

i-design: Husbands & Wives

Series:

- God created all
- Created for a purpose – there is a reason, plan
- Created unique – male & female – given distinct roles
- Equal in value – distinct in role
- Basic Assumptions
 - the bible is the authority
 - God is clear about His intention – revealed in word
 - can be understood & embraced

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Marriage and Mess in our Culture

- massive change around what marriage means
- cynical, suspicious, temporary
- contributing factors
 - rise of individualism
 - belief that new is better, change is progress
 - rejection of authority – abandon absolutes
- abandoned the biblical model – rejected roles

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“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. “ vs1

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

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“In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”
Ephesians 5:1, 21-33

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“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” 1Peter 3:1-7

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Key Basics

- God designed marriage
 - clear roles for the genders
 - reflection of Christ and the church
- Sin caused distortion in our embrace of the roles
- Need to reclaim the terms of headship and submission
- Headship – **“divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.”** Piper

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- Submission – “the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts” Piper
- The marriage is the place to reflect God’s call and design
- clear parallel between the relationship of Christ and the Church and husband wife relationship
- what you believe about Christ being the head, surrender to God’s way, laying down of self, forgiveness, humility, obedience – will be evidenced in your marriage relationship!

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1. Husbands – Love Like This.....

- headship – responsible, held accountable, springs from
- not a right to command or control, responsibility to love like Christ. Source of protection, provision, and empowering.
- ‘like Christ loved the church’ – Phil. 2
- put them first – dying for them

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a) Make them beautiful

- imagery is clear – bride is being transformed into something beautiful, being sought at the cost of his very life
- role is to invest, bring to maturity, all the gifts and talents of the other, to put others first and serve (luke 2)
- leadership assumes the responsibility

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b) Caution

- The Husband is to be Like Christ – he is not Christ
 - husbands are finite and fallible – practice repentance and forgiveness

c) conform to Christ – not husband

- standard of beauty and holiness set by God, not by your spouse. Careful about your perception. Check proverbs 31 for the standard

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2. Wives – Loving by submitting.....

- don't let abuses or terrible teaching cause rejection

a) what submit does not mean

- not agreeing with everything husband says

- not leaving your brain or will at altar

- not seeing changes your spouse needs to make and working towards them together

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- not putting will of Husband before will of Christ
- not relying on Husband as sole source of spiritual strength
- not acting out of fear

b) Submission is....

- divine calling – practice of surrender of self and will
- honoring and affirming Godly leadership
- reflection of Christ to spouse – mutual submission in Godhead
- dependence on God's care and enabling

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- disposition to follow authority of husband, and participate in marriage investing her gifts

c) take care that....

- do not follow spouse into sin, enable destructive patterns
- carefully communicate and discuss – clear on the God reasons
- allow one another intimacy – two become one, be known so you may be served

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So What

1. Marriage – roles and values are under attack
 - primary place of living and practicing faith – losing ground
2. God Designed roles for Husband & Wife
 - reflect his relationship with the church – his bride
 - harder to do after the fall
 - living the transformed life begins in this place – brings great blessing

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3. Husbands are To Love by:

- accepting responsibility
- dying to self and serving
- be a part of making beautiful our spouses

4. Wives are to Love by:

- practicing submission to husbands leadership
- participating in growth and beauty
- using gifts to effect change in family