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So when we get to the beginning of chapter five, and as we spill into chapter six, you have to keep in mind Paul is spirit filled. Paul not only sees the things of time, but Paul also sees the things of eternity. And what Paul sees and what he has brought to our attention up to this point is the mystery surrounding the institution of the church, which is defined as believers in dwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, that was a mystery.

So what Paul, he's kind of building on that thought, and here's where he's going with this whole mystery. He sees this body called the church. And he sees this body called the church being submitted, you know, with the head being the Lord Jesus Christ. So within the church, there's various relationships. And what pastor Arnaldo covered in last week's message, the first 21 verses of Ephesians, he was covering relationships in not in the household. So it's like us right here. And how we are to imitate God in those relationships, right? To what you know, to, to, to love one another right to sing to one another, or yet to sing, and, you know, sight psalms to one another in love, in our expression of our love towards God and towards one another, that we were to grow in unity, and in love.

Now, what happens is, what happens in that church structure, right? Or, you know, this church idea? How does that play out in the marriage? What if you're not? What if it is your household? How are we in submission to Christ, to live out that relationship in the household, and that's where Paul is going to get at least in our past is, and we're going to start in the household where it really starts with the husband, and the wife. And later after, after Paul addresses marriage, he will talk to other members in the in the household, you know, parents, slaves, back then they had slaves, and then masters and how they are to react.

But just understand, that Paul is looking at, he sees the church, the mystery of the church, he knows that we are all one body, you know, in submission to Christ, but he also sees he also knows that within the church, there's a household, and how can we continue to live in submission to Christ in that very, in whatever that role is for us in the household. And that's where Paul is getting at, and we'll get into that in marriage.

So the passage we're about to cover, it's a very popular passage on marriage, in fact, Ephesians 5:22 through 33, if you've been to many weddings, it's one of the main scriptures that is read. Right, so you would hear it in wedding ceremonies. If you do premarital counseling. Ben, sorry, we did this. We went through Ephesians five, this is a goto passage for premarital counseling. If you're having marital issues, post marital counseling, we get reminded on what Ephesians five verses 22 to 33 has to say and not to mention, there's a lot of Christian books out there that speak on marriage and Ephesians 5 is often quoted. And I know there's a tendency like okay, let's just read up, let's just open the book. Let's just read it and see what it has to say. And that's that right?

But here's my concern, if we do that, without keeping in mind the at least some of the context that I gave you where Paul is coming from. And also there's another important fact, if we don't



really have a good foundation of the curse, and what really plagued every man and every and every woman since Adam and Eve sinned, if we really miss kind of the consequences or implications of that. Then when we read this, it's going to go over our heads most likely. Let me ask I like to ask Questions and I've said that before. Why is it? That Okay, we're we love Christ, right? We're believers. We love Jesus Christ. For those of us who are married, right? We love Jesus Christ. We love God, we love his word. We want to obey God, we want to fulfill our God ordained role in the household.

Again, the question is, why do we continually fall short? And here's another question, why does Paul quote Genesis 2:24, towards the end of this chapter, and he connects mid the marriage relationship to Christ and the church. So what we're going to find is that although Paul addresses the role of the wife and the role of the husband in Ephesians, five, remember, Paul has a bigger picture in mind. And this is why I entitled this message, the mystery of marriage, and we're going to find that Paul sees the big picture, and how the marriage paints a picture of Christ and His Bride, the church. And the reason that Paul gave us instructions on the role of marriage is so that in submission to Christ, and when the marriage is spirit filled, in doing so that marriage will paint a picture behind the mystery of marriage, and that is to depict the love relationship between Christ and the church.

So what I'd like to do is I'd like to break up our study actually into two parts. And we're going to, we're going to go to the fall briefly. And we're going to touch briefly on the consequences. It's also called the curse of you know, the woman and of the men and allow that to build, you know, to lay the foundation and then we will read Paul's instruction on Ephesians five, and then Lord willing, and hopefully, it'll connect.

So with that, I'd like to actually have you turn your Bibles to Genesis chapter three. And we're going to read verse 16. So after God pronounced judgment to Satan for his involvement in the fall, here, God is going to pronounced judgment or the punishment to the woman first, and then he's gonna and then we're gonna get to Adam.

But first, let's look at Eve's punishment. Genesis 3:16. To the woman, he said, God said, I will greatly multiply your pain and childbirth, in pain, you will bring forth children, yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

So because Eve sinned, by listening to Satan, there were two primary punishments that applied to Eve, and that it applies to every woman thereafter. And the first punishment is pain in childbearing. So bearing children, it is a blessing, but not without great pain. And now I've had the privilege of being there in the birth room, to witness the delivery of my children with my wife.

And I can tell you, I am glad I wasn't in her situation. In fact, I have some quotes that she said, while she was in labor. I feel like I'm gonna die! I'm fighting for my life! And this is with medication. This is the worst pain I've ever felt! I can only imagine the great pain that she went through, and the intensity of the pain as the contractions begin to build up and increase and the intensity and the pain also increase until eventually, she's ready to push the baby out. You see



bearing children. It wasn't always intended to be that way. Bearing children was intended to be, it was supposed to be a pleasant experience. It was supposed to be full of blessing. It was supposed to be full of bliss. Actually, we see this in the animal kingdom. There's some animals when they give birth, they don't moan. They're just there and they just sit and it does its thing and then that life comes out. That's how originally it was to be in bearing children.

But because of Eve's sin only through excruciating pain, will she and all woman birth children. So another way to look at this just now how we know that the rain Bow was a sign of the covenant that God made right with Noah, and for the rest of us that he will not flood the earth again, with water.

So the rainbow was supposed to be a sign to remember that. Here's a reminder to all women, when you give birth, it's a sign. It's a reminder of the punishment for listening to Satan. That's the punishment. And here's a tragic truth and it can get how tragic was it that Eve listened to the serpent? how tragic was that? Really, when were thinking about it, it brought sin right after and then when Adam followed it ushered sin into creation as we know it now. So how tragic is it?

How bad was it really, for the woman to listen to the serpent? And here's how it is you go, okay. This is how tragic if we were to use an illustration, you know, the pain that the woman feels when she gave birth, the quotes that I just quoted from my wife, and I'm sure for many of you, others who have given birth can relate to, you know how tragic it is for listening to the serpent, and for allowing sin to enter and enter into your heart. You know how tragic that is, you know how painful that is.

An example of that would be the pain experienced through childbearing. That's how tragic it really was. So here's that's one punishment. Here's another punishment that applies, you know, the plight to Eve and to all women, and it says this yet your desire will be for your husband. And he will rule over you. Now a common interpretation, and many commentators will say this, they'll say, oh, okay, your desire will be for your husband. And that desire is the desire to usurp or take authority that is given to men. And that your desire is to control your manage to control the family.

And let me say this, that's one of the consequences of the sin. Definitely, sin has its consequences. And it rears its ugly head in many different ways. And that is one of them. But actually, I want to submit to you something else, in addition to that consequence, in fact, first we need to understand what that word desire means. And it really means an intense longing. It's an intense craving, and that Hebrew word for desire. It's used three times all in the Old Testament, one here in this passage, and it's used in two other places. The other time, it's used as in Genesis for the next chapter, verse seven, when God warned Cain, that sin is crouching at the door of his heart, and sin is desiring and craving and longing to consume him. But then God warned them, you must master it.

But we know the story of Cain, did he master it? no sin, barge the door of his heart, if you will. And he ended up killing his brother, Abel. So that was one use of the word, or the other time the



word desire was used. But here's another time it was used in Scripture. And it was actually in the Song of Songs, Song of Songs, chapter seven, verse 10. And let me read that to you. So here are the brightest speaking.

So if you read the Song of Songs, it's very romantic. It's about the love between a man and a woman, right? The bride and her husband. And it's just a lot. It's a it's a great love story of romance, you know, biblical, clean, romantic poetry, if you will. But here the bride is speaking to the, the brightest speaking. So let me Let's read what she says there. She says, I am my beloved's. And here it is, and his desire is for me. I believe that the desire spoken of in the Song of Songs is the same exact desire spoken of in Genesis 3:16. And here's what I'm getting at. I believe that when God said, yet your desire will be for your husband. Here's what he was saying. God was saying that he was speaking of the desire to be desired by your husband.

So here's a, and this is for us, men, husbands, young men, really young men. Here's the heart of the matter. The heart of Eve, and the heart of every woman, of every wife is to be desired to be longed to be craved for by her man. The heart of every woman is to be number one in priority and importance in her men. Eyes. The woman wants to be the apple of his eye. Every woman desires longs and craves that her man will do anything for her to chase after her to overcome any obstacles or barriers to please and get her. Hollywood is onto something here. Right?

However, part of Eve's punishment is this, the desire for her to be desired by her man will be forever elusive, you know that word elusive? I mean, you want it so much. And you thought you had it, and then it's gone. You see, before the fall, Adam and Eve had unhindered communication.

Could you imagine in a relationship, you had unhindered communication? When you speak to each other? You get it each other. There's no misunderstanding. So before the fall, they had unhindered communication, unhindered understanding, unhindered affection. How about this? They had perfect intimacy.

Can you imagine having perfect intimacy all the time? And not only was it so perfectly an example of that they were naked and felt no shame. Adam totally desired her and totally loved her fully and completely before the fall. Remember the words of Adam, this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh, she shall be called woman because she was taken out of men. Adam naturally desired and loved Eve as his own flesh. However, after the fall, Adams desire and her love and His love for her, it turns for the worse, no longer will they have unhindered communication, on hindered understanding, on hinted affection on hindered perfect intimacy, no longer will Adams top priority be to desire and love her fully and completely. Adam is going to forget that he was a gift from God to him. And Adam is going to forget that he was his life partner, his co equal and co heir in the gracious gift of life. You see, because Eve sinned, and listened to Satan.

And so instead of subjecting herself to her husband for his loving guidance and protection, there was a big price to pay. And that price was the pain and bearing children, and the end that cost



her in receiving the perfect intimacy that she longed, and desired and experienced before the fall. So that's the consequence that applies to Eve and to all women.

Now let's turn to the punishment to Adam, and this will apply for us males. Genesis, three verses 17, through 19. Then to Adam said, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree, about which I commanded you saying, You shall not eat from it, curses the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life, both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you and you will eat the plants of the field, by the sweat of your face, you will eat bread till you return to the ground because from it You were taken from you, for you are dust and to dust, you shall return. Now you see the phrase in verse 17. Because you have listened to the voice of your wife.

So here's what happened. And this was the first error from Adam. Adam subjected himself to Eve, and not the other way around Eve was to subject herself to her husband, but because Adam subjected himself to Eve, and because Adam failed to intervene against Satan, and he failed to exercise his loving protection over Eve. Here are the consequences that plagued Adam and every male and every husband ever since. No longer will cultivating the land be without thorns and thistles. How many of us pulled weeds? It's a pain isn't it? You pull it comes right back. Whether you use chemicals you pull it, it's there. The ground is cursed. And one of the evidence of that curse is those pesky thorns button. So as a result of Adam's sin. Only through hard work, will man be able to cultivate the land and bear crop to sustain himself until he reaches his final destination. The grave, and here's another consequence, and I've alluded to this earlier in the punishment to Eve.

This is another punishment that applies to Adam, and applies to every male and husband. Your natural tendency, your natural disposition, if you are not careful, this is where it's going to go, you're going to rule over your wife, on loving Lee, instead of Adam loving her fully and completely his default. And all men's default is to rule dominate her in an unloving way. As well as put his needs.

Remember, she is supposed to be priority, and that's what she desires. priority. And this what I desire that is ruling, on lovingly, instead of Adam sacrificially loving Eve, as Christ loved the church, his default, and all man's default would be to abuse and misuse his God given authority in the marriage and use it unloving, unruly and self and in a selfish way. You see, Paul member, he is spirit filled, he sees this filled by the Spirit, he sees this, and he also sees, okay, that's where it is. That's, you know, that's what happened. This is how we kind of can get back to where it's supposed to be.

But in the meantime, the marriage is actually pointing to Christ and the church. So really where Paul is getting at here, as we're going to read now Ephesians five, it's kind of to reverse the curse, that's kind of catchy, right? It's like, okay, now that we have the Spirit of God in us, we can now take steps to reverse the curse, and start demonstrating and illustrating what marriage has always designed and intended to be.



So with that, let's now read Paul's instruction on the roles of marriage in Ephesians, five and we'll begin at verse 22. Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, he himself being the savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands and everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also love the church and gave himself up for her, so that he might sanctify her having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word that he might present to himself, the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself, for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother, and she'll be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you, also has to love his own wife even as himself and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

So let's take this from the top, in Ephesians, 5:22. So Paul writes there, and he's addressing the wives are the women, be subject to your own husbands? As to the Lord. Let me ask you a question. I don't know if you ever thought about this. Why did Paul go to the wife first? Why didn't Paul start off to add or to the husbands? Why did Paul start with the wives? So can I suggest you something? Who sinned first? Eve. So who will be addressed first to start undoing the curse? The woman Eve, Eve was the catalyst that plunged the human race into sin. And let me just choose a one cross reference here First Timothy 2:14. And it was not Adam, who was deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression.

And let me ask you a question. And this is just practical, like how many of you want to redo you've done something in life, you're like, oh, if I can do that over, I would do it differently. kind of keep the keep that idea. In your mind, that's exactly where Paul's getting at the woman, the wives, you're going to get a redo of what Eve failed to do. And you get to do it now. And likewise, the husbands of what Adam failed to do, and what you're able, and you have an opportunity to do now.

And I want to talk a little bit here about that Greek word subject. It's the Greek word *hupotasso*. And it's a military term. And it means to place under rank, to place yourself, or to rank under. And a good illustration of this is for those of us who've served in the military. Now, in the military, you know, my son's in the military, he's actually serving in the Marines. And he'll tell me all the ranks of where he's at. And I always like lose track, I know that the more stripes you have the higher rank, you pull. And whoever is higher in rank, you place yourself under that rank. And whoever is over you, and rank, you subject yourself, and whoever, whatever that person says, the decisions that are made, that's what it is. That's the idea here, behind this Greek word, subject, it's the same idea in marriage, wife is to place herself under the authority of her husband, and I want to acknowledge this, you know, that's very scary. It's a very scary spot for women, I recognize that for the wives. It takes a lot of faith. And not only that, it's going to be hard not to overstep, or usurp or override your husband's authority.



But I also want to call this out the command for the wife to be subject to her husband, it's unqualified. What that means is this, your husband doesn't necessarily need to do something for you to be submissive to Christ, and in that submission, expressing it to your husband, it's on qualified.

So there's a tendency say, Okay, once my husband gets his act straight, then I will submit, scripture doesn't give us that liberty. Now, I do also want to acknowledge this too. Now there are going to be certain bonafide exceptions. Again, the instruction we're reading here, it's in a Christian context. So the roles here, it's a Christian wife. And the role here is for a Christian husband.

So the context here is Christian. So if you're, if you're a Christian, let's say you're a wife, and you're in a household that isn't Christian, like and there's abuse, there's verbal abuse, physical abuse, you know, you feel that you're in at risk or in danger, whether it's for yourself or for your children.

I'm saying that there are bonafide exceptions where you don't necessarily place yourself under the authority of a husband, or a man like that. So I want to put that disclaimer out there. But let's just say all things being equal. It's a Christian marriage, and the desire of the Christian wife. And the desire of the Christian husband is to fulfill the roles outlined for them, then it like it does line up better. But then again, not all of us are in a Christian marriage, or will we're you will find ourselves not in a Christian marriage, but you're still a Christian, and that marriage is still quote, unquote, sanctified.

So you know, where you need to be. And you know where your husband or wife needs to be. And first of all in the faith, and then after that, to fulfill the role. So there, there is going to be this kind of delicate balance on how to exercise the submissiveness to Christ with your life situation. So I want to go back to the the the instruction to the wives in the same verse, verse 22, the latter part. So it says, you know, wives be subject to the husbands, as to the Lord.

Now, I want to warn something here, and this is for all the wives or and women maybe soon to be wives. That doesn't mean submit to your husband, as if your husband is Jesus Christ. No, that is not what Paul is saying. Paul is saying this in submission to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I am going to place myself under the authority of my husband. That's what it means as to the Lord. There's no human relationship, including the husband is never to take the place of Christ, Christ, Jesus has the rightful place to sit on the throne of your heart.

And I also want to kind of call out another truth. There might be this notion that at least this is how the world operates. The higher in rank you are, the more important or prestigious you are, that's how the world operates. And I want to tell you something, I want to warn this Because the woman is subject to her husband, that doesn't diminish her, she's still a co equal in that marriage relationship, and let me give a good illustration of this would be in the Godhead.



There's the father, there's this son. And there's the Holy Spirit. And let's look at Jesus. Jesus is subject to the Father. And the Father, in turn has granted the son all authority. So there's this kind of mutual submission, if you will. But Christ is subject to the Father, He aims to please the Father. Now, is Jesus less in deity? As the Father? No. Is he not also fully God and full and full of and do full glory and honor as the father? No. Is Jesus less important, less prestigious than the father? The answer is no.

And so it is, with marriage, there is just there isn't that there is a divine order a divine pattern, the Godhead has it. The marriage relationship also has it. So let's look at the next verse, verse 23, for the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is also the head of the church, he himself being the savior of the body, and head here in this verse, and it speaks of a position of authority, the husband is the head. And another way to say it chief of command in the marriage, just as Jesus is head or chief of command over the church. And here's where I don't know how else to say it. But the husband, as the head has the final say, in decisions. And the reason wives are to submit to their husbands is because God placed the husband as the head authority over the wife just as fast as the Father placed Christ Jesus as the head over authority over the church.

Let's look at verse 24. And I'm going to kind of tie in a point here. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to submit, ought to be to their husbands in everything. And as I mentioned this right, all believers, as believers, were subject to Christ. And if you're a believer, and you're married, you're still subject to Christ and wives are to express their submission to Christ, by subjecting and placing herself under the authority of her husband. And I want to call it another thing here, and you'll see it, it says in everything.

And, again, it's not qualified, and it's not contingent upon anything. And it's just like the church right now, do we? Can we get to choose as a believer? Okay, I'll choose when I'm going to be subject to Christ. And when I'm not going to be subject to Christ, I mean, you can certainly do that, that sin, but in reality is is that the heart of every believer? No, you can't choose when you are to be subject to Christ as a believer, and when you are not. And so it is, in that Christian household in that Christian marriage, there is you know, you don't the wives don't get to choose if and when they should be subject to their husband.

And I want to do another caution here. You know, I mentioned how the wife is co equal, and is a coal partner. That is not to say that when I said that the husband's you know, as the chief in command does have the final decision authority, that doesn't mean that the wife doesn't play an active part in that. So don't get it wrong, you have a voice, express your voice, express your concerns, if you're married, share your heart, with your with your husband, with your man, so that he can make the best decision he can possibly make all things being considered. Now, there's much more that can be said on the role of a wife, you know, nurturer, homemaker helper, etc. But for now, we're gonna stick with what Ephesians five has to say, and we'll keep it simple. The wife's role is simply to express her submission to Christ by being subject to her husband.



So now let's now, alright wives, I know this gets kind of, it gets really sensitive. But now let's, let's put the heat on the men now. This is where I got cut up on okay? Let's cut, let's shift it a little bit. Let's look at Ephesians 5:25 and 23-27. Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her so that he might sanctify her having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word that he might present to himself, the church and all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless. And now here's the husband's chance to reverse the curse.

And there's a familiar Greek word in this path and this in this passage, and it's the Greek word love a capo, the root a gap Bay. So here we go. Husbands, you are to express I am to express a god a love to my wife, your wife, a love that's unconditional love that is selfless, and a love that is sacrificial. And I say this and I can't, I'll be a broken record, the Greek word, I got pain, it's not emotion, although emotion can express itself when you are in a gap in love, but the idea of a gap a love, it's a determination of the will. It's leading your heart.

And now for some of us, I don't know, if you've watched the movie, Fireproof, it's actually a good Christian movie and in without kind of giving it away, but they're going through a divorce. And, you know, the father was a Christian, you know, to Kirk Cameron, who was the husband who was going through a divorce, going through divorce. And it gives them this book called The love there. And it was a 40 day journey. And it's really to apply the scriptures that we're reading today. And there was one thing that was said in that movie, when as Fred was giving them counsel, because he was emotional. It's hard not to get emotion, emotional. And it's hard not to let your emotions make - Have you ever made emotional decision? How many of you found that that was the wrong one. And he's saying you, you can't do that. He goes, You can't make your decisions based on your emotion. He goes, you need to lead your heart. And that's stuck with me because that is a biblical virtue. You're a biblical principle to follow our heart, trust me, it's desperately wicked and sinful and above cure, and it's selfish, it's prideful. And if we were to give in to that, that's what it's going to come out. Instead, we're saying, no heart, you need to do this.

So for the husbands, it's need to express a god a love, even though you don't feel like it and allow your heart to follow and get there. So why did Christ die for the church, verse 27, so that he Jesus might present the church to himself in splendor without spot or wrinkle or any such thing that she the church might be holy and without blemish.

Now on the surface, remember I said it was very it's to place yourself under the authority of another fallen human being, you know, for the wives, you have to place yourself under another fallen man in everything, right, I get in there. There's some there's some bonafide exceptions, but just generally in everything, and you think that you come on the shorter end of the stick? I want to suggest you something else.

It's actually the other way around. The husbands have their hands full, and have the greater responsibility. Why, for the husbands Christ, Jesus is our example. And the standard that we are to follow. Are you kidding me? Jesus is the example that I have to follow to show love to my



wife, oh, Lord, help me. But it's true. He is the example. Here's another thing, I do want to caution. You know how when you read this passage, so that he, Jesus, might present the church himself in splendor without spot or wrinkle or any such thing so that she, the church might be holding him and without blemish. And we might read that say, husbands don't make the mistake.

I tried to help my wife in the sanctification process, when we were a baby Christian. And I was like, full of zeal and full on the word, and she's just like plodding along. Do you know her pace? What's up? Where are you at? Come on. Let's get with it. You know, come where I'm at. Oh, boy. See, husbands. Our role is not to mature the sanctification process. Now, we might contribute or be a factor in that sanctification process. But the maturity level of every believer is at the pace of the Holy Spirit that is within them. So husbands were to recognize on this piece, I mean, I got peace - Okay, cool. You're not gonna be a theologian? Cool. I want to be a theologian. You know I'm just joking.

But you know what I'm trying to say. Instead, husbands are to lead their wives in spiritual matters. And we are to leave the results and the progress of their wife, spiritual development and maturity to God. Let's look at verse 28. I know we are towards the end of time here. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself and you see their phrase as their own bodies. See, when Paul quotes Genesis to in this passage, you can't help but know that he's alluding to the bone of my bones comment. husbands are to love their wives catches as much as Christ loved the church. husbands are to love their wives sacrificially and view them as their own bodies. Not only that husbands are to love their wives in an understanding way. And we can reference First Peter three, verse seven on that. He says, You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as someone as with someone weaker since she is a woman, and show her honor, as a fellow heir of the grace of life so that your prayers will not be hindered.

So here we can see husbands to love their wives and to understanding way. And that includes recognizing, you know, men, husbands, how precious and vulnerable. wives are not, there are some women who are a little more masculine, I guess you can say, generally speaking, for to use an illustration, you know, it's like the illustration of a rose, very precious, beautiful, doesn't take much to trample that rose, right? So in that same way, for us husbands, we got to recognize that the woman, our wives, are like that. And in in in when Peter makes mention of we weaker vessel, and that's primarily physical, you know, I mean, generally speaking, and again, this is just in general, there are some women who are stronger than men. But the way men are built is stronger physically than the way women are built, generally speaking. But also, generally speaking, women are more emotional is that news for newsflash for us, not that guys can be emotional. But generally speaking, women are weaker in handling their emotions.

For the latter part of verse 28, he who loves his wife loves himself. In keeping with an - here, remember, Paul is keeping with the Jesus and the church illustration. So here, here's if we were to write this down, Christ loving church, and this is kind of like a math thing, Christ loving church



equals Christ loving himself. Here's his other side, husbands loving wife, equals husband's loving self.

And that means that the opposite is true as well. Christ not loving the church, if Christ were to stop loving us, then Christ would stop loving himself. And then the converse is true. If husbands stopped loving their wives, you're going to stop loving yourself. If the husband doesn't. There's not love willingly sacrificially a selfless love for his wife, he is not loving himself. In fact, when the husbands when we don't love our wives, we're doing our self-harm. Husbands loving wife brings blessing.

And how many of us heard of this phrase, a happy wife is a happy life. Love your wife the way she is to be loved. And you will have a happy life. And if you don't do that, not loving your wife, the way she ought to be loved, is going to bring heartache, pain, frustration, and guess what else is gonna happen? The D word will come up, because we can only go so far. Verses 29 to 30, we're getting to the end, for no one ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of his body.

And this is self-explanatory. No sensible person will intentionally harm their own bodies. And I said, sensible people do that. But no one in their right minds, would harm their own bodies, they would rather nourish it, they carefully protect it, and they cherish it. That's how Christ views and treats the churches body.

So too husbands are not to intentionally harm, intentionally hurt, intentionally frustrated cause grief and pain to their life partner, their wife, but rather husbands must intentionally nourish their wives aim to meet their wife's physical and emotional needs, cherish her as his own body and love her as she desires to be loved. Then kind of put it simple for the men.

This is why I went to the fall. You know what our role is? How did Adam love Eve before the fall? That's my aim. Now it's not possible without the Holy Spirit, but with the Holy Spirit, we can make progress. Verse 31, for me, for this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. And here Paul is quoting Genesis 2:24. So God's divine plan for marriage all along, can be seen in the first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve.

Marriage as God sees it as a lifelong commitment. It's not a contract. A marriage is not something that you try out. And then when you're when you're sick and tired of it, that you get rid of that contract and you get into another contract. That wasn't God's intention all along, when a man and woman are joined in holy matrimony. Before God, Scripture says that the two shall become one flesh. And in God's eyes, he views the husband and the wife as one flesh, one entity. And that brings another question. How can in God's eyes the husband and the wife be viewed as one entity before God? I'll do what God does in His Word. He answers a question with another question. How can there be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit three different people, yet there's one God, our minds can only go so far. It's mysterious.



And here, this is where Paul's getting at. But it's true. And this is why Paul says in verse 32, here's the main point this is, this is where he's getting at right here.

This mystery is great, what mystery, the husband and wife becoming one flesh. But I am speaking with reference to Christ, and the church. And here's where Paul is getting at the mystery behind the Union, the marriage union that was instituted at the very beginning of time, it ultimately points to the mystery of Christ, and the church. Let's kind of take a step back and hear it let's try to get into the mind of Paul, filled with the Spirit, take a step back. When it was just God, the Father, God, the Son, God, the Holy Spirit before they created anything, when it was just them. The father said, Son, I want to pick a bride for you, I want you to go get her. And in order for you to go get her, you're going to have to die for her and shed your blood so that we can be one happy family. And then he proceeds with his plan.

Now, here's the mystery of marriage. If we were to say, Okay, what in life can illustrate the father's eternal plan, from eternity past, concerning Christ in the church? This is the best illustration that at least we can draw from life. Take a virgin, man, a virgin undefiled. I'm not saying they were without sin, just saying they haven't been with a woman, a virgin man. And let's say there's a virgin woman also has an In with a man, still a virgin. When the two come together in holy matrimony, before God, and the later have union, blood is broken from the woman that blood consummated the marriage vow that they've had before God. That's the mystery behind marriage is marriage is supposed to be a picture of Christ shedding his blood over his church, his bride, so that we would be reconciled to God and be one happy, eternal family. And I know I went way over but we have one last verse, verse 33.

Nevertheless, each individual among you is to love his own wife even as himself and the wife must see to it that she respects her husbands. So when husbands and wives are in living in submission to Christ in obedience to His will, then husbands will love his wife as his own body. And likewise, wives will subject herself to her husband and everything, and even give him the utmost respect.

When husbands and wives are in full submission to Christ, here's what we're gonna do. When the husband and the wife are spirit filled, then their marriage will be exceedingly blessed. It will bring most glory to God, and instead of perpetuating the curse, their marriage will instead illustrate to the world the mystery of the love relationship between Christ and the church that the Father has planned all along, from eternity past. Amen?

Thank you so much for downloading the Truth Matters Church podcast. As we heard today, the Bible lays out clear roles for the marriage covenant. While some of these roles, many, in fact, are not as widely accepted by the postmodern society we live in, God's word always stands. And it's important for us as husbands and wives to submit to these roles just as God designed them. Not only are they there for our own benefit, but they benefit our family and those we interact with as well. Mutual respect, deep agape a love, gentleness, and submission to the authority of each role will bring about a blessed and joyful marriage. If you enjoy today's message, please consider subscribing to this podcast and sharing it with a friend. Your financial



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