

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 Sept 2019	Ephesians 1:1-14	Rejoice
2) 08 Sept	Ephesians 1:15-23	Remembered
3) 15 Sept	Ephesians 2:1-10	Resurrected
4) 22 Sept	Ephesians 2:11-22	Reconciled
5) 29 Sept	Ephesians 3:1-13	Revealed
6) 06 Oct	Ephesians 3:14-21	Residence
7) 13 Oct	Ephesians 4:1-10	Walking Together
8) 20 Oct	Ephesians 4:11-16	Walking Forward
9) 27 Oct	Ephesians 4:17-32	Walking Differently
10) 03 Nov	Ephesians 5:1-14	Walking in Love
11) 10 Nov	Ephesians 5:15-21	Walking Wisely
12) 17 Nov	Ephesians 5:22-6:4	Walking as Family
13) 24 Nov	Ephesians 6:5-20	Walking to Battle

INTRODUCTION

- **What would fix these marital woes?**
 - ♦ The rising number of same sex marriages
 - ♦ The rise of polygamous and polyandrous marital unions
 - ♦ The increase in heterosexuals living together, but not married
 - ♦ 72% of blacks in America are born to unwed mothers
 - ♦ Baptists have a higher divorce rate than non-Christians
- **The Bible records numerous troubled marriages in the OT**
 - ♦ Esther had to wait her turn as she competed with other gorgeous women in the king's harem [Esther 2:15](#)
 - ♦ King David's first love, Michal, ticked him off so bad he stopped going to bed with her [2Sam 6:20-23](#)
 - ♦ Abigail, was married to Nabal who was a fool and harsh and only thought of himself [1Sam 25:3](#)
- **Troubled marriages were also prevalent in the NT**
 - ♦ Herodias married her uncle Herod after she was divorced (kinda-sorta) from her uncle Philip [Mat 14:3](#)
 - ♦ The Corinthian church was comfortable having a man in their fellowship who was going to bed with his stepmother [1Cor 5](#)
 - ♦ The church in Thyatira tolerated some self-proclaimed prophets named Jezebel who led many into adulterous affairs [Rev 2:20](#)
 - ♦ ...and here in Ephesians 5, Paul deals with believing spouses who were not behaving biblically with each other
- **Here are some commonsense definitions**
 - ♦ **Definition of behaving biblically** – Be kind and gentle, no unwholesome words, think on good things and not evil...
 - ♦ **Definition of Godly Submission** (υποτασσω hypotasso) – Give honor to whom honor is due, think more highly of others, obey those who watch over you
 - ♦ **Definition of Godly Love** (αγαπαω agapao) – Willing to protect, to serve & bless, to die & to live for your loved one
 - ♦ **Definition of Godly Fear/Respect** (φοβειω phobeo) – Consider the state of others and act accordingly

Passage	Comments
Eph 5:22-24	<p>The Role of the Wife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superiority, inferiority, servility are not the issues – Responsibility is • Are there exceptions to submission Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ One should not violate God's laws Acts 5:29 • 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"> ♦ This is not contradictory but complementary ♦ We all have equal footing with Christ, but different responsibilities – by God's design ♦ Jesus was submissive to God, but He was fully equal with God and not inferior one iota • "...as to the Lord" – This is our true FOCUS • Whether we be male or female, we should do all things as unto Christ Eph 6:7; Col 3:23

Passage	Comments
	<p>Family Love: The wife is commanded to love her husband and children with a "phileo" or friendship type of love. Another way to put it, wives are to tolerate their husband & kids Titus 2:4</p> <p>Consider this. Many wives throughout much of history did not marry for love, but possibly for convenience sake, or to survive, or to avoid prostitution, or they were in an arranged or a forced marriage. So, this command for a Christian wife to tolerate or act friendly toward her unwanted husband & kids was HUGE. The only command bigger was when husbands were commanded to love their wives with an "agape" or self-sacrificing love as Christ loves us... Eph 5:25</p>
5:25-32	<p>The Role of the Husband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice as many verses for the husband – possibly due to hard hearts and hard heads • 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 • 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 • v25. The phrase "men, love your wives" is not an option, a suggestion, or a conditional clause – it is an imperative command with no end date • v27. The phrase "...or any such thing" conveys to us men we have no excuse for failing
5:33	<p>Love vs Fear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is interesting men are commanded to love their wives with "agape" love...but women are commanded to "respect" or "fear" their husbands. How is this done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Note: 89x out of 90 the Greek word [phobeo φοβειω – 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
	<p>What Would a Marriage be like if...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The husband loves the wife, BUT the wife does not respect the husband? 2. The wife respects the husband, BUT the husband does not love the wife? 3. The husband does not love the wife AND the wife does not respect the husband?Hell on Earth? 4. The husband loves the wife AND the wife respects the husband? The closest thing to Heaven?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Marriages built on a "give me" mentality are doomed
- If we want a blissful marriage for a lifetime, 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 & not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

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

