

Responsive reading: Eph 5:1-21

Intro: This morning we are going to be answering the age old question: “What is the meaning of wife?” Why do we have the family structure we have? For that matter, why are we even here? Big questions, to be sure, but ones we find the answers to in scripture. Next Sunday is “Mother’s Day,” so this Sunday we will first be taking a look at the biblical meaning of “wife.”

I. What is the basis of the family unit? Gen 2:18-25, God said it is not good for man to be alone

- A. Note that man here was still perfect, this was before the fall. Something in perfect creation was not good. The word is “to-vv” which means (as it is used here) “unpleasant, disagreeable,” not evil.
- B. Christ is said to be the second Adam (1 Cor 15:45)
- C. Christ was perfect before the creation of the world (John 1:1-4,14,17) but He still wanted us.

Challenge: Christ had more than one good option, and He chose to show mercy and grace and love.

Praise God for His wonderful works and great mercy!

II. What is “the woman’s place?” (Dangerous question!)

- A. Eph 5:22-32, the description here is one of complete trust being offered, and of being worthy of that complete trust.
- B. Gen 2:18, “Help-meet” is literally “a helper opposing/in front of” which is to say, one who is an equal, matching Adam to complete him.
- C. In short, God had another “good” (as in the opposite of evil), option which was to leave man alone in the garden. He also did not need to create man in the first place. But he wanted to do both, since He saw that it would be more pleasing, more agreeable, to do so.
- D. 1 Cor 12:26,27, when a husband and wife become one flesh this applies to them. Still, we act like children and do not realize that they “trouble their own flesh” Prov 11:17.
- E. 1 Cor 11 is a whole other conversation, but suffice it to say that it is actually talking about a woman being under authority. Anyone trying to subvert the authority structure God has put into place is doing wrong. If you have more questions about this, trust me, I understand. I would be happy to talk about this with you later in private.

Challenge: You do not have to be married for this to apply to you, remember that you are a part of the bride of Christ (Rev 19:6-9). Honor Christ in all you do. Don’t attempt to barge ahead “uncovered” by usurping authority like Miriam and Aaron did (Num 12).

III. The love of a husband

- A. As men, we are given the weighty responsibility to “rule” over our wives (Gen 3:16) which is a major change from the equal status given as help-meets earlier in Gen 2:18. Rule here means dominion, an understanding of being the responsible party. When a problem happens, it’s the guy’s fault because he is supposed to be the leader.
- B. Christ rectified this curse and brought us back to a place of equality when he took “Lordship” over us. He didn’t just get rid of it, He fulfilled it as he promised (Matt 5:17-20) by taking “responsibility” for His bride’s sins and dying on the cross.
- C. Under the law, the only reason given for divorce is unfaithfulness (Matt 5:31-32). In fact, in Jer 3:8 God does just that. However, on the cross He chose another good option: to take the unfaithful wife, sick with the STD of sin, and to absorb her sickness, her death sentence, into Himself, and die. All so that she could live.

Extro: And so we see that the meaning of wife is a fulfillment of the plan of creation, and that the meaning of Life is Christ who purified and accepted us because of His great love, even tho’ He didn’t have to. Praise God for His great grace!

Final Song: [At Calvary](#) Watch the sermon at: <https://youtu.be/s9IVJ1YDsAM>

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