

12/13/98

Ephesians 5:22-33

Paul has been dealing with the believer's walk based on the wealth we have received in Christ.

Paul now is going to deal with the most vital unit in society, the family.

It is amazing to me that man will go to any measure to preserve endangered species so that it does not become extinct.

Yet, there is no unit of society that is in greater danger of becoming extinct than the family, and mankind is doing his best to insure that extinction.

The essential need and key for a Godly family was given to us in verse eighteen, to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, producing:

- 1) Psalms and hymns with melody in our hearts.
- 2) Giving thanks always in all things.
- 3) And submission to one another.

Statistics of 1984 (Taken from "Vital Signs" by George Barner and William McKay)

Divorce

1910 - 1/10 of 1% divorce 83,000.

1982 - 1.18 million.

1983 - 10 million born-again Christians had been divorced at one time.

Separation

-1 million Christians.

- Among ministers, it has quadrupled since 1960.

Survey - By American Resource Bureau, Dec. 1983.

- Two out of three Christians believed divorce was the solution to problem marriage.

1983 - 1,261,000 people married more than divorced.

1984 - U.S. Bureau of Census

- 50.1 million married couples.

- 9.3 million females with no husband.

- 2.0 million males with no wife.

- single living - 20 million >1940 - 2.7 million.

- single living accounts for 36% increase in households.

- unmarried living - 2 million, 400% increase since 1970.

- 36% had been divorced.

- Working women full time outnumber men 83.8 million to 80.9 million.

Abortion

-births - 1983 had 90,000 fewer than 1982.

-1966 - 5,000.

-1969 - 100,000.

-1973 Jan. 22 U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortions.

-1983 - 12 million in America.

-Since 1973-1984, there were 10 million.

-Two out of five Christians thought it was a private matter regarding abortion.

-Resulting in about 20 million Christians who think it is a private matter.

5:22-24 God's Divine Role For Women

5:22 The woman is to line up under her head.

- 1) The wife is to submit.
 - a) It is a commanded of God, fit in the Lord, describing the proper manner. Col. 3:18
 - b) Submission does not mean inferiority, but effectiveness.
 - 1) The word submit “hupotasso” is made up of two words, “hupo” meaning under.
 - 2) The word “tasso” military term, to draw up in order, to line up.
 - * Alford says, “Subjecting one’s self to another is the opposite of self assertion, the opposite of an independent, autocratic spirit”.
- 2) The wife submits to her own husband.
 - a) Not any other man.

b) Not every man.

c) No one but her own husband who she vowed her love to.

d) The unbelieving. 1Cor. 7; 1Pet. 3:1-7

e) The believing. 1Tim. 5:11-15; Tit. 2:3-

3) The submission of the wife is to her own husband “as to the Lord”.

a) The wife’s submission is to the Lord that she is submitting in obedience, trusting God to work through her obedience.

b) It is to the Lord in recognition of her roll and part in life in God’s creative order. 1Cor. 11:1-2

4) Submission is not unique to the woman.

a) To one to another. Eph. 5:21

b) Wives to husbands. Eph. 5:22

c) Husbands to wives by loving them. Eph. 5:25

d) Children to parents. Eph. 6:1

e) Parents to children by not provoking them to wrath. Eph. 6:4

f) Servants to Masters (employees to employers. Eph. 6:5

g) Masters to servants by not threatening or having respect of persons. Eph. 6:9

a) We are to submit to the authorities of the land and church leaders.

b) Authority and submission are two things absolute elements that need

to be present for effectiveness and productivity!

- c) Christ our Lord is the greatest example, as He came not to be ministered unto, but.... Matt. 20:18
 * He took the form of a servant and humbled himself. Phil. 2:7-8

5:23 The reason for the submission.

- 1) The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.
 - a) God's created order is that the head of man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1Cor. 11:3
 - b) For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 1Cor. 1:8-9
 - c) Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.
 - * It is not good that man should be alone, for companionship. Gen. 2:18
 - * Be fruitful and multiply, propagate children. Gen. 1:28
- 2) The Savior is Christ but the husband is give a related quality.
 - * It is a dual teaching of the church and marriage.
 - a) As protector.
 - b) As provider.
 - c) As preserver.

* As king, priest and prophet!

- 3) The view of women.
 - a) The Jews had a morning prayer, "I thank you God that I am not a gentile, slave or a women."
 - b) The Greeks secluded the woman to the home, man found pleasure elsewhere.
 - c) The Romans were even worse.

5:24 The degree of submission

- 1) As the church is to Christ, so the woman to her husband.
- 2) In everything.
 - * Until it violates your spiritual conscience or Scripture!
 - a) The principle is, "We ought to obey God rather than men". Acts 5:29
 - b) The allowance for unbelieving if he or she separates. 1Cor. 7:10-16
 - c) The prayers of marriage hindered. 1Pet. 3:7

5:25-31 God's Divine Role for Men

* Take note that there was three verses for the woman, but seven verses are directed to the man!

5:25 The command to the man.

- 1) Husbands love your wives.
 - * The word is "Agapao", divine love!
- 2) The measure is "Just as Christ also love the church and gave himself for it.

- a) Sacrificial!
- b) Sufficient!
- c) Satisfying!
- * He is not to be a tyrant.

5:26-27 The purpose behind the command.

- 1) The Lord sanctifies his church by the word, so the husbands love is not only sacrificial, but sanctifying of his wife unto the Lord and himself. vs. 26
- 2) The Lord cleanses and washes His church by the word, so the husband cleanses his wife by the washing of water by the word. vs. 26
 - * She is set apart and cleanse her for the sacred privilege of marriage!
- 3) The Lord's goal is to present to Himself a glorious or gorgeous church. vs. 27
 - a) Not having spot, from without, the evil world.
 - b) Not having wrinkle, from within, the evil nature of man.
 - c) That it should be without blemish, speaks of continual abiding and the Holy Spirit is developing and perfecting us.
 - * Faultless with exceeding joy. Jude 24

5:28 The illustration for the husband.

- * The husband's love is not to be merely out of duty, but as their love for their own bodies.
- 1) In the negative, it points to their sinful love for self.
 - * If they would love their wives as they do their body, they would do well!
- 2) In the positive, regarding the extension of themselves, their wife are one with them.
 - * This being the evidence of his wisdom seeing her as one with him and in obedience to Christ by his divine nature!
- 3) Don't be afraid of loving your wife too much, for the limit is, as Christ loves the church.
 - a) Paul tells the Colossians, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them". Col. 3:19
 - b) Peter tells husband, "Dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel". 1Pet. 3:7
 - * The reason is that both are heirs together of the grace of life and that your prayers be not hindered. 1Pet. 3:7

5:29 The application for the man.

- 1) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it.

- a) The word nourish means to rear up to maturity.
- b) To cherish means to warm, to brood.
- 2) The comparison is just as the Lord the does the church.
- 3) The husband is to be a type of Christ being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - * The world and in particular the last days are opposite in characteristic of godly love. 2 Tim. 3:1-7

5:30 The reason.

- 1) We are members of Christ's body, His church.
 - a) The body takes it's order from the head and responds in coordination!
 - b) A non-responding part is called paralyzed and is a handicap.
- 2) So the husband the head like Christ will not deny his love to his wife, who is his body and she as the body will respond to her husband a type of Christ.

5:31 The original plan of marriage.

- 1) Marriage involves leaving one's parents home.
 - * The word leave simply means to depart, and leave behind.
- 2) Marriage involves being joined to one's wife or husband.
 - * The word joined means to glue upon.

- 3) Marriage involves becoming one flesh.
 - * The phrase one flesh means the sexual union.
 - a) This is the closest relationship God has made for a woman and man.
 - b) This is the most binding relationship, for life.
 - * Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees about divorce, knowing that God hates divorce. Matt. 19:3-9; Mal. 2:16
- 4) The whole picture.
 - 1) Companionship.
 - 2) Propagation of children.
 - 3) Sexual pleasure. 1Cor. 7:1
 - * All three are taught as to how, in the Bible!

5:32 The mystery of the entire analogy.

- 1) The word mystery "mysterion" is that which was previous hidden but now made know, Christ and the church.
- 2) The mystery is also in that it was made possible through Christ not man.
- 3) The reason it is called "great" is because it is so wonderful in privilege.
- 4) So the mystery of a husband and wife in the Spirit, it is the work of God not man!

5:33 The summery of the exposition.

- 1) The husbands is to love his own wife.

- 2) The wife is to respect her own husband,
implying reverence and respect.
* Sarah called Abraham Lord. 1Pet. 3:6
- a) To understand this is by God's grace.
 - b) To obey this is by God's Holy Spirit.
 - c) To persist in this is to receive a
spiritual blessing!