



The Grand Theater in Ephesus
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A Profound Mystery

Ephesians 5:22-33

A Profound Mystery Introduction

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Four important topics in this letter:

1. What we need to know about Christ – our Savior and Redeemer.
2. What we need to know about our salvation – how we are made right with God, the forgiveness of our sins, etc.
3. What we need to know about spiritual warfare – an important topic in a city most famous for occult practices.
4. What we need to know about the Church – this new society that God is building in the midst of the world.

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- Paul wants us to first know Christ and who we are in him.
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- He wants our lives to reflect our deepest identity.
- This section shows that theology and life are inseparable.

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Soundbite:

Marriage is a sacred covenant, charged with a sacred mission
– to represent Christ and his church.

A Profound Mystery Outline

1. To Wives 5:22-24
2. To Husbands 5:25-27
3. More to Husbands 5:28-33

Our Starting Point Genesis 1 & 2

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Let's read the following:

- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 2:15-25

Our Starting Point Genesis 1 & 2

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- Only humanity – male and female – is said to be created “**in the image of God.**”
- Male-female interdependence in relationship is **a basic part of the created order** and the expression of that image.
- This male-female interdependence is **most clearly expressed in marriage** – which is also basic to the created order.

Jesus on Marriage

Matthew 19:3-6

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- The Pharisees were looking for all the angles from which to forbid or allow or divorce.
- Jesus pointed to the root concept – the sacred nature of marriage.

Jesus on Marriage Matthew 19:3-6

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

1. To Wives 5:22-24

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- 5:22 The word “submit” is strongly connected to the previous sentence of 5:18-21.
- This makes it a Spirit-filled behavior. (v.18)
- It is in a context in which Christians are generally “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (v.22)
- There is no sense of the inferiority of women.

1. To Wives 5:22-24

- Peter and Paul both use this term of our attitude toward other human authority.
- Paul tells Titus to teach his people,
- **Titus 3:1** (ESV) Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.

1. To Wives 5:22-24

- Peter echoes that sentiment.
- **1 Peter 2:13-15** (ESV) 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. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1. To Wives 5:22-24

- Even Jesus did this in relation to his parents.
- Luke 2:51 (ESV)
- And he [Jesus] went down with them [his parents] and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

2. To Husbands 5:25-27

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Pay attention to love's high standard. If you take the premise that your wife should submit to you as the church submits to Christ, then you should also take the same kind of careful, sacrificial thought for her that Christ takes for the church. Even if you must offer your own life for her, you must not refuse.

*– John Chrysostom (~345 – 407),
Archbishop of Constantinople*

2. To Husbands 5:25-27

- Husbands can mainly express their headship in Christlike, self-sacrificing love.
- But we may not have to die for our wives this week.
- In Christ's example, love leads to the church's **sanctification** – a spiritual **cleansing** and **washing** with the **word**.
- It's a beautiful thing when husbands step up to the place of spiritual leadership in their homes.

3. More to Husbands 5:28-33

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- 5:28-30 A husband who loves his wife well acts in his own self-interest.
- We often see it her ability to thrive, develop her own gifts and talents, and make their home and family a blessing.
- The husband receives more benefit from his thriving wife than anyone else.

3. More to Husbands 5:28-33

- 5:28-30 And yet this is most true when still feels able to lead when leadership is called for.
- Leadership and love are connected to each other in him much as they are in Jesus.
- Christ obviously led his disciples, but we never get the sense that he was anything but loving as he did so.

3. More to Husbands 5:28-33

- 5:31-32 Paul drives home his point that marriage is a supernatural relationship – a profound mystery.
- When Christians follow the patterns of the world, we cease to fulfill God's mission for marriage.
- We are not merely finding a soulmate, entering a business partnership or taking part in a common social construct.

3. More to Husbands 5:28-33

- **5:33** This verse neatly sums up our marital responsibilities.
- A husband who loves his wife well, with a wife who in turn respects her husband, is a heavenly relationship.
- This is a couple that has made a great start in fulfilling God's mission for marriage.

Jesus on Resurrection Matthew 22:23-30

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- Marriage as we know it is for this life, not the next.
- This means, if we are called to marriage, our mission is for the here and now.

Jesus on Resurrection Matthew 22:23-30

²³ The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, ²⁴ saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁵ Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all the woman died also.

Jesus on Resurrection Matthew 22:23-30

²⁸ Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

A Profound Mystery Conclusions

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Marriage is a sacred covenant, charged with a sacred mission
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A Profound Mystery Conclusions

- **To the Married:** You've got your mission – to represent Christ and the church. This passage can show you how.
- **To the Unmarried:** Do not enter into marriage lightly, selfishly, or taking your cues from the culture.
- **To all:** Theology and life are inseparable. How we view the marriage covenant will have wide-ranging implications.
- It is not a fringe or marginal aspect of our faith, but central to the entire biblical narrative.

A Profound Mystery Conclusions

- The creation of the man and the woman is **the climax of God's creative work.**
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- Male-female interdependence in relationship is **a basic part of both the created order** and the expression of that image.
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A Profound Mystery Conclusions

- Marriage can be the most satisfying earthly relationship.
- It can be truly happy and fulfilling, but It will be a lot of hard work – and that is precisely what is so good about it.
- We learn to persevere by getting and giving second, third or more chances and multiple do-overs.
- As we work hard make our marriages better, marriage makes us better people.

The Marriage of the Lamb

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- Ultimately we the church will experience what marriage is intended to model.
- Let's close with Revelation **19:1-9**.