

Out of I-ness, Into Usness

Ephesians 5:21-33

October 19, 2025

DAY 1: Purposes and design of marriage—part 1

1. God ordained marriage. It is not just a social institution.

Genesis 2:18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib ^x he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

Purpose #1: Deepest connection.

Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

2. The marriage relationship is above every other relationship.

Purpose #2: Permanence

Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

3. Jesus said:

Matthew 19:4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Purpose #3: Security

Matthew 19:7 “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” ⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

4. What strikes you from these purposes/design for marriage?

DAY 2: Purposes and design of marriage—part 2

1. We continue with the purposes of marriage.

Purpose #4: Marriage as covenant.

Malachi 2:14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

2. Marriage is a sacred commitment to God and to your mate.

Purpose #5: Propagate the earth

Genesis 2:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Purpose #6: Complimentary gender

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

3. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: The Jesus-husband metaphor in marriage

1. Ephesians 5 includes great wisdom for how a marriage is built. What is obvious is the didactic teaching that specifies the relational roles husbands and wives are supposed to live out that build a strong marriage.

2. What is not as obvious is the *metaphor* Paul uses that

- *Illustrates* the relational roles, and
- Points to the *central lens* of how spouses are supposed to approach their marriage!

3. Woven into this Ephesian passage are three strands:

- How both a husband and wife are to uniquely relate to one another,
- How both are to reflect something of the love of Christ to one another,
- How both are to reflect something of the Christ and His church relationship.

In short, marriage is not first about me!
Marriage is first about reflecting Jesus to my spouse!

4. As you read the passage, look for how the husband is to reflect Jesus to his wife.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.*

³¹ *“For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

5. How is the husband to reflect God’s love to his wife?

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: The Jesus-wife metaphor in marriage

1. Ephesians 5 includes great wisdom for how a marriage is built. What is obvious is the didactic teaching that specifies the relational roles husbands and wives are supposed to live out that build a strong marriage.

2. What is not as obvious is the metaphor Paul uses that

- *Illustrates* the relational roles, and
- Points to the *central lens* of how spouses are supposed to approach their marriage!

3. Woven into this Ephesian passage are three strands:

- How both a husband and wife are to uniquely relate to one another,
- How both are to reflect something of both the love of Christ to one another,
- How both are to reflect something of the Christ and His church relationship.

In short, marriage is not first about me!
Marriage is first about reflecting Jesus to my spouse!

4. As you read the passage, look for how the wife is to reflect Jesus to her husband.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

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5. How is wife to reflect God’s love to her husband?

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 5: Perspective on marriage

1. In Ephesians 5:21-33 we have the:

- **Purposes** of marriage, (It is not first about me!)
- **Picture** of marriage (Christ and the church, His bride)
- **Perspective** on marriage (It is first reflecting Christ to my spouse)
- **Principles** of marriage (relational roles of husband and wife)

2. We are to reflect the love of Christ, uniquely as gendered people, to our spouse.

3. Gender relational roles reveal something of the character of God

4. Gender relational roles reveal something about how God related to us, and how we are to relate to Him.

5. Reflect the wonder of God's character and love for mankind, through gender and oneness.

6. Read our passage again as we end our week.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.

³¹ "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

7. What is your biggest takeaway from this week's devotionals on marriage?