



*Reading Ephesians Together Pt6*  
**Biblical Womanhood and Motherhood: A Model for a Glorious Church!**

*Happy Mother's Day!*

**Text: Ephesians 5:21-33**

Each Mother's Day, I must sound like a broken record. For the last several years, I've, on purpose, repeated a few key themes as it relates to the Beauty of Womanhood and Motherhood.

My goal in being so repetitive each year is to prayerfully seed these very important truths into the hearts of both men and women alike, mothers and grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers, young and more mature.

Perhaps it is the nature of the *Battle for Womanhood* that brings me back to these critical paradigms; perhaps it is because we've been so attacked as a church in this area; perhaps (and this is an admission of personal weakness) it's because I've been so misunderstood as a pastor and teacher of the Holy Scriptures in this area as well.

**We've said previously:**

Women are precious to God! As I said last Mother's Day, "after woman's creation, God was finished! Woman is the last thing God made. She is the best and brightest stone on the crown of creation, the finishing touch in the mind of God, and designed by God to be a beautifying "corner pillar" fit for a palace." (Ps 144:12)

My friend Scott Brown wrote:

*"The world needs Christ loving, husband helping, home making, dominion taking, kingdom making women. The Bible not only teaches women to be possessors of gentle and quiet spirits, it also teaches them to exercise their God-given wisdom and strength. They are vigorous and strong and distinctively feminine. They are supremely secure and are not frightened by any fear. They are brimming with confidence in the future and are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They are happy because they fear the Lord and love His ways. Their worth is far above rubies, and they bring gain to their households. They are girded with strength and their clothing is of fine linen. The law of kindness is upon their lips. They do their husbands good all the days of their lives. They are "pillars sculptured in palace style" (Ps 144:12) with adornments that radiate the beauty of Christ and diffuse the fragrance of the aroma of Christ in every place."*

"Man cannot take dominion without Woman! From the garden of Eden, Woman was not created in isolation, or independently, *but she was taken from man*. Indeed, so precious is Woman, Scripture unfolds a lifetime of care for her. From birth to gray hair, God commands her protection and provision."

*Praise God for the Precious Women and Mothers in our lives!*

## **Biblical Womanhood and Motherhood A Model for a Glorious Church!**

As we were finishing up last week (Eph 5:1-20), Paul mentioned an additional way one can discern the presence of the Spirit. You may recall Paul's command in Eph 5:18 for the church to be "filled with the Spirit." Grammatically, he follows up this precept with actions that demonstrate the Spirit's Holy Presence in our lives and in our churches.

In **Eph 5:21**, the apostle ends the Spirit-filled list with the command to submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. Beginning in Eph 5:22 and continuing all the way through Eph 6:9, Paul describes and prescribes three areas of Spirit-led submission: Wives to Husbands, Children to Parents, and Servants to Masters.

It's interesting to note that true, godly submission requires the power of the Holy Spirit! Walking in one's assigned role and sphere necessitates the unction of the Holy Ghost! Living in one's lane demands the anointing of God!

As an important aside, this is no small issue. Choosing NOT to operate as called and commanded can cause the Word of God to be blasphemed (Titus 2:5; 1 Tim 5:14, 6:1)

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If you have been in church for any length of time, you know the verses in our Text are controversial. They describe the proper way husbands and wives are to relate to one another "in the fear of God."

*But today isn't about controversy! :)*

I want you to notice a critical parallel the Lord, through the Apostle, makes concerning Women. Let's look again (Eph 5:21-33).

- Count how many times the word "church" is used (5) or referred to when it isn't used (4, vv 26, 27, 30, and 32 at least!).
- There are 12 verses in our Text. The Church is specifically mentioned or referred to at least 9 times!
- Please note WHY the wife is to respond to the husband the way she does: **she represents The Church!**
- Also note WHY the husband is to respond to the wife the way he does: **he represents Christ!**

Paul calls this "a great mystery" (v32), and granted, we fallible saints have a difficult time understanding this even after it has been explained in the Scriptures. But if I may be so bold, our enemy the devil understands it clearly. He therefore hates Biblical Womanhood and Motherhood and DOES NOT want millions of women and mothers running around showing the world the glory of the LORD's church!

Again at the risk of being redundant...

“Satan works to mar and disfigure everything that God created. His desire is to make the beautiful ugly and the ugly seem beautiful. Nowhere is this more apparent than among women. I submit to you that a woman, especially a Christian woman is:

1. **Beautiful** in her role as a daughter of Christ, reflecting our Lord’s tenderness and care, His patience and tenacity, His submission to and love for His Father.
2. **Beautiful** in her role as an unmarried servant of the Kingdom, making the mission of her family and the church her priority until she weds.
3. **Beautiful** in her role as wife and mother, taking up her role in the picture of Christ and His church (Eph 5), exalted in her role as the submitted bride.
4. **Beautiful** in her role as a mentor and discipler of children, pouring daily and exhaustingly into her progeny day after day, crying aloud for them in the secret place as only a mother can.
5. **Beautiful** when she models modesty, rejecting the examples of the world and witnessing to all of creation the Christian virtues of propriety, meekness, and humility.

**Friends, in many ways, Scripture implies that the world will know what the Church should look like by the example of women!** This isn’t to imply the church should be feminine...it should not; it’s to say that the **posture** of a woman towards her husband shows the world how the church should respond to Christ! The **way** a mother loves and cares is how the church should love and care. The **manner** in which a woman presents herself in *meekness* and *modesty* exhibits how the church should present herself before her LORD!

Our Lord often uses Husband/Wife language to describe His love for us, He being the Husband:

- **Jer 3:14-15** *Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: 15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding...*
- **Isa 54:5** *For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.*
- Revelation describes the church as the Bride of Christ! (Rev 19:7-9, Rev 21:2, 9-10)

#### **More thoughts on the Text:**

v22. **A woman models a glorious church** when she submits herself to her own husband, as unto the Lord. The key part of this text, contrary to popular opinion, is **as unto the Lord**. When a woman walks in meekness and humility and submission, she does so *as unto the Lord*. She takes up her role in the great picture of Christ and the Church!

v23. Again, we know this sort of truth is often rejected today, but I submit **a woman models a glorious church** when she understands her role, embraces headship, and manifests the power of her submission! Just as the church becomes ugly when she refuses to humble herself before Christ, likewise womanhood and motherhood become ugly when there is no humility in these matters. What happens to children born and raised in this sort of an environment, in both home and the church?

v24. **A woman models a glorious church** when she is subject to her husband in everything. I know this is anathema in modern culture, but please understand this wonderful truth: the Church IS subject to Christ in everything!

- How beautiful is the Lord's church when she walks in obedience and love toward her master?
- According to the apostle, the world is supposed to be able to look at a wife and/or mother and see the same! *A woman should be a living witness of the power of the Lord's church!*
- Mothers, please understand this is why Satan hates what you are called to do, who you are called to be, and how you are called to live! The more you joyfully submit, the more he hates it. The more modest you are, the more it irritates him. The more content and joyful you are in your assignment, the more the enemy is rebuked.
- The opposite is also true.

v25. Of course in this great "mystery," husbands are to model the love of Christ, the self-sacrifice of Christ, and the gentle teaching of Christ. He knows that his wife (and the women in his life) are called by God to witness to the entire creation the "ekklēsia", the "called out ones" by her manner, posture, and submissive spirit.

v26. The loving husband therefore gives attention to her sanctification, her holiness, and her instruction in the Word! His call to disciple his wife and children becomes for him not a menial task to which he feels grudgingly obligated, but instead a great privilege that he takes very seriously before God! He knows **a woman is called to model a glorious church!**

v27. We see here that Christ desires **a glorious church**. He wants a church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. He desires a sanctified and holy church without blemish! We also understand that ultimately, Christ does this sanctifying work Himself. The work of our sanctification will be completed on the Day of judgment. But in the meantime, the type and the example of the church remains!

vv28-30. A ministry of a husband should mimic the ministry of Christ, working towards the same end, **a sanctified wife who models a glorious church**. He must nourish and cherish his wife (and to a lesser degree, the other women in his life) as the Lord nourishes and cherishes the church.

v31. There are several reasons for marriage: procreation, comfort, and certainly the discipling of children. But by connecting versus 30 and 31, Paul implies an additional reason. **Marriage itself is a model of Christ and the Church**. A man leaves his father and mother and joins to his wife. This unique and God-created covenant shows the world the interaction between the Lord and His people.

v32. Paul makes this clear in verse 32. Even though it's called a mystery, in no uncertain terms **marriage is about Christ and the church**.

v33. Even if this mystery is hard to understand, we can still walk in its power. We do so when the husband loves his wife as himself, and when a wife respects her husband.

Mothers, don't you ever let the devil take away from you that which God calls precious. You are **precious** in the sight of God.

**1Pe 3:1-7** *Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **2** when they see your respectful and pure conduct. **3** Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— **4** but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, **which in God's sight is very precious.** **5** For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. **7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, 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.*

**Ladies, who you are, what you believe, and the way you live matters for time and for eternity! God's wonderful commands for you are not burdensome my precious sisters; they are beautiful! My prayer is that you see them as such. The world needs you right now. The church needs you right now. Our homes need you right now! We love you!**

**The truth is the Kingdom will not advance the way it should without holy, anointed mothers, and the world will have a false image of the Church unless women understand their purpose and call.**

**May the Lord restore biblical womanhood and motherhood. In Jesus' Name. Amen.**

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**Applications and Questions for Family Worship/Personal Devotions:**

1. Womanhood and motherhood (as described in Scripture) are beautiful. Be honest. Have your views of womanhood and motherhood been shaped more by Scripture or the world?
2. Read Genesis 2:18. What is God's original purpose for woman? How do you feel about that?
3. Read through some of the Bible verses concerning womanhood and motherhood (Gen 2:18-25; Deut 5:16; Pro 6:20, Pro 31, Luke 1:39-56, Rom 16:1-4; 1 Cor 11:1-16; 1 Cor 14:34-40; 1 Tim 2:8-15; 2 Tim 1:5, Titus 2, and 1 Pet 3:1-7 as examples). How do you feel about them?
4. What can you do personally to help restore Biblical Womanhood and Motherhood in our homes and churches? Who can you encourage this week according to the Scriptures?
5. What have you done recently to show your love and appreciation for the women and mothers in your life? If you do not like your answer what are you going to do about it?! :) )