

Illogical Love : Part 2- Wedded Bliss
Ephesians 5:21-33

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online
- B. Relationship series...
 - 1. Life is about relationships
 - 2. The quality of our life is determined by the quality of our relationships
 - a. Source of joy
 - b. Just plain suck the life out of you
 - 3. Healthy relationships are defined by choosing to love (Jesus' Love)
 - 4. But that choice often goes against what our natural instincts are or even what we've been told by others. It's often illogical.
- C. What does it actually look like?
 - 1. Easy to say... but once you get in the car, or get home, or show up at work.. how do we actually apply that idea?
 - 2. How can our relationships really be a source of joy?
 - 3. Going to talk about family/friends/work/conflict
- D. Today talk about one of the most extreme/intense relationships known to humankind... MARRIAGE.
 - 1. To help us get warmed up I wanted to see how well some of the couples here really know each other...
- E. **NEWLYWED GAME**
 - 1. Scores will determine how long the message is.

II. WE

- A. Marriage can either be a source of supreme joy or utter misery.
- B. We all expect marriage to be great.
 - 1. Nobody goes into it saying, "Well this will suck. I give us 6 months tops."
 - 2. Every newly engaged/married couple thinks they are going to be the picture of wedded bliss.
 - 3. But then reality hits... first holidays, in-laws, dishes, laundry, money, habits, kids...
 - 4. Have to make two lives one
 - 5. That person who made you see rainbows and understand love songs for the first time now becomes one of the most annoying creatures on the planet!
- C. It's so common that we make jokes about it...
 - 1. Three rings... engagement ring, wedding ring, suffering.
 - 2. Marriage is like a walk in the park... Jurassic Park
- D. But it doesn't have to be this way...
 - 1. In fact, as we'll see, **God designed marriage to be a source of happiness and joy.** actually
 - 2. And Christian marriage in particular, to show what God's love is really like.
 - 3. Apostle Paul actually tells us how.
- E. Not married but hope to be... pre-pre marital counseling
- F. Not married and don't plan on it... what does this tell me about God and how can I apply this to my other relationships
- G. Not Xian- Still some really good principles that I think will help you have a better life.
- H. Men think about relationships the same way many women (and myself) think about cars.
 - 1. We don't want to work on it. We just want it to work.

III. GOD (Ephesians 5:22-31)

A. Paul

1. History
2. Writing to Christians about what it means to live out Jesus' command to love.
 - a. Writing TO CHRISTIANS in Roman province of Ephesus. 62 AD
 - b. Not a Xian? You're off the hook. You just get to listen and see what this is all about.
 - c. But might want to apply it too.

B. So what can we do to have a joy-filled marriage?

C. V. 22 Wives submit to your husbands.

1. Done. Have a good week
2. Verse one of the most controversial in the Bible.
 - a. Maybe you left the church b/c of
 - b. Don't want anything to do w/ Xianity b/c of
3. If you're offended... that's good. Tell you why in a bit
4. This verse has been used, out of context, as a way to try to control women.
5. So let's put it into context.

D. V. 21

1. Submission is the rule for every Christian in every relationship.
 - a. **Submission: Willingly giving all of me for what benefits you the most.**
2. All Xians are commanded to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - a. Reverence: Awe. I'm in awe of what Jesus has done for me. If he would submit himself for us, the least I can do it show that to others.
3. Submission should be the hallmark of every xian relationship- **Phil. 2:3-4**
4. B/c relationships are not about what you can GET from others but what you can GIVE to others... through the love of Jesus.
 5. **Relationships are not about you.**

6. Everything that comes after this verse is simply an application of submission.
7. All relationships should be characterized by submission... especially the marriage relationship.
8. With that context let's dive into the harder stuff.
9. Will require patience and careful listening b/c we are tuned to react to this.
10. **Don't walk out...** its might get really offensive but then I'll show why everything's ok.

E. V. 22

1. Paul tells Xian wives to submit to their husbands as they do to the Lord.
2. Paul is not telling every woman to submit to every man.
3. Paul is not saying that wives are inferior to husbands in anyway
 - a. **True submission is a choice between two co-equals.**
 - b. Paul is not saying OBEY.
 - c. Obeying isn't between equals... king/subject
 - d. And isn't always a choice... **pick up kid to take them to room.**
4. Paul is saying that every Xian wife (regardless of her age, education, social status, spiritual maturity, giftedness, or anything else) can do her part to create a joyful marriage by VOLUNTRILY submitting to her husband (regardless of his age, education, social status, intelligence, spiritual maturity, giftedness, or anything else).
5. Wives are called to submit to their co-equal husband in the same way Jesus (God the Son) submits to God the Father
 - a. **John 17:1-4**
 - b. Just as Jesus as the Son is submissive to the Father in function, but is equally God in nature and essence, wives should be submissive to their husbands while being completely equal to them in importance and spiritual standing.

6. This submission has nothing to do with the deserving or quality of the husband.
 - a. New Study: 10 out of 10 husbands don't deserve to be submitted to.
7. But just as every Xian's submission to others is an act of worship so is the wife's submission to her husband.
 - a. "As you do to the Lord" does not mean she treats her husband as Lord but that her submission is a means of worshipping and loving Jesus.
 - b. It's not something that is forced on her, and it's not something she can try really really hard to create, it comes from allowing God the HS to love her husband through her.

8. When a wife submits it is an equal partner choosing to adjust her hopes, dreams, and desires for what benefits her husband the most.

F. V. 23

1. "Husband is head"- Xian husbands have a responsibility that is similar to Jesus' and the Church... get to that in a second.
2. God's view of leadership- Serving

G. V. 24 In everything

1. It's not selective or only done when you feel like it
2. Just as the church is submissive to Jesus in all things... wives are to be to their husbands.

H. This idea has been completely abused by small minded, insecure men to try to control their wives.

1. This could not be further from what Paul and God intended.
2. These verses aren't even for men.
3. V. 22- Wives.
 - a. Treat this like Middle School health class.
 - b. It's not for you... quit reading her mail.

I. 1st Century

1. No one would be offended... "Wives submit? Duh!"
2. In that culture... Not a surprise, they didn't have a choice.
3. Wives and children were legal property of the husband.
4. People might have been more surprised that Paul used the word submit instead of obey... "I don't know Paul. You're sounding kinda liberal."

J. The next section is what was so shocking.

1. Why the first part might have been offensive to you... b/c our western society has been influenced by what Paul said next.
 2. In fact do you know who started the whole idea that women and men are equal?
 - a. Jesus.
 - 1) Women were some of his most important followers
 - 2) First people to see him alive... testimony
 - b. Look at the rights of women in any country that Xianity hasn't had a major influence.
3. So Paul started with the role of the wife in order to find some common ground b/c what he is about to say was so offensive to his audience.

K. V. 25-33

1. Husbands love your wives
 - a. "Of Course!"
 - b. Not in 1st century. Roman advice... "Husbands control your wives and make sure she obeys you."
 - c. Scandalous!
2. Paul is telling Xian husbands to SUBMIT their entire lives to their wives by loving them as Jesus loved the Church.
 - a. How did Jesus love the church?
 - b. Every decision he made was for the betterment of the Church

- c. His entire life was serving others and it led him to the ultimate act of dying in order to save us.
 - d. All his wants were submitted to the needs of the Church.
 - e. He gave himself up for us... completely. **Died for us!**
3. A husband's love for his wife is designed to be a picture of that truth.
 4. A husband who loves his wife like Jesus loved the church gives everything he has for his wife
 - a. So much more than emotional feelings or physical attraction.
 - b. It's... Energy, money, time, attention

5. When a husband loves it is an equal partner choosing to adjust his hopes, dreams, and desires for what benefits his wife the most.

- L. **V. 28-29** Paul makes sure we got it
1. Just as someone feeds and cares for their own body... in great detail, so a husband needs to love his wife.
 2. Think about this... how often do you give yourself the benefit of a doubt?
 3. The same way you believe the best about yourself, in every situation, is how you are to believe the best about your wife.
 4. Guys know the intricate details of the things that we care about... (cars, sports, plants, movies, video games, computers, etc.) you know exactly the way your hair parts and how your beard needs to be shaved/trimmed.
 5. That's how well Paul is saying we need to know the needs of our wives.
 6. It doesn't happen by accident... it's a choice and a commitment.
 7. And it's worth it.
 8. The best way to love yourself... is to love your wife.

M. V. 32-33

1. The real secret... **Marriage is not about you... it's about Jesus.**
 2. Marriage is a picture to the world of the truth of Jesus.
 3. Jesus submitted himself to the Father so that we could be saved.
 4. Jesus loved the church by serving it to the point of death.
 5. And he continues to love it and care for it.
 6. And your submission to each other will show if you really believe that.
- N. And that's the point
1. When you choose to submit in marriage by not worrying about your wants and needs you trust that God will take care of you while you care for your spouse.
- 2. How much we submit shows how much we trust God.**
3. You're not worried about what you deserve or want or need. You trust God will take care of you. So you concern yourself with what the other person needs.
 4. Might not be logical but it's true.

IV. YOU

A. Husbands

1. When you choose to love your wife unconditionally and sacrificially. Submit your life to her hopes, dreams, and desires...
 - a. People will see a picture of Jesus' sacrificial, unearned, unconditional love
 - b. When you love her like this, people will see the love that drove Jesus to the cross to give up his life in order to pay our debt so that we can have a perfect relationship with him.

2. It might mean canceling a poker night, or guys night b/c your wife needs a break or needs time with you
3. It might mean talking to her before you make that purchase and actually taking her opinion into account.
4. It might be taking the kids off her hands the moment you step in the door b/c she's exhausted too... **her needs supersede yours.**
5. Less time in the garage or yard or office and more time reading bedtime stories and talking to your wife.
6. It might mean taking the time to LISTEN to what is going on in her life and heart and praying for her.
7. If you're willing to die for her... are you willing to live for her?
8. **What is "life" you? Put her before that.**

B. Wives

1. When you choose to submit to your life to your husband's hopes, dreams, and desires people will see a picture of Jesus' submission to the Father
 - a. Your respect, submission, and devotion to your husband will show the relationship between Jesus and the Church.
 - b. It's not a forced or fearful submission
 - c. It's a respect and honor for Jesus... trusting that your submission to Jesus will be rewarded by God.
2. It might look like... not participating when other women are complaining about their husbands
 - a. choosing to speak respectfully when he's being a jerk
 - b. It might mean talking to him before you make that purchase and following his lead
 - c. Choosing to go out of your way to share the good things he's done instead of talking about his failures
 - d. It might mean following his lead when you disagree about some decision.
3. Your submission to your husband will show what it means to trust, follow, and rely, on Jesus.

- C. And don't forget... it's God's love flowing through you.
 1. Its allowing God to show his unconditional love to your spouse through your actions.
 2. Choosing to allow the Holy Spirit to fill you and use you to show a clearer picture of how much God loves them.
 3. For any of this to truly work and last... you have to depend on the Holy Spirit daily to move you and change you.

V. WE

A. Women...

1. What if... your husband genuinely believed you are the most fantastic person on the planet, was absolutely crazy about you, you had no doubt that your happiness was his top priority. He listened when you talked, honored you in public, straight up cherishes you. He wasn't afraid to make a decision, valued your opinions. He leads but listens. He responsible. Not argumentative. Completely faithful. And you had no doubt he would give his life for you if the need arose...
2. Do you think you would have difficulty following/submitting to a man like that?

B. Husbands... wouldn't you love your wife to describe you like that?

1. And wouldn't it be easier if you knew she had your back when it was time to make decision... that she was seeking your best and giving you the benefit of a doubt, a respected you in private and in public?

C. What if all of your fights were about you trying to outdo each other is putting each other first?

D. Christian marriages should be a submission competition.

- E. Do the illogical thing... Rely on the HS and submit to each other.
- F. And have a marriage full of the joy that only Jesus' illogical love can provide.