

Connected

The Priority of Christian Marriage Ephesians 5:30-33

I. Message – The Priority of Christian Marriage

a. The Church is One with Christ – v.30-31

i. Just like a husband and wife are to be one, we are one with Christ

ii. John 17:20-23

1. And what is the picture of this oneness?

2. Christian marriages!

a. “For this cause”

b. To illustrate the profound truth of the gospel!

3. Leave, cleave and weave!

a. Leave parents

i. It’s talking about independence

ii. More directly, take responsibility for your own well-being, and by extension your wife’s

b. Cleave to her alone – never let go of your vow to her

i. This is why grooms are asked if they “will take this woman...until death parts you”

ii. And brides are asked if they are willing to “take this man...until death shall part you”

iii. And both are asked if they promise to have and to hold, from this day forward...as long as they both shall live.”

1. Until death parts you

2. Until death parts you

3. As long you both shall live

iv. Why is this so important?

1. Cleaving is permanent!

2. You stick together no matter what!

c. Weave – interlock your life with her

i. How do you do that?

ii. Share everything

d. Think about how this reflects our relationship with Jesus:

i. Leave: Jesus left His Father to come receive us

- ii. Jesus cleaves: He will never, ever leave us
- iii. Jesus wants to weave Himself into every part of our lives: And our entire life is now His!

b. Marriage is a picture of the gospel of Christ - v.32-33

- i. This is a great mystery
 - 1. Something known to God, but unknown to man
 - 2. Until God reveals it
 - a. Marriage has been around since Adam and Eve
 - b. But the fact that marriage pictures the church is a “recent” revelation
 - c. It was a mystery. Now, since the cross, it is clear!
 - i. **John 14:3**
 - ii. **Revelation 19:7-8**
 - 3. What is the bottom line?
 - a. **“33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”**
 - b. Husbands, love your wife like Christ loved the church
 - i. Not because she desires to be cherished, which she does
 - ii. Not because you struggle with selflessness, which you do
 - iii. But because you hold the power to protect or damage the PICTURE!
 - c. And wives, show respect to your husband
 - i. Not because he desires respect, which he does
 - ii. And not because you struggle with this, which you do, and it must be done as an act of worship
 - iii. But because you hold the power to protect or damage the PICTURE!

- II. Conclusion – Don't mess up the picture
 - a. **Learn the art of submission** (and if a married woman, submit to your husband)
 - b. **Learn to love sacrificially** (and if a married man, sacrifice most for your wife)
 - c. **Have a high view of marriage**
 - i. If you have a damaged marriage, understand that Jesus forgives
 - ii. If you are unmarried, seek to develop a submissive and sacrificial spirit
 - iii. If you are a dependent, honor these things in your parents
 - iv. If you have children, model these things for them
 - v. All of us should cheer on submission and love in our married friends