

WRITE IT DOWN!

The Gospel & Your Marriage, Pt. 2

The Gospel for Real Life

Ephesians 5:18-33

Sunday, October 26, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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God's PURPOSES for Marriage between a Man and a Woman

1. Marriage is given by God for procreation and the building of society.
2. Marriage is given by God for the protection of and provision for women and children.
3. Marriage is given by God for our mutual and complementary help.
4. Marriage is given by God as a crucible for life transformation.
5. Marriage is given by God as a Gospel mirror.

God's PLAN for Marriage between a Man and a Woman

1. A Husband's Calling (Eph. 5:25-33):

A.

B.

C.

2. A Wife's Calling (Eph. 5:22-24, 33):

A.

B.

C.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Ephesians 5:18-33. Why is verse 21 so critical for understanding the verses that follow?
2. How was Jesus the Son submissive to the will of the Father? According to Philippians 2:9, was this a sign of dishonor and inferiority? How can this help wives as they seek to fulfill their roles of loving submission?
3. How did Jesus “give Himself up” for His bride, the church? How is this also a form of submission?
4. What does Paul say husbands are doing when they love their wives in verse 28? What is the logic here? How can he say that?
5. So whose role is harder? The wife who is called to follow her husband? Or the husband who is called to die for his wife?
6. Does the Bible teach us in Ephesians 5 that women are to submit to their husbands even when they are being abused or when their safety is at risk? How might this text apply in situations like that?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week’s text/message?
2. Describe how this vital marriage text in Ephesians 5 has been misunderstood and abused. Why are women apt to “bristle” at it?
3. Which came first...the Gospel or human marriage? Why does it matter?
4. Explain this statement in light of Ephesians 5: *Your marriage does not exist to make you feel good, but to make God look good.* Explain how God can possibly be glorified and exalted through a “miserable marriage”?
5. Why is it so important that we as a church teach what the Bible says about marriage even to those who aren’t married and who might never get married, like children, college students and singles?