



God's Design for Marriage

Lesson 4: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE: MARRIAGE AND REDEMPTION

The Role of the Husband

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

Ephesians 5:25

Where did marriage roles begin?

- “When the Bible teaches that men and women fulfill different roles in relation to each other, charging man with a unique leadership role, it bases this differentiation not on temporary cultural norms but on permanent facts of creation ... In the Bible, differentiated roles for men and women are never traced back to the fall of man and woman into sin. Rather, the foundation of this differentiation is traced back to the way things were in Eden before sin warped our relationships. Differentiated roles were corrupted, not created, by the fall. They were created by God.” Wayne Grudem and John Piper (*Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*).
- Roles originated in the mind of God. They display the wisdom of divine order and care and are designed to bring glory to God as they reflect His perfect plan.

- Roles first originated in the Godhead:

(1) God the Father has authority over God the Son: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me” (John 6:38).

(2) God the Son had the authority to send God the Holy Spirit: “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7).

Husbands are called to love their wife (Eph 5:25-33)

- “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (v. 25)
- Agape love extends beyond these other forms of love to include the idea of caring for or elevating the needs of another person over your own

Love her sacrificially

- Loving sacrificially means that it may be painfully costly to love her, to uphold your marriage vows and the command of Scripture.
- Gary Ricucci said it well, “loving your wife means laying down your life for her greatest good for the rest of your life” (*Love that Lasts*).
- The husband is to love his wife sacrificially. How might he do this?

Love her redemptively

- Christ is interested in the sanctification of His bride, the church.
- By His atonement He has positionally made the church righteous but does not cease from practically making her righteous.
- The husband is to love his wife redemptively. How might he do this?

Love her graciously

- God does not love us according to performance or inherent goodness, but He loves us because we are in union with Christ. This love is the outworking of His grace.
- The husband is to love his wife graciously. How might he do this?

Love her singularly

- In a unique and special way Christ had eyes only for His church and “gave himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25).
- The husband is to love his wife singularly. How might he do this?

Love her with understanding

- 1 Peter 3:7, “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way ...”
- To love my wife with understanding means to love her with patience, perseverance, and humility. Practically speaking, what might it mean for a husband to love his wife with understanding?

Love her with honour

- 1 Peter 3:7, "... showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."
- Honour is not passive. It is to admire and uphold and uplift.
- What does "weaker vessel" mean?
- What happens if a husband does not honour his wife?

Husbands are called to lead their wife (1 Cor 11:3)

- "But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor 11:3).

Christ is the head of man

The husband is the head of the wife

- Piper said, "Mature masculinity expresses itself not in the demand to be served, but in the strength to serve and to sacrifice for the good of woman. Jesus said, 'Let the greatest among you become as the youngest and the leader as one who serves' (Luke 22:26). Leadership is not a demanding demeanor. It is moving things forward to a goal" (*Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*).
- What might it look like for a husband to lead his wife?