

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

HEAVEN IN YOUR HOME (PART I): EPHESIANS 5:18-33 STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

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TEXT: Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

INTRO: Early in our protracted nightly meetings at Mott Auditorium, we had a prophetic conference with Paul Cain shortly after I had met him. I think it was the fall of 1995. The place was packed. Sue and I were sitting in the front row, and Paul asked both of us to stand up. He asked me if January 17 meant anything to me. I said it was my birthday. Then he turned to Sue and said, “Does November 11 mean anything to you?” She said, “It is my birthday.” Paul replied, “I got that by revelation, and what I am about to tell you is also by revelation. Thus says the Lord, ‘You will have a heaven-on-earth marriage.’” It was the best prophetic word



I have ever received. Sue and I have been married for almost 44 years, and it has been, for the most part, heaven on earth. I say “for the most part” because every marriage goes through different seasons. We have gone through our winter season. I want to share from my 44 years of marriage, the good and the bad.

It is my opinion that marriage and family are under attack like never before. In December 2022, the “Respect for Marriage” bill was passed. The title is a euphemism; it is a “disrespect for marriage” bill that got passed. Additionally, the transgender bill S.B. 1705 is an attack on our children and an assault on the family because you can now get transgender treatment without parental notification.

This week, we want to focus on marriage, but next week our focus will be on parenting. In this passage of Ephesians, Paul teaches us keys to a successful marriage. I want to share seven truths to having a heaven-on-earth marriage.

I. TO HAVE A HEAVEN-ON-EARTH MARRIAGE, YOU HAVE TO BE FILLED, CONTROLLED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

1. Be filled continually. The Greek verb is in the continuous present tense. It is also a command. God knows that we cannot develop the fruit of the Spirit without being full of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).
2. To be filled is to be controlled and led by the Holy Spirit. There is one baptism but many fillings. Every day, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit of God control your mind and your emotions.
3. Be led by the Holy Spirit. “How can I love my wife/husband today, or at this moment?”
4. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, is to help us in life, not just in ministry.

II. SPEAK HEAVEN’S LOVE LANGUAGE

A. Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.

1. Intimacy with the Lord will bring intimacy with your spouse.
2. It is loving God through our worship. He inhabits our praises.
3. But it is also not allowing any unwholesome word to proceed out of your mouth.

B. PRACTICE THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES (*The Five Love Languages* by Dr. Gary Chapman)

1. **WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:** Get in the habit of saying “good morning” and “I love you” in the morning, and “I love you” throughout the day.

2. **ACTS OF SERVICE:** Outdo one another in service (e.g. opening the car door, etc.)
3. **TIME:** Have a weekly date night/lunch/breakfast.
4. **TOUCH:** Hug and kiss one another daily without an agenda for sex.
5. **GIFTS:** Give each other small, inexpensive gifts (e.g. flowers from Trader Joe's, cards, etc.)
6. Ask your spouse to communicate their love language to you. Communicate what your love language is. Don't try to mind read, just share.

III. BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SPOUSE AND THE SEASON THAT YOU ARE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A. Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.

1. Some of you are going through a hard season in your marriage. But God uses marriage and relationships to develop character, so rejoice!
2. Thank God for the positive things that your spouse brings to your life.
3. **The most important thing is not to focus on your spouse's faults but on yours! Take responsibility for your sins and mistakes. Don't blame shift.**

IV. BE MUTUALLY SUBMITTED TO ONE ANOTHER

A. Ephesians 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

1. I believe in headship in the home. God is a God of authority and has delegated authority to husbands, parents, Ephesians 4:11 ministers, and governmental leaders. But the foundation of submission in His Kingdom is mutual submission and servant leadership.

V. WIVES, BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR HUSBANDS

A. Ephesians 5:22 Wives, *be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

B. The devastating impact of the radical feminist movement.

1. Sexual revolution.
2. Abortion on demand.
3. Emasculation and silencing of men. Men are not leading their homes; especially they have abdicated their role and responsibility for their children.
4. When we talk about submitting to your husband, we are not talking about blind submission. If the husband is asking you to do anything that is illegal and is abusing his authority, you don't have to tolerate that. God has established the government and laws to protect you.

5. My biblical basis for separation and divorce are adultery, abandonment, and physical and emotional abuse. (By the way, Pastor Sue disagrees with me on this point. She only sees adultery as the basis for divorce.) But even with this, you have to exhaust everything from counseling to separation. The last resort is divorce. In light of the devastation that divorce has on children, one's finances, and one's mental and emotional well-being, divorce has to be the last resort. Sue and I have never threatened to separate and never used the "d" word in 44 years.

VI. HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH

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

1. Husbands, give your life to your wife. Your time, resources, service... everything.
2. **Galatians 5:13 Through love, serve one another.**
3. Whatever Sue asks for, I will do, because I love her.

VII. LIVE OUT THE PRINCIPLE OF LEAVING AND CLEAVING

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

1. My problem wasn't leaving my parents, but I had to leave my sister Chunghae, who basically raised me. She was like my mother. She cooked for me, helped me with my homework (she basically did my homework for me, which didn't really help me to learn).
2. I had become her pastor, but when I married Sue, I was still emotionally attached to my sister. If it wasn't for the fact that God taught me this principle, our marriage would have suffered.

CONCLUSION: The bottom line: It is not about you. It is all about Jesus and what He wants. He wants you to love one another as He has loved us (Ephesians 5:1-2). As we focus on doing acts of love, we will truly have a heaven-on-earth marriage. But it begins by surrendering our hearts to Jesus. Give your heart to Jesus as we partake of communion together.