

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: A Worthy Home (Wives)

**Passage: Ephesians 5:22-24, 33**

Illustration:

Need: Because of who we are in Christ, we can live out God's purpose for the home.

### I. Submission (5:22-24)

- Paul's exhortation to wives is built off his instruction that all believers are to live in mutual submission to each other for the sake of Christ.
- To submit is a voluntary act in recognition of an ordered structure (ex. in military or business).
- In matters of the home, husbands (not disconnected from the wife) have been given the responsibility of leading & directing the family towards the worship of and obedience to God.
- This is not a statement of the inferiority of females to males.
  - Wives are not told to submit to men in general, rather to their own husband..
  - Wives are not told to do whatever he tells you to do.
  - Wives are not told that husbands must first approve all activities.
  - Wives are not told that they are incapable of living without her husband's guidance.
- Husbands and wives are equal before God and one flesh together. What he thinks is not necessarily the right thing because it's him that thinks it.
- Wive should always share their opinions and even lobby hard on things they feel strongly about.
- But when the final decision has to be made, God has called the wife to trust Him with her husband.
- Submission to one's husband is about trusting God, not necessarily her spouse.
- 5 things a wife is not required to submit to:
  - Illegal.
  - Unethical.
  - Immoral.
  - Abusive.
  - Clearly stupid, foolish, or dangerous.
- A submissive wife reflects the way the church is to submit and the way Jesus submitted to His Father.
- **Titus 2:5** - when wives embrace God's call to submit, they protect His Word from ridicule.
- **1 Peter 3:1** - embracing God's call to submit is the greatest form of witness to her unbelieving husband.

### II. Respect (5:33)

- Respect is what the overwhelming majority of men desire more than anything else in the world.
- One of the easiest ways to disrespect one's husband is not letting him lead.
- When submission is just relinquishing a decision, followed by pouting or withdrawal, respect is absent and submission is voided.
- Men are strong not he outside but fragile inside. Women are delicate on the outside and Sherman tanks on the inside.
- Wives minister to their husbands by building him up on the inside through verbal respect and visible submission, all as an act of worship to her Lord.

### III. Reflection and Application for Wives:

- How does your understanding of submission meet the call of God to trust Him with your husband?
- Are you actively seeking to build up your husband by showing, demonstrating respect to him?