

Session Two: The Acts of Marriage Video Outline

Marriage is the image bearer of the Gospel.

Ephesians 5:21-33

In this session, we look at the role of husband and wife. In Paul's definition of the one flesh relationship recorded in Ephesians, husbands are compared to Christ; wives are compared to the church. Husbands are compared to the head; wives are compared to the body. Husbands are commanded to love as Christ loved. The roles Paul describes are unique. In this session, we begin to explore their uniqueness.

Roles begin in mutual submission (verse 21)

- **Humble service to the other**
- **Build each other up**
- **Does NOT cancel out headship**

Mutual submission is defined in unique roles (verses 22-33)

**Husbands compared to Christ
Wives compared to the church**

**Husbands compared to the head
Wives compared to the body**

Roles are not arbitrary or reversible

Men: bring your headship into conformity

**Husband Headship—one of the most broken parts of our culture
Sin has corrupted into either brutal or passive husband**

Definition of Headship: Headship is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection, and provision.¹

Christlike Servant Leader who:

¹ John Piper. *This Momentary Marriage* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2009) 80. Again, the foundation of this lesson on husbands and wives is taken from Piper's book, Chapters 6-9. Please dive into the book for a deeper understanding.

Provides and Protects (verses 25-27)

Physical

Spiritual

Taking the initiative and setting the vision but not doing all the work

Nourish and cherish (verses 28-30)

Taking initiative to see that needs are met

Willing to sacrifice anything for the good of wife and children

The example of Job

Job's heart for God and family (Job 1:5)

God's heart for Job (Job 1:8)

A primary purpose (Job 19:25)

Job's confession (Job 42:1-6)²

Husband leadership is designed for God's Glory and our good. The Gospel is at stake.

Getting first things right; Second things ALWAYS get better.

What women long for is spiritual and moral initiative from a man, not spiritual and moral domination.

Wife and Mother

Ephesians 5:21-33

1 Peter 3:1-6

Proverbs 31

Submission is free, not coerced. The Bible paints a portrait of womanhood, fearlessly trusting in the promises of God, clothed in strength and dignity, able to laugh into the future.

²Frank T. Seekins. *Hebrew Word Pictures: How Does the Hebrew Alphabet Reveal Prophetic Truths?* (Phoenix, AZ. Living Word Pictures, Inc. 1994) 114. A resource book for the ancient Hebrew letters.

Definition of submission: Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.³

Submission is not exclusive to wives:

Jesus in submission to the Father (John 14:24; Luke 22:42)

All Christians submit to authorities (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-3:6)

Submission is NOT: (based on 1 Peter 3:1-6)

- 1. Submission does not mean agreeing with everything your husband says.**
- 2. Submission does not mean leaving your brain or your will at the wedding altar.**
- 3. Submission does not mean avoiding every effort to change a husband.**
- 4. Submission does not mean putting the will of the husband before the will of Christ.**
- 5. Submission does not mean that a wife gets her personal, spiritual strength primarily through her husband.**
- 6. Submission does not mean that a wife is to act out of fear.**

Submission is:

- 1. Delighting in following and carrying out Christ and Gospel exalting family initiatives.**
- 2. Growing and flourishing in the role of executive officer.**

What submission looks like: (based on Proverbs 31)⁴

- 1. Perfect allies (verses 11-12)**
- 2. Passionate provider (verses 13-14)**
- 3. Skilled in business (verses 15-16)**
- 4. Profitable (verses 17-18)**
- 5. Compassionate (verses 19-20)**
- 6. Fearless (verses 21-25)**

³ John Piper. *This Momentary Marriage* (Wheaton, IL. Crossway Books, 2009) 80.

⁴ Frank. T. Seekins. *A Mighty Warrior: The Hebrew-Biblical View of a Woman* (Phoenix, AZ, Living Word Pictures, Inc. 2004) A resource booklet to understand the role of the Proverbs 31 woman.

7. Wise (verses 26-27)
8. Praised (verses 28-31)

God has ordained the wife to flourish under Christ-like servant leadership

Affirming your husband's leadership multiplies his ability to properly lead.