Ephesians 5:20-33[[1]](#footnote-1)

Lesson 11

1. **Considering Context**

***Ephesians 5:17, 18b, 19, 21***

*So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

*18bbut be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another*

*21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ*

1. **What is submission?**

***“It is the desire to get along with one another, being satisfied with less than one's due, a sweet reasonableness of attitude.”-Wuest***

* 1. **Limited Submission**

***Verse 21***

***Submitting to one another in the fear of God***

* + 1. “Notice that this submission is ‘in the fear of God’. The Scripture does not teach anyone ever to disobey God in an attempt to submit to someone else.- AWMI
		2. Wives submit to their husbands in the “sphere” of the fear of God.
		3. “In a parallel verse, Col 3:18, Paul said wives should submit to their husbands ‘as it is fit in the Lord’. There is an unfitting type of submission, and that is the type where a woman does whatever the man says, even if it is sin. That is not what Paul was teaching.-AWMI
	1. **Exclusive Submission**

***Verse 22***

***Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***

* + 1. "Your own" is idios, "one's own private, peculiar, unique possession.“-Wuest
		2. This exclusive submission is meant to protect the wife from outside forces.
	1. **Head but Not Savior**

***Verses 23-24***

***For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself (Jesus) being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.***

* + 1. "It is best taken as an independent clause, stating in a definite and emphatic way an important point in which Christ, who resembles the husband in respect to headship, at the same time differs from the husband. . . . The husband is head of the wife, and in that he is like Christ; but Christ is also that which the husband is not, namely, Saviour of that whereof He is Head.“-Wuest
	1. **R-E-S-P-E-C-T** (Find out what this means to him.)

***Verse 33***

***and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.***

* + 1. *The word "reverence" is phobeō, "to fear, to be afraid of, to reverence, to venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience." Expositors defines: "fear in the sense of reverence, spontaneous, obedient regard.”*

*-Wuest's*

* + 1. **Reverence = Respect**

**This respect is the essence of submission.**

1. **What Submission DOESN’T Mean**
* **That she does not have an individual relationship with Jesus.**
* **That she is inferior in any way.**
* **That her opinion is not important or valid.**
* **That she must go against her conscience.**
* **The she must do anything immoral.**
1. **Why does the church submit to Jesus?**
* We submit because we love Him and want to please Him.
* Submission is always a voluntary choice (Colossians 1:9-12).
* We submit without fear of wrath or punishment for not submitting (Romans 8:15).
* We submit because He loves and cherishes us and lavishes His grace and favor and goodness upon us.
* **In Other Words:**

**Submission to God is NOT a law.**

**It is a choice.**

**When law enters our relationship with God,**

**grace is extinguished**

**and misery follows.**

1. **Why does a wife submit to her husband?**
* A wife submits to her husband for the same reasons.
* She submits to him because she loves him and wants to please Him .
* She does not submit out of the fear of his or God’s wrath or punishment.
* She submits because her husband loves and cherishes her and lavishes his grace and favor and goodness upon her.
* In Other Words:

**Submission to one’s husband**

**is NOT a law.**

**It is a choice.**

**When law enters our marriage relationship,**

**grace is extinguished**

**and misery follows.**

1. **What Love is This?**

***Verses25, 28-29, 33***

***Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,***

***28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;***

***29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it,***

***33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself,***

1. **What Love is This?**

***Verse 28***

***So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;***

* 1. Husbands/Men: This is a self-sacrificial love, a love that impels the one loving to give himself in self-sacrifice for the well-being of the one who is loved.-Wuest
	2. The husband, the head, therefore, is to love the wife as being his body, even as Christ loved the Church as forming His body. The idea of husband and wife as being one flesh is probably also in view. He that loveth his own wife loveth himself.-Wuest
	3. Husbands are to follow the example of Christ in the way they love their wives.
	4. **How did Christ love us?**
		1. First, the love of Christ was extended to us before we requested it or changed our actions. Ro 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Therefore, men should love their wives independently of whether they deserve it or not. Wives should not have to earn their husbands' love.-AWMI
		2. Secondly, Jesus took our blame and bore our punishment. Men should protect their wives by taking their shame and sharing their pain.-AWMI
	5. **26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,**
		1. A man loves his wife with his words– words of kindness, and affection, just like Jesus does for us.
		2. This is NOT saying that husbands sanctify their wives by reading the Bible to them! Only Jesus can sanctify and cleanse someone. It is showing what Jesus did for the church—He gave Himself.
	6. **31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.**
		1. "Leave" is kataleipō, "to leave behind, depart from."
		2. "Joined" is proskollaō, "to glue upon, to glue to, to join one's self to closely, cleave to, stick to." -Wuest
		3. In order for real unity to happen, the man leaves his family and old life and then cleaves/sticks to his wife.
	7. **In Other Words:**

**Loving one’s wife**

**is NOT a law.**

**It is a choice.**

**When law enters our marriage relationship,**

**grace is extinguished**

**and misery follows.**

* 1. **In Other Words:**

**We need NOT see our spouse**

**as a “necessary evil” or a hindrance.**

**We are a blessing to each other;**

**the husband voluntarily giving himself for his wife,**

**and the wife responding to his love in voluntary submission.**

1. **Jesus Relationship with the Church**

***Verse 32***

***This mystery is great but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.***

* 1. The mystery is not in the fact that the truths are difficult to interpret, but that they are impossible to interpret until their meaning is revealed at which time the truth becomes plain.- preceptaustin.org/ephesians\_532-33.htm
1. **Jesus Relationship with the Church**

***Verse 25***

***Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,***

* 1. Jesus LOVED us and DIED for us.

*Matthew 10:45*

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

1. **Jesus Relationship with the Church**

***Verse 26***

***So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,***

* 1. Jesus’ words to you and me are not harsh and condemning. They are affirming and loving

***Verses 19-21***

***Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21submitting to one another in the fear of God.***

1. **Jesus Relationship with the Church**

***Verse 27***

***That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.***

* 1. So, this is not talking about a wrinkle as in clothes, but a wrinkle as on the face. It is a word picture that describes the body of Christ as not being worn and weather-beaten. We are glorious in the spirit realm and in the sight of God. AWMI
	2. Holy: hagios

Sacred (physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated): - (most) holy (one, thing), saint.-Strongs

* 1. Blameless amōmos

Unblemished (literally or figuratively): - without blame (blemish, fault, spot), faultless, unblameable.

***Colossians 1:21-22***

***And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.***

1. **Jesus Relationship with the Church**

***Verses 29-30***

***But nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.***

* 1. Nourish: ektrephō, to rear up to maturity, that is, (generally) to cherish or train: - bring up, nourish.
	2. Cherish: thalpō, (to warm); to brood, that is, (figuratively) to foster: - cherish.
	3. This shows Jesus’ attitude toward us, His Church, we are cherished by Him and He continually nourishes us.

**Luke 13:34**

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing!**

But God, who is rich in **mercy**,

because of His **great love** with which He loved us,

5even when we were dead in trespasses,

made us **alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7that in the ages to come He might show

the **exceeding riches of His grace**

**in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus,**

Ephesians 2:4-7

**For your further study enjoyment, we are including our former notes from this same passage.**

**Ephesians 5:18-33**

*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, but be filled with the Spirit,* ***19*** *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,* ***20*** *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ***21*** *submitting to one another in the fear of God.* ***22*** *wives, to your* ***own*** *husbands, as to the Lord.* ***23*** *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.****24*** *Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their* ***own*** *husbands in everything.* ***25*** *Husbands, love* ***your*** *wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,* ***26*** *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* ***27*** *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* ***28*** *So husbands ought to love their* ***own*** *wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.* ***29*** *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.* ***30*** *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.* ***31*** *“****For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32******This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33*** *Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love (agape) his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

**Toward Understanding a Grace-Based Marriage: A Work In-Progress**

1. **The teaching in Ephesians 5 is as much (or perhaps more) a teaching on Christ and the church as it is about marriage, and yet we tend to focus on marriage and overlook the beauty of what God is saying about our relationship with Jesus. Furthermore as our view of that relationship becomes bent, when the Old is mixed in with the New (and our relationship with Jesus becomes religious duties) our view of marriage is also degraded.**

*F B Meyer writes in his devotional commentary on Ephesians...*

*Here is a mystery indeed. That scene in Eden is also a parable. It was not good for Christ to be alone. He needed one to love and to give love. But there was none among unfallen angels that could answer to Him. And therefore God the Father sought a bride for his Son from among the children of men; yea, He took the Second Eve from the wounded side of the Second Man, as He lay asleep in the garden-grave.*

*Redeemed men compose that bride. The Saviour loves them, as a true man who for the first time loves a pure and noble woman. He does not love them because they are fair, but to make them so. He has approved his love by becoming man, and giving Himself to death. By his blood, and Word, and Spirit, He is sanctifying and purifying them for Himself. The process is long and severe; but He nourishes and cherishes them, as a man does his wounded flesh. And ere long, when the bride is complete in numbers and in beauty, the mystery that now veils her shall be flung aside, and amid the joy of creation, He will present her to Himself, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; bearing his name, sharing his rank, and position, and wealth, and power, and glory, for ever and ever.*

*Then the Church shall cleave to Him for ever, and He shall cleave to her. And they twain shall be one spirit. And his own prayer shall be realized, offered on the eve of his agony and passion, "The glory which Thou hast given Me, I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as We are one." (F. B. Meyer. Ephesians - A Devotional Commentary)*

1. **In referring to our relationship to Christ and thus our relationship to each other in marriage as a great “mystery”, God is elevating their importance.**

Musterion in Scripture takes on a completely different meaning and does not refer to truths know only to a select, initiated few but in contrast was is a previously hidden purpose of God which when uncovered is understood by the Spirit-taught believer. In other words musterion signifies those truths which are part of God's plan and can only be understood as He reveals them by His Spirit through His Word.  Musterion is a truth which without special revelation would have been unknown and thus is commonly used with words denoting revelation or knowledge (e.g., "to know the mysteries", ([Mt 13:11](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Mt%2013.11)), "revelation of the mystery", ([Ro 16:25](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Ro%2016.25)-[note](http://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_1625-27.htm#16:25)) or "made known...the mystery", [Eph 3:3](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Eph%203.3)-[note](http://www.preceptaustin.org/ephesians_31-3.htm#3:3))

The secret counsels of God remain hidden from the ungodly (to them they are a true "mystery" as the word is commonly used in English) but when these truths are revealed to the godly, they are understood by them. The mystery is not in the fact that the truths are difficult to interpret, but that they are impossible to interpret until their meaning is revealed at which time the truth becomes plain.[[2]](#footnote-2)

John Piper comments that...

And, with that as his clue, he unfolds the meaning of marriage: it’s a symbol of Christ’s love for the church represented in the husband’s loving headship toward his wife; and it’s a symbol of the church’s glad submission to Christ represented in the wife’s relation to her husband.

He calls [Genesis 2:24 a](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Ge%202.24%20a) “mystery” because God did not reveal clearly all his purposes for the marriage of male and female in Genesis. There were hints and pointers in the Old Testament that marriage was like the relation of God and his people. But only when Christ came did the mystery of marriage get spelled out in detail. It is meant to be a portrait of Christ’s covenant with his people, his commitment to the church. ([Male and Female He Created Them in the Image of God](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1989/679_Male_and_Female_He_Created_Them_in_the_Image_of_God/) )

So marriage is like a metaphor or an image or a picture or parable that stands for something more than a man and a woman becoming one flesh. It stands for the relationship between Christ and the church. That’s the deepest meaning of marriage. It’s meant to be a living drama of how Christ and the church relate to each other. *(From:* [*Husbands Who Love Like Christ and the Wives Who Submit to Them*](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1989/683_Husbands_Who_Love_Like_Christ_and_the_Wives_Who_Submit_to_Them/) *)*

1. **In the whole of the New Testament writings, very little specific instruction is given about marriage. Yet religion wants to formulate and legislate to the point of inventing something that God did not intend.**

God made instructions about marriage basic so that in any culture or time the truths would be applicable and so that within these basic guideline each marriage would be uniquely beautiful reflecting:

1. Christ and the church
2. Cultural and familiar backgrounds
3. God-given personalities and talents
4. Spiritual gifts and callings
5. Likes and dislikes, and
6. Give room for differences
7. **Relational definitions**
	1. Notice we are to submit to each other “in the fear of God”, and in that same way women are to submit to their husbands.
		1. In what manner do we submit to each other? We cooperate given deference to each other for the purpose of unity in the body of Christ. Most Christians are “cool” with that.
		2. Paul continues the same sentence using the same verb (submit) saying, “Wives, to their own husbands as unto the Lord.”

**Somehow, religion has made the submission of a wife to her husband something different than our submission to one another…something that involves subjugation instead of cooperation.**

Wives/Women: The Greek has it, "The wives to their own husbands as to the Lord." The verb hupotassō, "submit, subject," is supplied from the preceding verse. "Your own" is idios, "one's own private, peculiar, unique possession." "As" is hōs, an adverb of comparison, and means, "even as, in the same manner as, like a. Wuest's Word Studies – Volume 1: Word Studies in the Greek New Testament

The point of the hōs (as) is that the wife is to regard the obedience she has to render to her husband as an obedience rendered to Christ, the Christian husband being head of the wife and representing to her Christ the Head of the whole Christian body." Wuest's Word Studies – Volume 1: Word Studies in the Greek New Testament.

Husbands/Men: This is a self-sacrificial love, a love that impels the one loving to give himself in self-sacrifice for the well-being of the one who is loved. Wuest's Word Studies – Volume 1: Word Studies in the Greek New Testament.

The husband, the head, therefore, is to love the wife as being his body, even as Christ loved the Church as forming His body. The idea of husband and wife as being one flesh is probably also in view. He that loveth his own wife loveth himself. The relation of head and body means that the wife is part of the husband's self. To love his wife, therefore, in this character as being his body, is to love himself. It is a love consequently, not merely of duty, — but of nature." Wuest's Word Studies - Wuest's Word Studies – Volume 1: Word Studies in the Greek New Testament.

1. **The Husband’s Blessing[[3]](#footnote-3)**

***Ephesians 5:25-28***

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,*

***Genesis 2:23***

*The man said,*

*"This is now bone of my bones,*

*And flesh of my flesh;*

***Ephesians 5:26***

*So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,****27****that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.* ***28****So husbands ought also to love their own wives*

* 1. The blessing of the husband is to see the wife in her beauty and glory, and to speak to her that way.
	2. She is so precious to him that he is willing to DIE for her.
1. **The Wife’s Blessing[[4]](#footnote-4)**
	1. A woman’s submission to her husband is compared to her submission to her loving Lord. If she or her husband has a bent view of their relationship to God, this will be reflected in their view of submission. Instead of a joyful trusting surrender to the one who loves her unconditionally and who has her best interest at heart, a woman can begin to see submission as a bondage or burden.
	2. Believers are told to submit to each other; however, a woman is in submission only to her husband, thus protecting her from those who might seek to dominate or control her outside the bonds of marriage. She is submitted to her husband before any other member in the body of Christ. The two of them are one and thus submit to the rest of the body of Christ as one.
2. **Unity is the Purpose of Marriage**
	1. **We are to be *joined* to each other (verse 31).**

*“Joined" is proskollaō, "to glue upon, to glue to, to join one's self to closely, cleave to, stick to." The compound verb denotes a most intimate union. Wuest's Word Studies – Volume 1*

***Luke 24:18***

*One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"*

* + 1. Cleopas and the person who walked with him were probably a husband and wife, and only the husband was named, (as in the feeding of the 5000).
		2. God called their name (the man and woman) “Adam”

***Genesis 5:2***

*He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man (Adam) in the day when they were created.*

* + 1. *Cleopas and his wife had one heart.*

***Luke 24:31-32*** *Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not* ***our******heart*** *burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*

* 1. **Marital Unity is Based on Jesus. When we agree together as husband and wife, nothing can stop us.**

***Ecclesiastes 4:12***

***And*** *if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

***Matthew 18:18-20***

*"Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.19"Again I say to you, that if two of you* ***agree*** *on earth about* ***anything*** *that they may ask, it* ***shall be done for them*** *by My Father who is in heaven. 20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."*

1. **The entire marriage relationship passage is predicated upon the preceding verses which paint a joyous relationship. *Ephesians 5:18-21*** *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,****19****speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;* ***20****always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;****21****and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*
	1. As we are “be being **filled** with the Spirit”, walking in and believing the great love with He loves us individually, we are then effortlessly able to do our submissive and love “duties”. ***Ephesians 3:19-20***

And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled** up to all the fullness of God.**20**Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,),

1. **Verse 31**

**This mystery is great (Greek: mega); but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.**

* 1. Jesus wants complete intimacy and unity with you. He does this by affirming who you really are, Eph. 5:26-27 **26**so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27**that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
	2. Jesus sees you without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.

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1. **Toward a Grace-Based Marriage: More Food for Thought**

When we read Ephesians 5:25 and realize that God is comparing the relationship Christ has with the church in order to describe the relationship between and man and woman, hope rises in our hearts. How wonderful it must be for Christians to be married if their relationship is such a reflection!

1. Perfect union
2. Perfect harmony
3. The two become one
4. Deep love between the two
5. Acceptance of each other
6. Grace extended to cover all faults
7. Equality in Christ as co-heirs
8. Working together, praying together, being successful together
9. Brother and sisters, true friendship

However, when religion takes over our understanding of God’s love for us, when we begin to see Him as a hard task master, when obedience is with reluctance, when God’s love is fickle and usually based on our performance, when we stop seeing ourselves as His body and instead his subjects, THIS ERODES AND DESTROYS WHAT GOD HAD INTENTED FOR OUR MARRIAGES.

1. There is almost no unity.
2. Harmony? Are you kidding? How about wars and rumors of wars?
3. Deep love? Well, it’s desired, but seldom truly felt.
4. Acceptance? Hardly. Most marriage seminars focus on how to get your mate to do what you’d like him/her to do…manipulation instead of cooperation.
5. Grace? No way! Laws…lots of laws…and formulas…and fault-finding
6. Religion makes the husband the ruler of the wife. It makes the wife a near slave, unable to decide for herself. It makes man supreme and woman’s only importance to exalt him. She is incapable of making the smallest decisions, needing to get permission like a small child. She must submit, like it or not or face the fires of hell or perhaps be killed in a tragic car accident if she storms out of the house in anger because she has abandoned her protective covering!!! The husband is supposed to love His wife, but how can he truly love her when she is never quite good enough? **How can he see her as a co-heir, when he does not even see her as an equal? How can he feel loved if she is constantly pointing out these faults and failures?**
7. Brothers and sisters? How about leader-follower, teacher-student, boss-employee (who doesn’t get paid…AKA in most societies, slave or concubine). Women working full-time required to turn their entire paycheck over to their husbands and then needing to ask for money they earned in order to purchase something for the kids or house, or herself.

Some “Christian” men have even seen fit to verbally or physically abuse their wives for not submitting to them in EVERY way, even to the point of forcing sexual intimacy.

Some “Christian” women criticize and demoralize their husbands on a daily basis.

Hopefully, the most extreme examples above would never describe your marriage, but if you lived through the most extreme examples religious expectations, some of the above might have been or even *be* painfully true. It seems an axiom that to the degree a couple has lost their understanding of God’s love for them, to that same degree the marriage relationship declines.

Finding examples of Christian marriage that would reflect Christ and the church, is not always easy. To complicate matters, even the couples’ viewpoint of marriage which they received from watching their parents might be far from what God desires. With no positive points of reference and with a continually dwarfed view of God’s love for them, marriage can become a burden for both the man and woman.

Obviously, they loved each other enough to make such a lasting commitment, but a religious view of marriage interferes with that love; their FIRST love, JUST AS RELIGION INTERFERES WITH OUR VIEW OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD; OUR FIRST LOVE.

**HOW DID THIS UGLINESS SNEAK INTO CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE?**

1. When someone does not understand how he/she is deeply loved and accepted by the Father, he/she is incapable of loving his/her spouse.
2. When believers do not understand the gospel of grace, their perspectives on Christ’s relationship to the church become warped and that twisted view gets translated into marriage.
3. Religious Do’s and Don’ts enter the marriage…with the woman never feeling loved and the husband never feeling respected…both of them miserable.
4. Men and women are NOT treated equally in church setting and so this is brought home.
5. So, the marriage seminars begin…but until both man and woman have a clear understanding of their relationship with Jesus and understand the truth about God’s intention for them as a couple, the marriage will continue to be something less than an example of Christ and the church.

So what is the answer?

We believe with all of our hearts the words of Jesus when He said that knowing the **truth** would set us free. We don’t have all the answers, but we are learning.

1. **OTHER NOTES RELATED TO MARRIAGE: Equality and Honor of Women**

Some see Christianity as something that debases women, but actually, Jesus and the apostles gave women more honor than were theirs during that time when women were viewed as near slaves and could be divorced for “any cause”.

1. Joel prophesied that both sons and daughter would prophesy after the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus submitted to His mother about turning water into wine when he was 30 years old.
3. Jesus traveled with both women and men.
4. He commended Mary for wanting to learn from Him.
5. He allowed sinful women to touch him.
6. He taught that a man could not divorce his wife for frivolous causes.
7. He did not rebuke an unclean woman who touched him in defiance of the Law.
8. He did not condemn a woman who had been caught in adultery.
9. He did not condemn a woman who had been married multiple times.
10. One of the few people He said had “great” faith was a Gentile woman.
11. After His resurrection, He appeared first to the women. The men did not believe them. Jesus rebuked them for not believing their report.
12. God gave spiritual gifts and ministries to women. None of the gifts are exclusive to men.
13. Priscilla and Aquila both instructed and corrected Apollos and worked as a ministry team.
14. Paul taught that women and men are equal in Galatians. ***Galatians 3:28*** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither* ***male*** *nor* ***female****; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
15. Paul taught that husbands and wives are co-heirs of the grace of life. ***1 Peter 3:7*** *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being* ***heirs together (Greek: co-heirs)*** *of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*
16. In telling women to submit to their OWN husbands, God was providing protection for them from anyone else who might seek to dominate them.
17. A woman was given rights over their husband’s body! Might this not have been a totally revolutionary concept in that day? ***1 Corinthians 7:3-4*** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. **And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife.**
18. The marriage relationship is to be a glorious reflection of Christ and the church. In comparing the two, God is honoring marriage as highly as He possibly can.

1. Power Point Notes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.preceptaustin.org/ephesians\_532-33.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. His blessing rather than his duty [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Her blessing instead of her obligation [↑](#footnote-ref-4)