



2: God's Plan for Oneness

Premarital Counseling Session #2

Pastor Josh Franklin

Ephesians 5:21 – Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

One survey out of *Marriage and Divorce Magazine* said one out of every three marriages end in divorce. If the two married at a church wedding, one out of 50 end in divorce. Where both husband and wife attend church regularly, read their Bibles, and pray together, one out of 1,005 end in divorce.

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 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. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 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." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 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.

In your view, what one quality or ability sustains a marriage relationship?

You and your spouse have planned a weekend at the lake. You anticipate sleeping in, and then devouring a new novel and a hot dog on the beach at sunset. Your spouse dreams of a great tan, learning to water-ski and dinner at an elegant restaurant. As you become aware of these conflicting desires, you both begin wondering whether your weekend will be a total loss. Paul writes that being filled with the Holy Spirit demonstrates itself in worshipping, singing and in submitting to one another. Then he instructs wives and husbands in living out God's design. In this study we will look at his basic framework for marriage and his instructions to the wife. In study 5 we will consider instructions to the husband.

1. Consider the situation described above (the weekend at the lake). How could you show consideration and respect for each other's wishes?
2. Read Ephes. 5:21-24. Why is "reverence for Christ" (Ephes. 5:21) a better motive for mutual submission than other possible motives?
3. In what situations have you seen two Christians practicing mutual submission out of reverence for Christ?
4. The wife's submitting to the husband is compared with submitting to the Lord (Ephes. 5:22-24). How does a Christian submit to the Lord? (Think of attitudes, confidences, struggles.)
5. Paul assumes that both husband and wife are committed to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. What implications does this have for those considering marriage today?
6. How can Christ's dual role as head and Savior (Ephes. 5:23) encourage us to submit to him?
7. If we yield to Christ's lordship, to what extent do we still have freedom of choice and expression?

8. In submitting to her husband, how and why can a wife feel free to express her opinions, fears and feelings?
9. What attitudes toward her husband would help a wife submit to him as she would to Christ?
10. What attitudes and actions in the husband would encourage the wife's trust and respect?

Funny: A boy and a girl were in the country during a summer night on a porch while you could hear a church choir practice in the background. Under the porch were some crickets making their chirping sound. The girl had her mind on the choir practice, but he was thinking about fishing and had his mind on the crickets. She said, "Isn't that beautiful?" He said, "It really is." She said, "I don't think I've never heard anything quite that lovely." He said, "Yeah, you know, they make that noise by rubbing their hind legs together."

God made us different in order to make us one.

Some Generalizations Between Man and Woman	
WOMAN	MAN
The word for woman means "to be soft" - femininity	The word for man means "to exercise power" – masculinity
Encourager (a helper); Nurturer (Gen. 2:16); Life-giver	Provider (Genesis 2:15); Protector (Genesis 2:16); Lead; Guide; Physically strong
Thinks emotionally with their hearts	Thinks logically with their minds
She will see the goal, but her main concern is – "how will people feel about this?" (has intuition)	Goal-oriented (Sees the goals and the steps – not necessarily how people feel)
Not interested in taking risks, but creating security	Wants to take risks. Why? That's the way to achieve in life!
Has a NESTING instinct	Has a PRODUCTIVE instinct
Detail oriented	Big Picture oriented
Very empathetic and sensitive	Man can get hardened: He's more insensitive – he has to have a thick skin. It's a jungle out there, and he has to be able to take abuse
More trusting & can forgive over and over	More suspicious and more defensive (because he wants to protect)