

Marriage – The Bigger Context of Ephesians 5

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... 'cause you'll have no reason to approach marriage the way God calls us to.

5x in 8 verses he uses the word **“as”** or **“just as”**

v. 22 - Wives should submit to their husbands **"as to the Lord"**

v. 23 – For the husband is head of the wife, **“as also Christ** is head of the church”

v. 24 –Therefore **“just as” the church** is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their own husbands

v. 25 - Husbands love your wives **"just as Christ also** loved the church and gave himself for it”

v. 29 - Husbands should nourish and cherish wives, **"just as Christ does** the church”

You see... if you eliminate Christ... and you just THROW the SPOTLIGHT on one man and one woman, NAKED on the stage of marriage...

- with no RESOURCES greater than their own...
- and no DRAMA bigger than their own wish list of ‘What I Want’ versus ‘What she wants’...
- you have DOOMED that marriage to a war zone and ultimate failure.

God never designed for marriage to work well without Jesus Christ at the center of it. And we can't do it in our own strength. We really **DON'T have** what it takes to **DO marriage...** but we **DO have** everything necessary to **DESTROY one!**

That's why this marriage passage is **SURROUNDED** by some other critical information.

5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit ‘... be filled with the Spirit’

5:20 – Be thankful ‘... giving thanks’

5:21 – Be ready to lay down your ‘rights’ ‘... submitting to one another’

6:12 – Be alert to who the real enemy is that wants to destroy your marriage – Satan

6:13 – Be armed for spiritual battle ‘Therefore take up the whole armor of God...’

6:16 – Be full of faith ‘Above all, taking the shield of faith’

6:18 – Be praying constantly ‘Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit’