

Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED

Title: THE BRIDE AND THE BRIDEGROOM: SACRIFICE AND SUBMISSION

Text: Ephesians 5.21-33

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Opening Line

Eph. 5:21

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST

- Mutual submission
- Revering the Lord

Eph. 5:32

THIS MYSTERY IS PROFOUND, AND I AM SAYING THAT IT REFERS TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

The bride is the church.

The bridegroom is the Lord.

Eph. 5:22-24

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

- Submission
- Headship
- Col 3:18 - as is fitting in the Lord

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A SUBMISSIVE CHURCH / BRIDE

Submission stands with God and against the flesh and the enemy

Romans 8:7

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

- If we are going learn to submit, then a supernatural transformation must take place within us. Only as our mind is renewed by Christ will we submit to God and one another.

James 4:6-7

⁶ *But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* ⁷ *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- Notice that our submission to God is linked to standing firmly against the enemy of our souls. "Resist the devil."
 - Satan does not want to see you submit to God; he will oppose your surrendered life.
 - Satan will sow seeds of pride into your life wanting you to take control of your life – to be independent.
 - But as we resist the devil—as we live a life of obedience submitting ourselves to God—Satan will flee.
 - God's grace will continue to abound in our lives and the devil will be defeated.

Submission is an act of God's grace in our lives.

Col. 3:23-24

²³ *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,* ²⁴ *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

- The proud will not submit to anyone; pride fills the individual with arrogance and self-sufficiency.
- The proud looks down on others with disdain. You must come to the end of your superiority complex—pride must be broken within the individual before God will extend His grace into his/her life.
- What does it mean to submit one's self to another?
 - Submission is to yield control; it is our stubborn will and pride bowing in humility. Submission places us in a position of obedience.
- Each of us may say that we submit to God, but then we demand our own way from our brother or sister, or when threatened we defend our rights.
 - The evidence that we have submitted to God is shown as we learn to submit to one another.
 - Paul said, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."
 - As long as we continue to put ourselves ahead of others pride continues to grow in our hearts, and God opposes the proud.

Often our difficulty with submission is that it is viewed as a weakness or defeat—to submit is to give in or surrender to someone else.

- But that is not the biblical understanding of submission within the Church (nor for husband and wife relationships).

Biblical submission is not a negative, it is a virtue

- it's not a defeat
- Submission is a virtue that each of us as believers should possess.
- Without a submissive heart we have none of God's grace in our lives.

Phil 2:3-4

³ *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.* ⁴ *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Submission will never work when there is adversity and mistrust.

- You will never yield to someone you see as an enemy. Who have you made yourself accountable to? Who is your spiritual mentor or leader? None of us can make it alone; we all need someone to help us live a life of obedience.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Peter 2:13-14

¹³ *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.*

- If you see them as the enemy you will resist

Biblical submission is built upon a foundation of love.

- We submit to God because we know He loves us. Likewise we can submit to one another because of love.

1 John 4:7-9, 19

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

¹⁹ *We love because he first loved us.*

A SACRIFICIAL SAVIOR / BRIDEGROOM

Sacrifice means giving yourself up for her betterment

Eph. 5:25 -27

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ²⁶ *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷ *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

- Imitating Christ's heart for the Church, that...
 - She be sanctified
 - She be presented in splendor
 - She be holy

Titus 2:14

Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Sacrifice Means Nourishing, Cherishing Love

Eph. 5:28-31

²⁸ *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,* ³⁰ *because we are members of his body.* ³¹ *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

- Nourish and Cherish
- Leave and Hold fast

Proverbs 4:8

Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.

- Prize = cherish

THE PURSUIT OF THE BRIDEGROOM

Eph. 5:32-33

²³ *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* ³³ *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- love and respect

Pursuit that leads to a safe environment

Psalm 36:7

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Pursuit in spite of imperfection

Romans 5:8

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Pursuit that lasts forever

Hosea 2:19-20

¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

**I will learn to Submit and to Sacrifice
To be an imitator of Christ**