

THIS IS NEW A WEEK AGO!!!! FROM NOW ON WE WILL NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 10/19-20/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 5:12-33*

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For Audio & notes from previous studies-- www.ptwente.com

**7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING
CLASSROOM AND ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:
CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!**

**Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112,
CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484 - Mon 7 pm!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

**Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING THE FAMILY
ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM**

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Passcode: 715340 - Tues 7 am!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

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OPENING PRAYER - Introduction

Christian Marriage – Wives and Husbands - Christ and the Church

- In telling wives and husbands how to behave towards one another he introduces the doctrine of the nature of the church and the relationship of the church to Christ. In this very section the Apostle gives us a most exalted teaching of all about the nature of the church and the relationship of the church to Christ! The loving husband is like Christ! The submissive wife is like His glorious church. What a mystery! What a marvel!

The Church's One Foundation – S. Stone/S. Wesley (2:15) Aurelia

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is His new creation by water and the Word. From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride; with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with the God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 5:22-33

Review:

Chapters 1-3 Doctrine – all the blessings in the heavenlies

Chapter 4 Walk in unity; Spiritual Gifts; The new man; Do not grieve the Spirit

Chapter 5 Walk in love; Walk in light; Walk in wisdom

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Christian Marriage – Wives and Husbands - Christ and the Church

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

Eph 5:31 "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Eph 5:22 (The) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

(Col 3:18-19) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. [19] Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

- **Here is the continuing thought, for believers, from Eph 5:18 & 21, being filled with the Holy Spirit: submitting to one another in the fear of God.** In many of the Greek manuscripts, **Eph 5:22** doesn't even have the word *submit*. It simply reads *wives, to your own husbands*. The topic is submission, focusing on an important realm of submission - the Christian marriage, from the wife unto the husband. Paul is saying: "I commanded you to submit to one another in a very general way. How much more so should *wives* do so to their own husbands in this special relationship of a Christian marriage!"
- **The *wives*** (not for singles, but speaking to Christian marriages), ***submit*** (present middle imperative—constantly and continuing) ***to your (very) own husbands, as to the Lord.*** *The wives* and their responsibility are addressed first, not because they are the bigger problem or need special attention, but because of being concerned regarding submission, recognizing that someone has legitimate authority over you! That was the principle that he introduced in **Eph 5:21** and is connected to and **is the basis for particular application to wives in a Christian marriage!** Walking in the light, filled with the Spirit, means wives are to submit to their own husbands! The same logic continues in Ephesians 6. Children, and slaves are also addressed first because of the concern about submission.
- ***Wives submit!* That's only half the story. We need the whole truth.** That is why the companion verse to this is, **(Eph 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,** which is the other side of the coin, but it's important and essential.
- **Only two rules that God gives for marriage, very simple, one rule for the husband. One rule for the wife.** God doesn't us a long list of rules. No, He gives just one rule, so you won't forget! ***Wives submit yourselves to your own husband as to the Lord. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.***
- **God intended marriage to be a duet, not a duel. The two shall be one**—harmony, singing together—one! The marriage can be totally split apart, if the wife is not submitting to the husband

and the husband isn't loving his wife as Christ loved the church. Turn it around. The more the husband shows his love for his wife, the easier she finds it to submit. She finds it easier to submit because she is assured of his total love for her. The more she submits, the freer he feels to show that love.

- ***As to the Lord:*** This is a crucial phrase. It colors everything else we understand about this passage. This is not favoring a certain position of either the wife or the husband. ***As to the Lord*** does not define the extent or limit of a wife's submission. It **defines the motive** of a wife's submission. It means it is a part of your duty to the Lord, because it is an expression and a part of your submission to the Lord.
- ***Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*** That is, as a Spirit filled believer, you have submitted your life to the Lord, because you came to understand how much He loved you. Knowing that He loved you, that His love for you was so great that He laid down His life for you, you could submit to that kind of love because anything that He requires of you is always for your best interest. You find no difficulty in this paragraph; indeed, it will be your greatest delight to do what is being told here.
- ***Wives submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*** It does not mean, '*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands in exactly the same way as you submit yourselves to the Lord*', that's going too far. Our relationship to the Lord is one of complete, entire, absolute submission. Wives are not exhorted to do that to their very own husbands. It means: '*Wives, you are not doing it only for the husband, you are **doing it primarily** for the Lord Himself.* We need to remember there are three in every Christian marriage – Christ, the husband and the wife! The wife is first to be the wife of the Lord and secondly to her very own husband in the context. The husband is to first be the husband to the Lord and secondly to his very own wife!

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, (1Co 11:3) But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. (1Ti 2:11-15) Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. [12] And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. [13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve. [14] And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. [15] Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. (Col 1:18) And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

- **This basic fundamental teaching—there is to be order in the marriage, a reflection of Christ and the church!** The husband is to be the head of the wife, and the head of the family. God made him in that way, endowing him with faculties and powers and propensities that enable him to fulfil this; and making woman that she should be **the helper**, the complement of man, carrying in itself the notion of submission; her main function is to make up a deficiency in the man. That is why these two become '*one flesh*'; the woman is the complement of the man.
- **In the order of creation, man was created first and not the woman. The woman was made out of the man,** taken out of the man, and meant to be a '*helper*' for man, which none of the animals could supply. (***Gen 2:20-23***) *So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. [21] And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. [22] Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. [23] And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

- **Emphasizing that *the husband* is responsible not only for himself, but for his *wife***, and for his family in all matters, *the wife* is to help him and support him, in order to enable him to function as the lord of creation, in which position God has placed him. She is to help man to perform that great and wonderful and glorious task. That is the basic teaching with regard to the relationship of husbands and wives as laid down in the very order of creation, the fundamental rules with regard to the life of man in this world.
- **Woman's subordination to man has been increased as the result of the Fall. Eve, being tempted by the Devil**, instead of doing what she should have done, put herself into the position of leadership, dealing with the situation, and as the result, she fell. There is a new element here. In the fall of man, God said (**Gen 3:16**) *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."* She is to behave in the same way, and unless she is prepared to do so, unless she is convinced that she can submit herself to this man, she should not marry him. If she enters into marriage with any other idea, it is against the will of God, and she is committing sin.
- (*For the husband is head of the wife*) **As also Christ is head of the church . . . Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands:** She should submit because the relationship of the husband and wife is a model of the union between Christ and the Church. This point is simple and clear. We have a model for the marriage relationship, which is the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church. In that relationship, the headship of Christ is unquestioned. So also is the husband the head of the "team" that is the one-flesh (*echad*) relationship of husband and wife. (**Mat 19:5-6**) *and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ? [6] So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*
- **What if a Christian wife doesn't want her husband to be the "head?"** She doesn't want a "leader" of the team between husband and wife. If that is the case, the wife does not understand a Biblical marriage, and will always be working against it in one way or another. It is the same dynamic as a Christian saying he doesn't want Jesus to be his "**head.**"
- **And He is the Savior of the body:** How is the husband like a savior to the wife? Possibly a translating of the word *Savior* as "preserver" could make this clearer. (**1Ti 4:10**) *For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.* How can Jesus be the *Savior of all men*? In that He *preserves* all men and *blesses* all men with good things from heaven above. It is in this way that husbands are to be their wife's *savior*.
- **Of the body:** The picture of the **body** shows how essential a Christian wife's submission is. The wife must not act before the husband. All the teaching indicates that he **is the head**, that he ultimately controls.. So she does not only act independently of him, she does not act before him. The initiative and the leadership are ultimately the husband's, but the action must always be coordinated. It is to be a coordinated action but leadership in the husband as head, with no sense of inferiority being suggested. The wife is different from her husband, but not inferior!

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. (**Tit 2:4-5**) *that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, [5] to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*

- **Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ (the union of the believer with Christ)**, so is the wife subject to Christ as her ultimate head, being wholly dependent upon Him, and entirely

resigned to Him, and receiving all from Him which results a cheerful, voluntary, sincere, and hearty obedience to Him, honoring, fearing and revering Him:

- ***To their own husbands in everything***: Paul says that the wife should be subject to the husbands ***in everything***. This needs to be understood in same way we understand submission in other spheres. There are exceptions, such as we read in Romans 13 that the Christian must submit to the government.
- **Another exception to *everything*, includes whenever the husband asks the wife to sin**. Then, she is free from her obligation to submit. The wife does not have to submit to a request to commit sin. Other exceptions include when the husband is medically incapacitated, insane, physically abusive, endangering the safety of the wife or children or whenever the husband breaks the marriage bond by adultery.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church

- **“Loving Husbands! Happy Wives!! *Husbands, love your wives***: These important words to Christian husbands safeguard God’s previous words to wives. Though wives are to submit to their husbands, it never excuses husbands acting as tyrants over their wives. The reign of the husband is to be a reign and a rule of love; it is a leadership of love.”
- **According to (2Ti 1:7)** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love (agape) and of a sound mind (self-control)*. God has given us *the spirit of power* - but also of *love*. *Power and self-control*, in their Christian life, is always to be exercised in *love*. No husband is entitled to say that he is the head of the wife unless he loves his wife!
- ***Husbands love (agape) your wives***, continually practicing self-denial for the sake of your wives, is what he really means! ***Agape is the fourth word for love***. *Eros, storge, and phileo* each speak about love that is *felt*. These describe “instinctive” love, love that comes spontaneously from the heart. Paul *assumes* that *eros* (desire) and *phileo* (fondness) are present. Christians should not act as if these things do not matter in the marriage relationship. They do matter but a higher kind of love is addressed, that being *agape* love. *Agape* describes a different kind of love. It is a love more of decision than of the spontaneous heart. It is as much a matter of the mind than the heart, because it chooses to love the undeserving.
- ***Just as Christ also loved the church*** - *Jesus* loves his *church* unselfishly with a totally self-sacrificing love! He never loved her for what she has, but what she is! He loved her, not so much for what she is, but what He makes her as the object of His love. He loves her not for what comes to Him from her, or with her, but for what He is able to bestow upon her. His is the strongest love that ever was!

and gave Himself for her (it), (Act 20:28) *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

- **And gave Himself for her**: Jesus’ action towards the church is a pattern. This helps us define what *agape* love is all about: it is self-sacrificing love. How should a husband love his wife? This is not the height of romantic love as the world knows it. This isn’t love based on looks, image, the ability to be suave and cutting-edge cool. This is love expressed through sacrifice!
- **As Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it**. This, which is the heart and center of Christian truth, has already been done! What did that involve? Perhaps best stated in (***Php 2:5-8***) *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [7] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as*

a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. We see here that the focus of Jesus was on the church. It was for the church that He did what He did, not for Himself.

- **Understanding headship and submission in a Godly way!** Husbands who ask, "Why do I have to humble myself and be a servant? I thought I was in charge!" There is only one answer to this husband: You understand "headship" and "submission" only in a worldly way. You don't understand it in a *godly* way.
- **Worldly headship:** "I am your head, so you take your orders from me and must do whatever I want." **Godly headship:** "I am your head, so I must care for you and serve you." Savior-style servant-leadership.
- **Worldly submission:** "You must submit to me, so here are the things I want you to do for me." **Godly submission:** "You must submit to me, so I am accountable before God for you. I must care for you and serve you."

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, (Joh 15:3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (Joh 17:17) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- ***He gave Himself for her that He might sanctify her***, the second thing he is doing or continues to do also tells us why He did the first thing – giving Himself for her!
- ***He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word (rhema – utterance):*** When Jesus *gave Himself* for the church on the cross, it also provided cleansing from every stain sin makes. Since the work of Jesus on the cross comes to us through the Word of God and the preached word, it can be said that we are washed ***of water by the word***.
- ***Sanctify***, meaning that the Lord has set (in the past) the church apart for Himself; we are His 'peculiar people', a people for His own peculiar, special possession, His bride. He has set her aside (in the past) and apart in order that He may (present and future) do certain things for her.
- ***Cleanse, the idea of purifying - 'That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.'*** It is by way of this word *cleanse* that the idea of purifying —what we normally call 'sanctification'—really comes in. (***Tit 2:14***) *who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify (cleanse) for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*
- ***With the washing of water by the Word.*** The infection of sin is the thing from which we have to be cleansed before we can be presented by the Lord to Himself '*as a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish*'. This is accomplished ***with the washing of water by the Word***. The very fact that Paul adds that the cleansing is effected by this *washing* is proof that it is a continuous and continuing process. The washing from the guilt of sin is once and for ever. That is a single action; but here is a continuing action, You were like that; you are no longer in that condition; you are now saints in the church—you have been washed and are continually being cleansed this way.
- ***The husband is to help cleanse his wife by the washing of water by the word!*** There is something cleansing about being under the teaching of the Word. This speaks of Jesus' work for the church. Obviously, a husband cannot spiritually cleanse his wife the same way Jesus cleanses the church. But a husband can take an active, caring interest in his wife's spiritual health. As the priest of the home, he helps *cleanse* her before the Lord.

Eph 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy

and without blemish. (Col 1:22) *in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* (Son 4:7) *You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you.*

- ***A glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she might be holy and without blemish'***—when He comes in His glory. If we shall have already died, we shall come with Him; if we are still alive, we shall be changed and caught up to meet Him in the air. We shall share in everlasting glory with the Son of God. This is His special prayer (***Joh 17:24***) *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.* We shall share it with Him through all eternity!
- ***Is there anything that is comparable to this, to being members of the body of Christ, to being, as parts of the church, the Bride of Christ?*** You and I have this glory to look forward to, the glory that we shall share with the Lord Jesus Christ in that great day! The glory of that 'world to come' is indescribable; and we shall live and reign with Him in it! Having taken the church as His Bride, He bestows all that upon her. His prospects are ours. His glory is ours, all things are ours. We shall reign with Him over the whole universe, we shall judge angels. You and I, as part of the Christian church as the Bride of Christ!
- ***Not having spot or wrinkle without blemish:*** The bride is not in this state before the "wedding day," but *on* the wedding day. That is what is meant by the phrase '***glorious church***'. She will be in a state of glory." There will not be a single blemish, there will not be a spot upon her. The most careful examination will not be able to detect the slightest speck of unworthiness or of sin. We should feel exactly as any woman feels, upon her engagement. We should be looking forward to the great day, and longing for it, and living for it.

Eph 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

- ***So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies:*** The single word ***as*** is very important. He is not saying, Husbands ought to love their wives in the same way as they love their bodies. The meaning is, "*So husbands ought to love their wives because they are their own bodies!* A man loves his wife as his body - that is what he is saying. A man *must love his wife* as his body, as a part of *himself*, thereby becoming non-detachable! As Eve was a part of Adam, taken out of his side, so the wife is to the man, because she is a part of him.
- ***He who loves his wife loves himself:*** When you love your wife, you benefit yourself. Or in the negative: when you neglect your wife, you neglect yourself, and it will come back to hurt you. She must never be neglected! She is part of you!
- ***The whole of the husband's thinking must include his wife also.*** He must never think of himself in isolation or detachment. The moment he does so he has broken the most fundamental principle of marriage. He has no right to do that! There is a sense in which he cannot do it, because the wife is a part of himself. But if it happens he is certain to inflict grievous damage on his wife! It is damage in which he himself will be involved because she is a part of him.

Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

- ***For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it:*** Any man in his right mind is going to take care of ***his own flesh***, even if it is just in the sense of feeding and clothing and caring for his own body. He knows that if he doesn't, he is going to suffer for it. In the same

way, once we know the Biblical fact of this unity, if we are in our right minds we will *nourish and cherish* our wives, because she is part of us.

- **Just as the Lord does the church:** The Lord loves the church. The principle of oneness also is dominant in the relationship between Jesus and His people. Oneness is life, service, feeling, mutual necessity, nature, possession, present condition and future destiny! We will be glorified with Him.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His

bones. (Gen 2:23) *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

- ***For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones:*** That is, we are part of Him! And that's sort of a beautiful mystery. No man hates his own body. Jesus doesn't hate His body. We are the body of Christ, His church, His flesh. We are His flesh. We are His body. This is a beautiful mystery of the love that Jesus has for His body, the church.
- ***For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones:*** The analogy here comes back in a circle. First, the relationship between Jesus and the church spoke to us about the husband-wife relationship. Now the marriage relationship speaks to us about the relationship between Jesus and His people. With the same intimacy, love, and sharing that an ideal husband and wife share, Jesus wants to live with His people!

Eph 5:31 "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

(Gen 2:24) *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (1Co 6:16) Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "THE TWO," He says, "SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."*

The two shall become one (echad – compound unity) ***flesh*** When God presented Eve to Adam, He said, *she is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.* God said for this cause, shall a man leave his mother and father and shall cleave to his wife, be glued to his wife. Paul said this is a mystery and it's speaking to us in a mystic sense **of the church and Jesus Christ, joined unto Him, one with Him.** A great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- ***For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh:*** Paul quoted this essential passage from **Gen 2:24.** Relevant to marriage, it shows that just as the first man and the first woman were **one** - she was taken from him, and then brought back to him - so it could be said of every married man today that he is **joined to his wife.** God did the joining. Husbands can resent it, they can resist it, they can ignore it, but it doesn't change the fact. It shows a fundamental principle for promoting oneness in marriage: there must be a leaving (former associations) and a cleaving (joining together as one).

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and

the church. (Gen 2:24) *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Mat 19:5) FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'*

- ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church:*** It would be easy to think that **Gen 2:24** speaks only about marriage. Paul wants us to know that it also speaks about the relationship between **Christ and the church!** It is also true in regard to the pattern of marriage in general. It shows us that Jesus wants more than just an external, surface relationship; that Jesus wants us to be **one** with Him; that there is a sense in which Jesus is incomplete without us.
- ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church: For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*** Woman was made at the beginning as the result of an operation which God performed upon man. The church came into being as the result of an operation which God performed upon the Second Man, His only begotten, beloved Son on Calvary's hill. A deep sleep fell upon Adam. A deep sleep fell upon the Son of God, He gave up the ghost, He expired, and there in that operation the church was taken out. As the woman was taken out of Adam, so the church is taken out of Christ. The woman was taken out of the side of Adam; and it is from the Lord's bleeding, wounded side that the church comes. That is her origin; and so, she is **flesh of His flesh, and bone of His bones. This is a great mystery!**
- **The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to in the New Testament as the *Second man* or as the *Last Adam*.** As it is true to say of the woman, that she was taken out of the side of man, 'his flesh and his bones', so the church is taken out of Christ, and we are a part of Him, members of His body and of His very bones. He is the Last Adam, (**1Co 15:45**) *And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit., He is the Second Man (1Co 15:47) The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.* As God operated on the **first man** to produce his bride, his helper, so He has operated upon the **Second Man** to do the same thing in an infinitely more glorious manner.
- ***This is a great mystery'***. We must therefore address ourselves to this exalted doctrine of the union between Christ and the church. We are comforted by what the Apostle says in verse 32, '***This is a great mystery'***. It is indeed a *great mystery*. Therefore, we must approach it with care, and we must also approach it very prayerfully. It is certain that apart from the anointing and unction which the Holy Spirit alone can give, we shall not be able to understand it at all.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself,

- ***Nevertheless, let each one of you*** Paul really taught on two things at once. He teaches about marriage, but he also teaches about God's pattern for marriage - the relationship between Jesus and His people. In **Eph 5:31-32** he has focused on the relationship between Jesus and His people and is getting really excited about it. But then remembering his original topic was marriage, so she begins with *nevertheless* in **Eph 5:33**. Let's come back to the matter of marriage and sum it up! ***Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.***
- ***Let each one of you:*** This means that everyone is included. We can say this about all the teaching on marriage. It is easy to say, "Well, I'm just not that sort of person, so I'll never do very well." Husbands do it, saying, "I'm just not very loving." Wives do it, saying, "I'm just not the submissive sort." But no matter what our natural disposition is, we have a target to shoot for, and let each one of you in particular means we all should set our eyes on the target the Bible shows us.
- ***So love his own wife as himself:*** Paul again stresses the unity that a husband must recognize and let shape his thinking and his actions. The husband is given the position of dignity, leadership and headship. If he truly understands what that means. he will never abuse it or misuse it, by being harsh, unkind or unfair. To be guilty of such behavior is a denial of the marriage principle, and means that there is an absence of the Spirit.

and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- ***and let the wife see that she respects her husband, with reverential obedience!*** Peter deals with exactly the same subject, saying, *(1Pe 3:1, 5-6) Wives, likewise, be submissive (show respect) to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, [5] For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, Then in the sixth verse, [6] as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.* The wife is to treat her husband with *respect!* That is the great adjustment she makes. She submits to him, not competing or striving with him. She must recognize that the essence of marriage is that she pays this *respect* to him.
- ***Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*** As long as they both do that there is no risk of dispute about ‘rights’ or about ‘my position’, or ‘my status’. Here is a man given headship; yes, but because he loves his wife as himself he never abuses his position. Here is a woman submitting herself to this great and glorious ideal. She need never be afraid that she will be taken advantage of, or that she will be trodden upon. Husband and wife are both dealt with, and the balance is perfect and entire.
- **The supreme thing always is to consider our Lord Jesus Christ.** If a husband and a wife are together considering Him, you need have no worry about their relationship to each another. If both are living to Him and His glory and His praise, if both have got uppermost in their minds the analogy of Christ and the church, and what He has done for the church that she might be redeemed, and that they, as individuals, might become the children of God—if they are overwhelmed by that thought and governed by it, there will be no danger of their personal relationship meeting with disaster.
- **That is the secret—that we are ever to be looking unto Him** and realizing that marriage is but a pale reflection of the relationship between Christ and His church. *Husbands let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she respect her husband’. ‘Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it’. Thank God we are brought into a new life, we are given a new power, and everything is changed—‘old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new’. All the relationships of life are transfigured, transformed, elevated and uplifted! We are enabled to live after the pattern and the example of the Son of God.*

Closing Prayer