

Number 6

Greatest

Mystery

11-8-20

#1 The family is a 'world in miniature', where life lessons are learned!

#2 A Biblical marriage Exalts the woman and demands Leadership by the man!

#3 A Biblical marriage relationship will teach healthy lifelong values to children!

#4 Sin messes up everything!

Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

This verse is talking specifically about marriage! Paul says, "This mystery of marriage is profound, it refers to Christ and the church." Paul is revealing that marriage is God's created relationship reflecting Christ and his church! This great eternal secret reveals God's purpose for mankind. Paul declares this mystery just after quoting Gen.2:24, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" which clearly shows that the unity of marriage reflects unity between Christ and the church. They are one! The husband's position as head, and his duty of sacrificial love and devoted care for his wife are but pictures, imperfect, but the best that this life can offer, of Christ as head, of Christ's love, of Christ's self-sacrifice and concern for HIS church. The relationship of the wife to her husband and her duty to accept his leadership are a picture of how the church should live and act towards Jesus.

The redemptive truth of Christ and the church is pictured in the marriage relationship.

Ephes. 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

This is direct reference to our Point #2 – A Biblical marriage Exalts the woman and demands Leadership by the man!

Christ died for the church so it would be exalted. The husband loves his wife self sacrificially like Christ so that she may be exalted.

Note: “Love” (*agapate*). This is the highest and distinctively Christian word for loving. As over against *eros* (“sexual passion”) and *philia* (“family affection”) Paul chooses the verb *agapaō* to insist that the love of a Christian man for his wife must be a response to and an expression of the love of God in Christ extended to the church.

This is the word used when God tells the husband to love his wife. This is the same word used to describe when Jesus went to the cross. God affirms that Jesus’ sacrificial death was “for her,” for the church.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

In Ephesians 5:21-33, the husband is told to love his wife, four times. However, the wife is not told to love the husband. The reason that the LORD didn't feel the need to tell the wife to love the husband is revealed in 1John 4:19.

1 John 4:19

We love (God) because HE first loved us.

Someone explained God's love for us. Then we responded to HIS love and loved HIM back. Therefore, if the husband will love his wife like Jesus loved the church, she will love him back. She is sensitive and relational, and she is made to respond to sacrificial love. Therefore, it is so natural for her to respond, it is not even necessary to tell the wife to love her husband in Scripture. Husbands love your wife like Christ loves the church, self-sacrificing which has nothing to do with receiving. It is All about Serving to the point of death. Husbands do this and she will love you back. She can't help but love you back! Ladies how hard would it be to love a man who loved you like this. See how secular feminism and the destruction male leadership actually destroys the marriage, and thus destroys the communication of the gospel.

After addressing the husband, the Bible has something just as important to tell the wives.

Ephesians 5:33 (ESV)

Let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The husband not being as sensitive and relational as the wife, God needs to tell him four times to love his wife to get HIS point across. However, the wife is so sensitive and relational God only needs to tell the wife one time, “Wives respect your husband!” You want to motivate your husband, “Respect him!”

The gospel is revealed through our own marriage; The Bible says, “This mystery is profound, marriage refers to Christ and the church.”

Do you want to communicate the gospel?

- Men love your wives like Christ loved the church.
- Wives respect your husbands.

Sin messes up everything, but proper teaching and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit will lead God’s people to behave like Christ which will Exalt the woman and demand Leadership by the man which will model godliness to your children.