

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Paul teaches husbands and wives to serve each other with Christ as their example and witness.

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect: The Love She most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs: Breakthroughs in pastoral support with marriages based on his new insight into vs. 33*. Main duties *owed* meet the greatest creation *needs*.

Sermon Point: *Serve Your Spouse to Serve Your Lord.*

Move 1: This mutual service was natural, is now unnatural, but you can do it supernaturally.

Gen. 1-2: marriage came naturally. Gen. 3: becomes unnatural. Vs. 6: reversal of gender roles and the beginning of anarchy. Gen. 3:12: man will now resent/blame the woman for all his problems. Vss. 17-19: man will now abdicate leadership responsibility and become distant because work will be hard and tiresome and vie for his time and attention. Vs. 16: woman will now fear her natural role as mother and resent and challenge her husband's rule. Proverbs 21:9, 19; 27:15; Pro 5:18-20. But Christians have been supernaturally re-enabled to have happy Christian marriages as they serve their main roles: Eph. 2:1, 4-6.

Move 2: Husbands, your most important service to your wife is to cherish and comfort her.

First, what not to do: vss. 27b, 29a: not to hate or hurt/use or abuse her. Instead, to love. Sacrificially: vs. 25: "gave himself", lit. "handed over/betrayed/gave up". "For it", lit. "in behalf of her". As Christ on the cross: bled and died. For her blessing and beautification: vss. 26-27a. 1 Pet. 3:7: your presence. Serve her greatest needs with yourself: vss. 25, 33, "love her" lit. "cherish, have affection, hold in high esteem." Vs. 29b: nourish (feed) and "cherish" or "comfort" her. Attitude seen in actions. She often doesn't feel lovely: help her feel her loveliness. God has wired her to *need* your nurture and love more than anything else.

Move 3: Wives, your most important service to your husband is to defer to and respect him.

Vs. 22: submit, lit. "subordinate", same in vs. 24 for "subject". Chiefly an attitude. Show deference to his leadership "in everything" (vs. 24). Vs. 23: he is head. Her own welfare is vested in a healthy head. 1 Peter. 3:1-6. As does Peter, so Paul connects submission with fear: Vs. 33: "reverence", lit. "fear": *respect*. Attitude shown in actions. God has wired him to *need* your submission and respect more than anything else.

Move 4: When you serve your spouse like this, you serve as a lovely witness to Christianity.

First simile for your married relationship was a head/body relation. Various parts of a properly working human body is truly beautiful. Directly connected to the second simile, Christ and His Church/Body, the purpose of marriage: vss. 30-33. Christianity is submissive service in every role: vss. 20-21. Carries over to parenting (6:1-4), working (6:5-8), and managing (6:9). Everyone has a formal role of service in their service to their Lord Jesus Christ: 6:1, 4, 5-7, 9. So wives: 5:22, 24a. So husbands: 25a, 29, 31. Marriage is most intimate mutual service: “Cleave” means to be glued in faithful devotion. When you serve your spouse according to your role in meeting his/her main needs, you live out “one flesh” (vs. 31) and one “church” (vs. 33). There is no more refreshing, wonderful witness as you serve Jesus together in His church: vs. 32. And this marriage produces a beautiful family for you and for the church. Your children will reflect how you serve: Eph. 6:1-3. Psalm 45:10-11, 14-17. You’ll both teach them how to serve you, the church, and their future spouses. And reflect Jesus serving His Church and how you/they will be happy.

Conclusion:

John 13:13-17. Matthew 6:33.

Serve Your Spouse to Serve Your Lord.