

## Fireproof Your Marriage

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**Ephesians 5:21-33**

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- 1) If marriage was made in paradise what makes it so combustible?
  - a) We marry someone very **similar** to us
    - i) Similar in **sin** nature
      - (1) Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned"
    - ii) Similar in **selfish** nature
      - (1) Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
      - (2) Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus
    - iii) Similar in supplying **Satan a target**
      - (1) Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"
  - b) We marry someone very **different from** us
    - i) Man was created with **a task to accomplish** -
      - (1) Gen 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
    - ii) Woman was created with a **relationship to experience**
      - (1) Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.
      - (2) Genesis 21-23 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.<sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.<sup>23</sup> And Adam said: "This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."
- 2) What can we do to keep our marriage from Going up in smoke?
  - a) Give your mate what **they need** - *Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*
    - i) Men **must** submit to her need **for love**
    - ii) Women **must** submit to his need for **respect**
  - b) Give God the **example** he planned.
    - i) Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
    - ii) Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.