

So Loved Part 4

Love in Marriage

Steve Berger February 14, 2016

THIS OUTLINE NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISCUSSION AVAILABLE ONLINE BY STEVE AND SARAH BERGER. Using the outline alone will not give a full or complete understanding. WATCH ONLINE AT <http://www.gracechapel.net/media/detail/so-loved>

Introduction to discussion of Love in Marriage (Steve and Sarah Berger)

- not complete study — but enough to help you
- not perfect — but can help you
- not cultural but biblical — HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Review (available online)

- God's love for us
- our love for one another

Our love for one another in marriage

Sadly — when we talk about marriage in Ephesians 5, we usually start one verse late, today we're starting in verse 21, because it lays the foundation for the marriage verses that follow.

- **Ephesians 5:21**
...submitting to one another in the fear of God.

God's plan is for us to submit (voluntarily give-in) to one another with godly attitudes and actions.

God's plan for wives

- **Ephesians 5:22-24**
Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

God's plan is for *wives* to submit to their *husbands*.

- **Genesis 3:16**

To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

*God's plan is that **wives'** desire would be for their **husband's** leadership, not their own.*

*God's plan is that **husbands** would rule over their **wives**, not passive, missing in action.*

- **1 Peter 3:1-2**

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

*God's plan is for **wives** not to badger their **husband's** disobedience.*

*God's plan is that **wives** would win disobedient **husbands** by their own godly living.*

God's plan for husbands

- **Ephesians 5:25**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...

*God's plan is for **husbands** to love their **wives** sacrificially.*

*God's plan is for **husbands** to love their **wives** unconditionally.*

*God's plan is for **husbands** to love their **wives** lavishly.*

- **1 Peter 3:7**

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

*God's plan is for **husbands** to love their **wives** with understanding.*

*God's plan is for **husbands** to love their **wives** with honor.*

*God's plan is for **husbands** and **wives** to be heirs together.*

- **Ephesians 5:26-29, 33**

...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church... and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

God's plan is for husbands to love their wives in order to sanctify and cleanse them.

God's plan is for husbands to love their wives in order to wash them with the Word.

God's plan is for husbands to love their wives as themselves.

God's plan is for wives to respect their husbands.

God's plan for marriage

- **Ephesians 5:30-32**

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

God's plan is that the love in our marriages would represent His love for His church.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the word "submit" mean?
 2. Had you ever considered that Eve usurped Adam's leadership role by making the choice alone to do what God had forbidden, and to take the first bite? Where was Adam that he was not present, or was passive in this life-changing decision?
 3. What elements in our culture (including church) make it hard for us to want to voluntarily give into each other?
 4. Before studying this sermon, had you realized that the vast weight of responsibility in having a successful marriage depends upon the man? Men, what is your evaluation of yourself?
 5. In Ephesians 5:26-29, 33, what does it mean for husbands to love their wives in order to "wash them with the Word"?
 6. Women, do you find it hard to respect your husband? How can you choose to show him more honor, deference, and regard?
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