

Ephesians
More than a Makeover
Preparation and Purpose for Marriage
Ephesians 5:18-33; 6:10-18 | Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 8, 2025

I. Marriage Is A Good Gift From God

A. Both Men And Women Show Us Something About God

Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ ²⁷ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

B. Marriage Solves The “Aloneness” Problem

Genesis 2:18 “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone...’”

C. Marriage Creates An Effective Team

Genesis 2:18 “Then the Lord God said...‘I will make him a helper fit for him.’”

“**Fit**” – Hebrew word “Neged” - that which corresponds, that which is opposite, that which is contrary to, on the other side.

II. Marriage Was Designed To Be A Billboard Of Something Bigger

Marriage was designed to be a reflection of God’s glory! So, when you lose sight of that and try to make it all about you, you’ll never experience the pleasure and joy that God designed for you to have in your marriage! The toxicity of too much of you at the center of it will destroy it.

Ephesians 5:32 “This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Paul says there’s something at the very heart of marriage that preaches a sermon about Christ and the glory of God! That means a strong Christian marriage is a billboard for Jesus Christ and the gospel!

An ugly, Christian marriage is like graffiti sprayed on that billboard because it defaces and devalues something precious. It misrepresents the glory of God and your Savior, because it represents chaos, scarring, and twisting.

In **Ephesians 5:22-29**, Paul’s approach to marriage is that Christ is the reference point for all our actions in marriage. If you miss or marginalize Christ, then marriage makes no sense, because you’ll have no reason to approach marriage the way God calls us to.

That’s why **5x in 8** verses he uses the words “as,” “even as,” or “just as.”

v. 22 - Wives should submit to your own husbands **as to the Lord**.

v. 23 - For the husband is head of the wife, **even as Christ** is head of the church.

v. 24 - Now as the church submits **to Christ**, so also wives should submit.

v. 25 - Husbands, love your wives as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

v. 29 - [Husbands] nourish and cherish your wife just as Christ does the church.

III. Marriage Won't Work Without Supernatural Help

Ephesians 5:18 "...be filled with the Spirit..."

To be filled with the Spirit means to come under His influence so that you think like He thinks, you see what He sees, and so that you do some of the things He would do.

A. You'll Express Gratitude For Things You See

Ephesians 5:20 "... giving thanks always..."

A marriage goes on life support and starts to die when it's filled with nothing but criticism, demands, unmet expectations, and absolutely no expression of gratitude.

But when you're filled with the Spirit, one of His favorite things to do is to help you see evidence of grace and to express gratitude for it.

B. You'll Be Willing To Lay Down Your "Rights"

Ephesians 5:21 "Submitting to one another..."

When you said, "I do," you gave up the right to be autonomous and to make unilateral decisions with an attitude where you think you can do whatever you want to do, whenever you want to do it.

C. You'll Recognize The Real Enemy

Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities..."

When Paul says, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood," he's still talking about marriage! He wants you to understand that your spouse is not your enemy. The war that broke out between you, simply spills over from the war that Satan has against you! The day you said, "I do," he declared war against you.

That's because the relationship between husband and wife is the only one-flesh relationship that was supposed to be a billboard for Jesus Christ! And so, Satan goes after it more than any other relationship. He hates it, because he hates Jesus!

D. You'll Have Faith That God Is In It With You

Ephesians 6:16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith..."

One of the first things that happens is that one or both of you stop believing that God can help, that God is in it with you, and that God brought you together.

You have to have faith to believe that God led you together, that He knows what's coming, and that He wants to grow both of you through marriage, making you more like Jesus.

IV. Marriage Was Never Meant To Fully Satisfy Us

A. Frustration And Futility Are Still Present In The Best Christian Marriage

Romans 8:20 “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope.”

B. We Groan For Something Better That Will Fully Satisfy

Romans 8:23, 26 “And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies...²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

~ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

You will love your spouse best when you love God most. You don't want your spouse to make you the #1 thing in their life. Love for God always has to be ultimate, and your marriage secondary.

Every husband and wife have to be tapping into a superior satisfaction in something outside of that marriage, because without a superior satisfaction in God, husbands can't love and lead sacrificially like Christ did – laying down their lives. And wives can't submit like the Bride of Christ.