gotta love
- b.) wives gotta submit

BELOVED: It says what it says...I can’t change it and we’ve got to quit trying to explain it away. Do we need clarity...yes...but **we need to quit explaining it away** and pretending it doesn’t exist.

UNDERSTAND: A lot of the defining of women submitting in a marriage have their roots when wives didn’t work, wives were uneducated, wives stayed at home.

That is NOT how things are now...so I believe our understanding of what submitting LOOKS LIKE has to shift. Yes, it is still there, but it may look different. It isn’t about them being a maid and a servant and being UNDER the thumb of the husband.

BELOVED: It just can’t mean that because that is under the curse!

1.) Marriage is about a covenant!

There is NO DOMINATING in a covenant. There is only each party doing its part to fulfill the covenant.

NEITHER love nor submitting is about dominating the other person.

So **HUSBANDS**...yelling or demanding things from your wife is not loving.

WIVES...nagging or manipulating your husband is not submitting.

THEREFORE: If we even think this is about a wife (now days) having dinner ready/house cleaned/etc.) you are wrong.

1 Peter 3:7 – “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and **as being heirs together of the grace of life**; that your prayers be not hindered.”

NOTE: Not dominating them.

“heirs together of the grace of life” – (AMP) joint heirs; (NLT) equal partners

GREEK – compound word – Union and possessor (to possess as one)

One who obtains something assigned to himself...with others!

BELOVED: We are a team! We are to work together in life! Never dominating...being in charge...why? Because we are in a covenant with each other.

NOW NOTICE: When we step away from this mentality, what happens to our prayers? They get hindered (to cut off)..don't get answered.

Ain't that something!

Ephesians 5:30-31 (Genesis 2:23-24)

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

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, **and they two shall be one flesh**.

BELOVED: That is covenant!

2.) It is NOT your job to change your spouse!

Too often we become experts on what our spouse is doing wrong...because **OBVIOUSLY** it isn't us doing anything wrong!

Like I said last week, we even use the Bible to show that they need to submit or they need to love!

So, we go about making up our mind to change them.

We withhold things from them; we yell at them; nag them, talk down to them, etc. All in an effort to change them.

Ephesians 5:22 – “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.”

QUESTION: Who is it written to? Wives!

So, men it doesn't say... “Men, make sure your wives submit to you...if they don't smack 'em around.”

Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”

QUESTION: Who is it written to? Husbands!

So, wives it doesn't say... “Ladies if you don't like what your husband is doing, stay on him, night and day and make sure he becomes your version of things.”

BELOVED: Like we talked about last week...we all need to quit focusing on the other...and just focus on what we are suppose to do.

ILLUSTRATION: Our two tribes who come into covenant...they need to focus on their areas, so they do those things right and completely...when you are focused on what the other covenant partner is doing wrong...you CANNOT be doing your area fully.

QUICK POINTS: You may beat or nag the will out of your spouse and get your way...but there is no joy in a marriage like that (**ILLUSTRATION:** The man who thought he had a good marriage...but only he had the good marriage.)

BELOVED: Your opinion is not always correct...perhaps you are the one who is wrong.

YOU MAY SAY: So Paul and Peter are wrong when they say submit? Nope, wording is NOT wrong! We will see it is motivation is wrong!

3.) Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:23-25, 32

- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 3
- 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Not between GOD (Yahweh) and the church. But Christ and the church!

Romans 8:17 – “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

If we are the bride of Christ...then we are joint heirs with everything He has.

We are to work together with Christ. He is the head...we are the body!

Since this is a picture of Christ and the church...we cannot explain it away.

HUSBANDS: You are the spiritual heads of your family. Make sure your family is in church.

YOU SAY: Well my wife said we need to have a stay at home day and chill with the family...that is NOT HER CALL. You are held responsible for the family. If the wife doesn't want to come...that is her choice, but it is your responsibility.

- a.) Jesus was always connected to the Father.

John 5:19 – “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things so ever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”

John 8:28 – “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”

HUSBANDS: You better be in touch with the Father. Doing what He does and saying what He says.

- b.) Jesus laid his life down for His bride.

John 10:15 – “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

HUSBANDS: Your wife and children are before you in things. Honor them above yourself.

- c.) Jesus' main job was a glorious bride.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

HONESTLY: if anything this passage in Ephesians gives the men MUCH more direction than the women!

When it comes to the church to Christ...

We follow Him as He is in contact to the Father. As He leads.

We reflect the goodness of God.

I will say a little more in the next section.

4.) So? What does it mean, why does it say submit vs. love?

ASK: What did we talk about last week? Sowing over sucking!

BELOVED: In Mark 4 it tells us that the Kingdom of God always works inside of seedtime and harvest. Always!

QUESTION: Who created men and women?

ANSWER: God! So He knows the things that make each gender (of the 2) click!

MEN: king of his castle; hero; looked up to; being a priority; appreciated; have his back; stand with him (not against him).

WOMEN: Home is her castle; security (financial, protection); intimacy and affection; relationship, conversation, honesty and openness.

RICK RENNER: A husband perceives his wife's love when he senses her support for him...her having his back!

NOTE: The differences. But God made us that way.

THEREFORE: The things that the wife needs? LOVE! Lay life down...glorious wife...if she speaks, she will be heard...intimacy, relationship, openness!

AND: The things that the man needs? SUBMISSION! Hero, looked up to, priority, appreciated, have his back!

THEREFORE: It is much more about sowing LOVE and sowing SUBMISSION (yielding)...and reaping the harvest of a magnificent overcoming marriage!

5.) 1 Peter 3:1-4

- 1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;
- 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.
- 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
- 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

NOTICE: This passage is directly showing that if a husband is unsaved...there is a specific way to win him to Christ.

Sow what he needs.

OBVIOUSLY, we obey God above all...but BE the wife you need to be and SOW to Him...He will be WON by our lifestyle!