

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 Sep ..... Eph 1:1-14 ..... God’s Plan is Eternal
- 2) 12 Sep ..... Eph 1:15-23 ..... God’s Plan Involves Power
- 3) 19 Sept ..... Eph 2:1-10 ..... God’s Power Changes People
- 4) 26 Sep ..... Eph 2:11-22... God’s Power Changes Relationships
- 5) 03 Oct ..... Eph 3:1-13 ..... God’s Power Comes by Grace
- 6) 10 Oct ..... Eph 3:14-21 ..... God’s Power Provides Strength
- 7) 17 Oct ..... Eph 4:1-16 ..... Being in Step
- 8) 24 Oct ..... Eph 4:17-32 ..... Being Different
- 9) 31 Oct ..... Eph 5:1-14 ..... Being Pure
- 10) 07 Nov ..... Eph 5:15-21 ..... Being Careful
- 11) 14 Nov ..... Eph 5:22-33 ..... Being Married**
- 12) 21 Nov ..... Eph 6:1-9 ..... Being Respectful
- 13) 28 Nov ..... Eph 6:10-24 ..... Being Prepared

**INTRODUCTION**

- **What would fix these marital woes?**
  - ♦ The rising number of same sex marriages
  - ♦ An Indian boy marries his neighbor’s dog
  - ♦ A Taiwanese woman marries herself
  - ♦ 72% of blacks in America are born to unwed mothers
  - ♦ Baptist have a higher divorce rate than non-Christians
- The only one we can readily fix is the last one – Marital bliss can be achieved through godly love & submission
- The Bible records numerous bad marriages with little to no love or submission
  - ♦ Esther had to share her moody, cantankerous husband with other gorgeous women in the king’s harem
  - ♦ King David’s first love, Michal, ticked him off so bad he stopped going to bed with her
  - ♦ Abigail, was married to Nabal who was a fool and only thought of himself
- In 1Corinthians Paul dealt with how a believing spouse should treat their unbelieving spouse – behave biblically
- Here in Ephesians 5, Paul deals with 2 believing spouses and the advice is the same – behave biblically
- **Definition of behaving biblically** – Be kind and gentle, no unwholesome words, think on good things and not evil...
- **Definition of Godly Submission** (υποτασσω hupotasso) – Give honor to whom honor is due, think more highly of others, obey those who watch over you
- **Definition of Godly Love** (αγαπω agapao) –Willing to protect, to serve & bless, to die & to live for your loved one
- **Definition of Godly Fear/Respect** (φοβω phobeo) – Consider the state of others and act accordingly

Passage	Comments
Eph 5:22-24	<p><b>The Role of the Wife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superiority, inferiority, servility are not the issues – Responsibility is</li> <li>• Are there exceptions to submission ..... Yes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ One should not violate God’s laws.... Acts 5:29</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is there a contradiction since Paul once said there is neither male nor female with Christ? .. Gal 3:28                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This is not contradictory but complementary</li> <li>♦ We all have equal footing with Christ, but different responsibilities – by God’s design</li> <li>♦ Jesus was submissive to God, but He was fully equal with God and not inferior one iota</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “...as to the Lord” – This is our true FOCUS                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Whether we be male or female, we should do all things as unto Christ..... Eph 6:7; Col 3:23</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
5:25-32	<p><b>The Role of the Husband</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twice as many verses for the husband – possibly due to our hard hearts and hard heads</li> <li>• The end result of men loving their wives as Christ loves His church is being focused on her welfare and helping her become the woman God wants her to be</li> <li>• We might not be the “White Knights” our wives wish we were, but when we behave Christ-like I do not think they will complain too much</li> <li>• <b>v25.</b> The phrase “<b>men, love your wives</b>” is not an option, a suggestion, or a conditional clause – it is an imperative command with no end date</li> <li>• <b>v27.</b> The phrase “...or any such thing” conveys to us men we have no excuse for failing</li> </ul>
5:33	<p><b>Love vs Fear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is interesting men are commanded to love their wives with “agape” love</li> <li>• ...but women are commanded to “respect” or “fear” their husbands .....How is this done?</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 89x out of 90 the Greek word [phobeo φοβω – where we get phobia from] is translated as “fear” or “be afraid.” Only once is it translated as respect or honor, and it is here in Eph 5:33</li> </ul>
	<p><b>What Would a Marriage be like if...</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The husband loves the wife, BUT the wife does not respect the husband?</li> <li>2. The wife respects the husband, BUT the husband does not love the wife?</li> <li>3. The husband does not love the wife AND the wife does not respect the husband?</li> <li>4. The husband loves the wife AND the wife respects the husband</li> </ol>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:**

- Marriages built on a “give me” mentality are doomed
- If we want a blissful marriage for a life time consider behaving biblically – where men love like Christ and women submit like Christ

**SUPPORTING PASSAGES:**

Heb 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Mt 10:28 And **fear** [phobeo] not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather **fear** [phobeo] Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 6:1-9.** We must show respect of children, of parents, of employers and workers

