

Lesson 7: The Battle of the Sexes

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Jesus saves marriage from _____ through _____.

...²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. 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. **Ephesians 5**

As Our Savior, Jesus Restores Marriage

- Ephesians: _____ in sin & trespasses => made _____ in Christ => _____ in the power of the _____ (4:17ff)
- Marriage is intended to be a _____ of Jesus' relationship with the Church.
- He is restoring the design of _____ that Adam & Eve _____ by their sin.

⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **Romans 6**

- The power of sin was brought to nothing by Christ's crucifixion. We died with Him.
- We are no longer _____ by the sinful _____ that destroy marriage.
- While not perfect, we do enjoy a _____ of new creation.

(A) Husbands are to Wives (B)
as
(B) Messiah is to the Church (D)
(D') The Church is to the Messiah (C')
as
(B') Wives are to their Husbands (A')

Husbands Represent Jesus

- In marriage, husbands are called to _____ Jesus in His relationship to the Church.
- "Head" is a controversial word. Some try to make it mean "_____".
- The word is used in Eph. 1:18-23 (same author & same letter).
- Stresses _____ as source. He _____ all things for the welfare of the Church!
- Use is also governed by its _____ term: the Church is placed under Messiah.
- It is under His authority precisely because He _____ it into being by His _____.
- "Head" is a _____. The head determines what the body does & where it goes.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- The head receives _____ from the rest of the body (5 _____), decides & acts.
- A husband receives input from his _____ (and kids), decides & acts.
- As Jesus rescued the Church from the tyranny of _____ and false _____ ...
- A husband rescues his wife from the tyranny of other _____.
- A husband is the head of the home- _____ for the overall _____.
- It is a statement of _____, not a _____. _____ is learning to live it out.

Wives Represent the Church

- As the Church has been placed _____ Christ, a wife is placed under her _____.
- This is not a _____, but a statement of fact. This is what God has done!
- As congregations struggle to follow _____, wives struggle to follow their _____.

What happens when the body doesn't obey the impulses of the brain?

- Consider who you _____, and what you _____ your kids (or the world) as a result.
- This instruction is not _____: men and women. Women aren't under men's authority.
- This instruction is _____: a husband and his wife. Exclusivity of relationship.

Wife Swap Continued

- They place the women in a position of _____. They make the _____.
- _____: ruled the home from her bed while the rest served her.
- _____: homeschooling housewife who required NOTHING of her husband.

Jesus Restores Us Individually

- Power struggles are the result of one/both refusing to _____ their will to _____.
- How we work through decision making reveals where our hearts really are.
- Many Christians _____ the power of the gospel to change them.
- Many Christians _____ - _____ their spouse's power to change.
- Each spouse has different disadvantages, sinful _____ and _____.
- Each spouse has different _____ due to God's providence.
- God has been at work in each person to _____.
- **Single people:** are you working on your _____? Is your potential spouse?

Biblical Tension

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ... **Titus 2**

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. **1 Timothy 1**

Free to Lead as Jesus' Representative

Cowardice ⇔ Love ⇔ Control

- Remember: you are under the _____ of Christ & need His _____ & power.
- We further their sanctification and ours by saying ' _____ ' to unrighteousness.
- Initiate => _____ => Pray => _____ => Implement

Free to Follow Jesus' Representatives

- Wives, understand how your own selfishness undermines your marriage.
- Submitting to a husband begins with submitting to _____ first.
- Submitting to a husband is submitting to _____ through His representative to you.
- The Spirit enables women to _____ Christ and His very fallible _____.
- The Spirit enables women to _____ Christ with her husband's fallible _____.
- The Scriptures do not require submission to instructions _____ to Scripture.

“The notion that subordination to authority demeans a person is absurd on the fact of it. All of us are subordinate to some authorities beyond ourselves; ... He places us under authority, not to oppress us, but so that we can fulfill our calling.” **John Frame**

Conclusion: