

March 9th, 2025

Ephesians 5:22-33 - Redeeming Marriage (Sermon Transcript)

Turn in your Bible to Ephesians chapter 5. I'm going to read a quote. I'm going to clean it up a little bit by a, I don't know, an internet personality. I don't know what you would call him. And I do not recommend this guy at all. And I'm only reading this because I, it's, if anything, it's, hey, just avoid the guy, especially young men.

He's very popular with young men. And I think he's, just evil and corrupt, and pushes something that is gonna tear families, apart. His name is Andrew Tate. Those of you who are older may not know who he is, but I think the younger generation has an idea. He, this is what he said recently. The West pushes the garbage idea of monogamy.

If you're a man who's stuck with a woman, and you don't even get along with each other, and it's a show marriage, And you have to be together, and you argue all the time, and you're sexually repressed. Do what other countries do, and go out and find yourself a girlfriend. Now, honestly, I think you can imagine why I don't recommend this guy.

But this is a push, and a focus, even, whether it's said this way, or in another way, that marriage is intended to make you happy. If your marriage is not making you happy, then leave your marriage. But this is not what scripture says. The purpose of marriage is to reflect the relationship that God has with his church.

And so over the next couple weeks, we're going to talk about relationships. We're going to begin today with marriage. Marriage is a good gift from God between one husband and one wife for life. In God's good design, he intends for the husband and wife to reflect the gospel. The relationship between a husband and wife is a beautiful picture of the relationship between Jesus and his bride.

The reality is, every one of us who is married wants to have a good and healthy marriage, right? I don't think anybody shows up on the wedding day and was like, one day I hope this falls apart. I don't think we're thinking this way. But here's the other reality. Marriage is difficult. You have two people.

often very different, who are trying to live together, which makes it challenging at times. And here's a third reality. Marriage outside of God's design is destined to crumble. That God in His good design created marriage with purpose to reflect



Him. So over the next couple weeks, we're going to look at Probably the most important relationships that we have on earth outside of our relationship with Jesus.

We're going to look at marriage today, next week we'll talk about parenting, and then after that we'll talk about everybody's favorite topic, work. Alright? And scripture gives us a layout of how we are to live in light of the gospel in these relationships. Because my prayer as your pastor is that your marriage is healthy.

Not just now, but for the rest of your life. of your life until death do you guys part, okay? So that's why we're going to be talking about redeeming relationships. That word redeeming, not just doesn't mean purchasing, it also reflects a recovering. In this case, through Jesus Christ redeeming us and making us His own, we are recovering God's good design for our lives and the purpose that He has for us.

And so in our marriages and in our parenting and in work, we need to recover what God originally plans for these relationships if we want to see them thrive and be healthy. So let's turn our Bibles to Ephesians chapter 5. We'll be in verse 22 through 33 today, and then we'll jump into chapter 6 next week, verses 1 through 4.

After that, 5 through 9, and then we're going to jump into the armor of God until June. Amen. Amen. That's the plan moving forward. All right, everybody got it. And so this is we're gonna memorize the armor of God As well, and we'll be in Ephesians 4 until summertime While you're turning there, let me just share four words that I'm praying through and that I want to be evident in today's message one is I Pray that we are gracious.

I know the story the stories here for many of you So I know the mentioning of the word marriage brings up a wide range of emotions. And so my plan, I do not plan to beat you up and tear you down. If you're married, or if you've been divorced, that's not my goal today. I want to graciously walk through what scripture says.

I want to bring clarity. There are some words in this text, like that word submit, that we, because of culture, have said, Oh, that's a bad word. It's not. In God's good design, it's a good word. And we'll walk through that and hopefully bring clarity to what is often misinterpreted. And wisdom. Your marriage will be better off if you live in light of these verses.

If you just take these verses, husbands, and just live in it, and wives do the same thing, this is God's good design in His creation. And then for my Teenagers, listen, who you marry is the most, one of the most important decisions of your life. And so what I say today, it could be, a few years down the road for merit.



It's 25 at least, okay. But listen, I hope you hear what scripture has to say and that the marriage that The Lord has for you is one that honors him and reflects his gospel, but also at the same time, there's nothing wrong with being single. You're not less than because you're single. Like we love single people, all right?

And so don't feel like you have to, like I want to see everybody get married as best as I can. I can't control that except for my two. I can't even do that either. I'm just kidding. All right. But at the same time, there's this. Misnomer that if you're single you're less than and that's not the case. If that's the case then Jesus missed out big time, right?

So let's walk through this with grace and love and compassion towards one another and see what scripture has to say about having a healthy marriage. Ephesians chapter 5 verse 22 through 33. It says wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. 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. Now, as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husband.

Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that He might present the Church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself, for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself. And let the wife see that she respects her husband. This is the word of the Lord. Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word. We need a redeeming work in our marriages.

Lord, continue to strengthen us, bring us closer together. I pray that you will protect every marriage here and fill them with your spirit as we too do one another in love. In your name we pray. Amen. Julie and I just celebrated 17 years of marriage in December. Woo! We made it. To 17. So we started dating in the fall of 2006.

Fall of 2006. We got engaged in March of 2007. And we were married in December of 2007. It was quick. There's no waiting around.



Our first year of marriage was like, I think, every other first year of marriage. I love her. She is the best. I think we have a great relationship. That first year after the honeymoon and the honeymoon wears off, and I'm confessing some of this in front of my in laws. You gotta understand there's it was, what have we gotten ourselves into?

Anybody else feel this way? That first year, you're like, what? Because you're, you got two people from different backgrounds, both of us had very similar upbringings, value wise, but how that practically lived out was very different. And so in a couple ways, for me, Saturday is this is, we're resting, we're hanging out.

I'm watching football. Julie was like, let's go, we got things to do around here. And I'm like we got all the week. And so we're working through that. Honestly, we're probably still working through that a little bit. It's a little different but one of our biggest, and I've shared this story before, I'm not a, I'm not a guy who's just I don't do any household chores.

I'll do my part. And so that first year, we decided, with the dishes, that I would load the dishwasher. And Julie would unload the dishwasher. So we agreed to this, alright? And so I'm loading the dishwasher. And I'm just like, this is, I hate this job. This is stupid. Alright? I'm like, frustrated. I'm like, I don't want to do this.

I hate loading the dishwasher. At some point, we're months into our marriage. And every time the dishwasher has to be loaded, I'm like, we do this all the time. All the time. And it was just two of us then. Now you're doing it like three times a day, it feels so we're loading the dishwasher.

I'm loading the dishwasher. And at some point, I just, I had enough. I was like, I hate loading the dishwasher. And Julie responds with, I hate unloading the dishwasher. And we found out, I'd rather unload it. She would rather load it. And then we just switched the roles and guess what happened? There was harmony.

Okay, now. Now I don't do any of it, because I've taught my kids how to do it. So that's part of the role, right? So that's part of how it works. So now when I go to, now I don't have a problem loading the dishwasher. I'm like, I don't even know what to do here. I haven't done this in years, put the plate in there and now unload it.

I'm like, I don't know where things go. And you just think over that first year, you're trying to figure out who you are, what's going on, what, how people think, and it takes time. A long time, even now, I'm still, there's just things we learn and you're growing. But it all comes back to this passage here.



I want to love my wife so much that she never has to question it. So yeah, I'm gonna load the dishwasher, and I'm gonna try to do it with a good attitude. But at the same time, we're gonna have conversations about Alright, we gotta figure something out here. Something's not working. Marriage is one of God's gracious gifts of sanctification.

That word sanctification, a big word that just says, God is making us more like Him. Marriage is one of God's greatest gifts of sanctification. Did you ever realize how selfish and prideful you were until you got married? Anybody learn good grief, my heart is not in a good place. Alright? Did you realize?

All the shortcomings you had in, because you were married. God has used my marriage, I know He's used your marriage, to make us more like Jesus. All of which teach us depend, to depend on Jesus, and make us more like Him. I'm more like Jesus, because of my marriage. And I believe that's God's intended design for it.

Marriage is intended to teach us about the power of the gospel.

This morning I don't, I, we started baseball, and so I was outside all day, and I don't know, I was just getting older, my ring, my wedding ring starts to irritate me a little bit, just on my finger. And so I've found myself, and Julie and I were talking about it this morning, because I left it. I'm like, I'm preaching on marriage, and I left my wedding ring at home.

This is my thought, right? And so I look at my, you can see the indentation on my finger. Like it's clear that I am married. Because marriage leaves a mark on you. For however long you've been married, being in a relationship with another person, it'll leave a mark. And in God's good design, it is a good mark, if we follow the way that He created marriage.

God designed marriage for His glory and our good, as a representation of Jesus love for His people. Let me read Ephesians 5, 31 through 33 again. Now, normally when we're doing marriage counseling or pre marital counseling, we spend four to five to six weeks in Ephesians chapter five here, and we're gonna do it in two hours.

I say, I jokingly, but it might take that time, in forty five minutes, okay?

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Paul says, the author of Hebrews, says that this mystery is profound.



Referring to verse 31. Verse 31 is in quotation marks, and Paul says, after he quotes it, this mystery is profound. Meaning, that verse 31 is not fully understood. Without the end of verse 32. Even from the beginning, marriage was intended to point to Jesus. So let's go back to the beginning. Genesis chapter 2, 20 through 24.

We see the creation story. God made everything good. He rested, and we see the creation of marriage. And then in chapter 2 we get more of those details. In verse 20 it says, The man gave names to all livestock. and to the birds of the heavens, and to every beast of the fields. But for Adam, there was not found a helper fit for him.

So imagine Adam's role. You got the animals coming by and he's naming them. And then at some point he realizes, there's no one out here that fits me. So the Lord God calls the deep sleep to fall upon the man. And while he slept, took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man, He made it into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said, This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Adam sees that there's no one that's fit for him. God sees Adam's loneliness.

He sees, hey, there's no one to, to that fits Adam. And so God puts Adam to sleep. Adam's name, that word Adam, is literally the Hebrew name for man. So when you see the word man in the Old Testament it's literally, the Hebrew is Adam. So Adam goes into this sleep and he wakes up and he sees Eve and says, Whoa, man!

Alright? Gotta leave that, I have to, not mention that, okay? And so that's how we get the name. That's my theory on it. But he sees this Something that looks just like Him, that fits Him. Something so different than everything else. This was God's good gift to man. And there, in Genesis chapter 2, we see the first marriage.

God created marriage. It's not the government, it was not Adam walking around saying, You know what I need? I need a woman. In fact, he didn't even know what that looked like. He just realized, there's no one else like me here. It was God who created marriage. He saw the loneliness of Adam and did something about her.

There was not a helper fit for Adam. Now, we use that word helper. And I've heard this multiple times and I, it makes it sound like this word that God created a servant for Adam. And that is not what this means, okay? Let me be very clear. It's a word that means a complement, that they go together. It is a, someone that fits this person.



That there's no one else there. It wasn't a clone, it was someone, by definition, is one who supplies strength in the area that is lacking. The term does not imply that the helper is either stronger or weaker than the one being helped. Supply strength to the one that is lacking. I love ice cream. Alright, anybody else love ice cream?

I just, I think about, this is what I do when I think about ice, when I eat ice cream. That someone made vanilla ice cream. And they were eating a bowl of vanilla ice cream. It's fine, it's good by itself. But someone along the line of ice cream said, You know what's missing here? Oreo cookies. Oreo cookies are fine by themselves, okay?

Now you combine the two. And oh my goodness, you have the best ice cream in all the world. Cookies and cream ice cream. Some of you shook your heads. And I'll pretend like I didn't see that, okay? But they compliment each other. They go together. It works. It makes it better, in my opinion. And this is what I believe is what God did here to Adam.

He brought someone alongside of him to strengthen him. To be his complement. To help him.

We also see clearly in Genesis chapter 2 that marriage is between one man and one woman for all of life. That there is, when we look at what marriage is, it is God, how does God define what marriage is? Between one man and one woman for all of life. There is no, nothing else. It's, this is why throughout scripture we see just the God's design for marriage is not homosexuality, it's not anything outside of this.

Even sex in and of itself is found within the confines of marriage. This is God's good design. Good design. Anything outside of that is not God's design. And Paul says something that completes this picture for us. The marriage between Adam and Eve was intended to display the covenant between Jesus and the church.

We can read Ephesians 6, 31 through 32 this way. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Refers to Christ and the church. Paul says, this is, this mystery is profound, and I'm telling you, it refers to Christ and the church. Think about God's big plan here in Genesis chapter 2.

That he's creating this good gift of marriage. And in it he's saying, but it points to something even better. It points to the relationship that I will have with my people. That I love them. And they love me. And so God's gifted us this very helpful illustration. To help us grasp our relationship with Jesus.



Here's how marriage reflects Jesus in the church. Jesus is like a groom. Throughout the New Testament, we see this picture. He's like a groom. The church, Christians, are like the bride. You even see this in the traditional wedding ceremony, laid out. Jesus leaves his home, in heaven, Philippians 2 tells us, to go and get his bride.

Even the wedding ceremony, where the bride is, brought to the altar the groom will come down and get his bride and bring her with him. It's a picture of what Jesus has done. He left all the splendors of heaven. He left his father as it says in Genesis and in Ephesians 5 to go and get his bride and make his bride his own. He gave his bride a new name, a new life. Jesus holds fast to his wife, to his bride. He does not let his church, his people go.

In fact, when we give our marriage vows, we stand there hand in hand and say, "Till death do us part." That is not the language of our relationship with Jesus. Jesus would say, "Death does not part us. It's only the beginning of an eternal relationship that I'm going to have with you. Think about that for just a moment."

That one day, death, whether death or the return of Christ, that's where my marriage is going. But Jesus says death does not separate us. Jesus brings unity to his bride. There's a oneness, harmony between Jesus and his people, just like there is when two shall become one flesh. If we long to have a healthy marriage.

I believe we, those of us that are, do, that it must reflect God's intended design for marriage. We set aside our ideas, our desires, and lean into God's good, created order. And ultimately looking at this is all pointing to what Jesus has done for us. He made us His own. We begin by looking at the role of the husband.

Now, you guys. You might say this passage of scripture starts with the wife. Yes, because that's just the flow of the context here, okay? And we'll get into that. But when we get to the end of verse 32 and verse 33, it goes, "Jesus, husband, wife, alright?" So we looked at the Jesus role in this, and how this marriage covenant reflects our relationship with Jesus, but we, guys, we're gonna start with you.

With us. Husbands, love your wife. Love your wife as Jesus loves you. Love your wife as Jesus loves you. Ephesians 5, 25 through 30, let me read it. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor without spot or wrinkle.

Or any such thing that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves



himself for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

Look at the first four words in verse 28. It says In the same way, guys, can you just say that in the same way with me? In the same way, this means the way you love your wife is the same way that Jesus loves the church. In the same way. It means the way you love your wife looks exactly the same way as Jesus loves you.

Now, let me be clear what it is saying here, this text. Your wife. Not someone else's wife. Your wife. You love your wife. This is your responsibility. To love your wife. What type of love is this? You love your wife by sacrificially giving yourself up. This is what Jesus did. Again, the model is Jesus here.

Clearly the biblical picture of a husband laying down his life For his wife is directly opposed to any kind of male tyranny. This dominating nature. It is a, I will give my life for you. As Jesus gave his life for the church. Will I die for my wife? Absolutely. I wouldn't think twice about it.

The husband's love Ensures that his wife finds their marriage a source of rich fulfillment and joyful service to the Lord. That there should be no question in our wives minds, guys, does my husband love me? Because not once have I had to ask that question, Jesus, do you love me? The people Malachi did, we talked about this a few weeks ago, right?

How have you loved us? They were just ignorant and sinful. For us, I want Julie to know, without a doubt, that I love her. Charles Spurgeon says, It is possible that some husbands might say, How can I love such a wife as I have? Paul silences that excuse, which may possibly have occurred to his mind while writing this passage, by taking the example of the Savior who loved, not because there was loveliness in us, In order to make her lovely guys the thought of saying, have you met her?

How this is not the posture of Jesus. How doing in love towards our wives? I'm not gonna provide every example of my marriage for you. Alright? But I know that I'm gonna do everything I can to provide everything Julie needs. Because her needs supplant mine. I'm gonna set myself aside for her. Which means, I'm gonna pump gas for her.

This is, I'm not saying this is what you need to do guys, it could be the thing, okay? But when she gets in the car, she doesn't have to think about there being gas in there. Which means, multiple times a day, and in the night, I'm gonna go find her water bottle. Somewhere, in the house, okay? Anybody else there?



Or the phone charger. I don't know where it goes, and how it gets moved, but when we get in bed, and I'm covered up and I'm ready to go, and she's I can't find my phone charger. My response is, I will go get it. I want to serve her in this way. It means, for us practically, that I know that she thrives as a stay at home mom.

and loves this. And so when finances get tight, it doesn't mean taking away from her what makes her thrive. It means, I'm gonna buck up and get a second job to provide for her. This is what that looks like. I'm setting myself aside. We're setting ourselves aside, guys, for the sake of our wives. As Jesus has done for us.

Jesus did not look down and say, you found yourself in a bind, you better die for it. I hope, good luck. You're on your own. Jesus was intentional in this way. He did everything needed for us, displaying his love. Husband's marriage is a call to die to self. It's a call to serve. If you think being a husband is dominating, then you do not love the same way Christ loves.

You are to love your wife by leading her spiritually. Obviously, a husband cannot cleanse his wife and make her spiritually pure. But the scripture uses this to tell us that we can be instrumental in the spiritual growth of our families. In fact, statistics show the more involved spiritually the husband and father is in the life of his family, the stronger the faith of that family is and how lasting it is.

Obviously, I am not responsible for how my kids. The decisions they make, or my, the decisions my wife makes. But I'm going to do everything I can to shape and mold my family around the truth of Scripture and the grace of Jesus. I want to be an active, we should be an active, intentional participant in the spiritual conversation of our homes.

Just as Jesus was for us. Do we purify ourselves? No, Jesus is doing this work in us. So here's just what this could look like. I don't think it means you're doing devotions every morning together and every night together. I don't think it looks like that. I think sometimes that's setting a bar so high you, you're going to miss it day two because of just varying schedules and it falls apart.

But I do believe it means guys, you're making a priority to be here on Sunday mornings. Like it's raining, we're tired, we had a long week. Let's go. We're going. Let's go. Because I know, there have been some Sundays if I said we're calling in sick, that we'd be like, alright, I don't know who's going to preach that day, but I have this extra like layer of accountability on Sundays every once in a while where I'm like, Lord, thank you that I'm preaching because I think, I'm tired.



I know this is not good for my family. It means I'm leading in prayer and leading in scripture study. Maybe I'm asking my wife, hey, what have you been learning from God's Word the last couple days? And having conversations about Jesus. But husbands, let me say this, you can't leave your, lead your wife and family spiritually if you are not leading yourself spiritually.

You need to be in the Word. You need to be growing in the grace of Jesus. You need to forsake your own sin and put on Christ. The third way we see this love of Jesus is love your wife by caring for her needs. This one flesh idea that we see in Genesis and here in Ephesians, Paul is saying, you love her as you love yourself.

To not nourish her is to not nourish yourself. It means guys, do the deep dive study on your wife. Know her. At the smallest of scales, know when she needs that break. Know when she needs encouragement. Know when to keep your mouth shut and just listen. Know when she wants you to hold her hand. Know when to initiate all sorts of intimacy.

You know her. Like you know yourself, Scripture says. Because husbands, we are responsible for our wives. Just as Christ is responsible for his church. Jesus says, Husbands, you are the head of your house. Lead and love, as Christ leads and loves the church. Julie and I will talk about this frequently. When we come to, and we'll talk a little bit more in just a second.

When we come to just, healthy disagreements, and I mean that seriously, okay? I'm not using those words when we're fighting, okay? Healthy disagreements. When I have a thought on something, she has a thought, and honestly, both thoughts are good. We're just trying to get to a consensus on which direction we need to go for something.

And ultimately, Julie just leans back and says, we're at a crossroads. It's what do we do? And she says, You're the one that's going to have to answer to the Lord about it. And she says it lovingly. As a reminder of just saying, Listen, I trust you. We'll go. Wherever you want to go, or whatever you want to do, I'm in it.

Because we're at this crossroads here, and it's a reminder for me that, yeah, one day I'm going to stand before the Lord, and how I led my family.

Out of the overflow of the husband's love, the wife submits to her husband. Wives, the command here, submit to your own husband, as you would submit to Jesus. Now, depending on your background or how you grew up, that word submit is, whoa, that's not, that word's not in the Bible. It is in the Bible, okay?



But let's look at the context here. In verse 21, right before this passage of scripture, Paul says, after talking about how we are to walk in love towards one another and encourage one another in love, and how we are to walk Not as unwise, but as wise, verse 15 says. Verse 21, it says, submitting to one another out of the reverence for Christ.

That this role of submission, this word submit, is not just husband and wife. That we are submitting to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, out of reverence for Christ. So in the context, submission, even next week when we talk about parenting and work, This theme of submission is at play. So it's not just a word for wives.

And guys, it's not a word you're like, you better submit. That's not how this word is intended to be used. It's as if Paul is saying, I command you to submit to one another. In every, in a very general way. Now if you do this in a general way, how much more should wives do it to their own husbands in this special relationship of marriage?

To submit. means that you recognize someone as has legitimate authority over you. You are a part of a unit, a team. And this authority that we're using here, I think our sinful tendency is to say I hate authority. And this is why the session on parenting in Ephesians 6 is so important. That oftentimes the issue is just we butt up against authority.

Because God is our authority. And we always butt up against him and push back. We want to be in charge. We want to be in control. So it's a recognition of a legitimate authority that someone has over you. You as an individual are not more important than the working of the unit or the team. The issue of authority means that when we submit to, like, when we submit to the authority of a police officer, we recognize their authority and act accordingly, or an employer.

So in order to flip God's design upside down, the enemy has turned this idea of submission as a negative. And in God's good created order, He says, No, it's actually a positive and a good thing. Now here is a few things that we must say here. Submitting to your husband, wives, is not a position of inferiority.

That's not what this text is saying. God is not saying, guys, you are far better than your wives. This is a ranking scale. That's not what this means. Ladies, you're not less than your husbands. It's also not a call to be silent. That I just sit and quiet. My husband makes all the decisions. I'm just quiet. No, that's not what that is saying either.



Remember, there's a compliment here. There's a team. We're working together. We're one. It's not two people. Because if you break this word down in submission like the way it often is, then it takes two people. But this is one working together as God intended. It's not a squandering of gifts in the life of the wife.

For example, there are some things that Julie is really good at that I am not good at. And so this text doesn't mean that I just do all the things, even the things I'm not good at. It's recognizing. Babe, you're really good at this. I'm trusting you to lead me in this. For one of those things, it's budget it's money, and there's some even other decisions where I'm like, I don't know.

My brain doesn't, isn't wired by God that way. So it doesn't mean squandering of giftings. Guys, it doesn't mean you're not involved in the house. It means you can cook if you can cook. I can't cook. And so I just try to avoid it altogether because We end up having to go out to eat after I try to cook, okay?

And it's not good, alright? But it does mean I'm participating in the life of the house. This idea of roles and submission does not mean I'm pushing down my wife. I'm bringing her up, and elevating her, and loving her. And it's the overflow of the love, from the love of the husband. Just as the text says, We submit to the Lord and recognize His authority because we have first seen His love towards us.

I see how much Jesus loves me, and I want to just, Lord, I trust You. I'm following You. So as the church submits to Jesus, we see His love, His leadership, His authority. And we respond with a willful desire to follow. So wives, the submission to your husband is two fold. One, it's to your own husband.

It's not to every man in the church. It's to your own husband. So if a guy came to my wife and said, this is what you should be doing, I'm going to approach that guy and says, this is what you're going to be doing with my fist, okay? That's how, that's like my posture, all right? Because Julie is not The authority for her is not just some random guy, it's to her own husband, as we work together as one flesh following the Lord.

I don't recommend beating up other guys, okay guys, it's just, but, I said what I said. It also means as to the Lord, so wives, as you submit to your husband, it should look like how the church submits. to Christ, just as husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church. It means trusting. And guys, this means, again, this lands on us.

Out of deep love for our wife, I want to make it easy for Julie to trust me in making decisions. I'm not going to squander her giftings, I want to raise them up as Jesus has raised up our giftings. I want to see her thrive.



So it means trusting.

Because of sin, what's happened is there's been this power struggle. What God intended to look like this, knitted together, complementing, fitted together. Sin has done this. And this is not God's good design. Disagreements are not a bad thing. All right, hatred and sinful anger and bitterness is, and the devil will do anything to rip this apart.

God desires for it to look like this. So husbands, let me encourage you to love your wife more and more each and every day. I don't think that means going out and getting flowers every day, unless that's something that displays your love for your wife. If I did that, we'd be having conversations about the budget, right?

So I know what a love for Julie looks like because she's my wife. Guys, you've got to figure that out on your own. And we, through marriage counseling and even through Foundations Christian Counseling, we can help work through that. There's ways. But if I were to go to you and just say, you need to love your wife this way, it may not be what your wife needs.

You know your wife. Ask questions. Babe, what can I do to show you more of my love for you? There's a good chance that they will tell you. For example, one of the questions that Julie and I ask every week in our, just we're checking in, this is my calendar, this is what's going on. This is, we're on the same page.

We do this weekly. Sometimes it's in full detail. Sometimes it's not. And one of the questions is how can I serve you in a year or so ago? It was. Julie wants to wake up and the coffee be ready to go. I'm like, I could do that. So I prep it the night before. That's a way that I can show my, just a small way.

So ask those questions. It may, date night might not be going out for a fancy meal. Could just be playing a card game on the couch. You could just be sitting on the porch reading books in quiet. It could be saying, hey, why don't you go out? I'll hang out with the kids today. Go spend time with your friends.

Find a ways to love your wife and love her well, as Christ has loved us. Wives, let me encourage you at times, maybe it's, I'm gonna step back and trust my husband here. Alright I wanna watch you lead, and thrive,

and I think that's the power struggle. This is how the worlds get reversed. Guys you step back, ladies you step up, but this is not God's design. But we're not doing this alone, we're doing this together as one flesh, and one flesh literally means that all of my hurts and my pains are Julie's hurts and her pains.



My finances are her finances, we're banking together, we're on the same cell phone plan, okay? My phone? She knows the password to it. She knows access, she has access to anything that is mine because we are one flesh. So I'm very careful to protect that. I'm making sure that no one looks at me in a relationship I have with another woman and says, what's going on there?

That thought is, I'm gonna do everything I can to make sure that never happens. So yeah, someone texts me and she says, who was that? Here, you can read it. She knows it. And she trusts me. It's not like she's snooping through trying to figure it out. This is what it means to be one flesh. And I could keep going, but we're out of time here.

What do we do now? Married couples live together in the power of the gospel. This is where it begins. A healthy marriage is only possible if we lean into Jesus.

I never could have imagined when you stand on your wedding day, I remember like it was yesterday. All the things that Julie and I, that would transpire in our lives. I never thought miscarriages would happen. I never thought that I would be watching her in the emergency room and vice versa. We never thought a lot of things.

Never could have imagined. That was not on the table. When you get married, it is all roses, right? But what happens is life happens, and it's hard. We never knew COVID was gonna happen. We didn't know we would have to make decisions that we weren't expecting to make. And I don't know when you realize you're old enough to make some decisions, right?

Every decision feels like, man, I'm not really old enough to do this. But what a joy it is to grow old with someone.

My in laws, Julie's parents, Bob and Becky, have been married 50 years. That, that is something we should all seek after. Maybe we're not going to hit 50. Some of you, you're going to be in your 80s and it may be 30, and that's awesome. Live your life together with your spouse, which means throughout life there's going to be three things you're going to have to keep at the forefront.

If you're going to live together in the power of the gospel, one, is you're going to fight for your marriage. If you find yourself in a position, and you just feel like, I just want to give up here, I want you to call me immediately. And let's walk through this. Every marriage is worth fighting for. It's worth protecting.

Fight for your marriage.



It's easier it feels easier said than done. You often don't realize how much your kids consume that time. And so I'm gonna fight for time. I'm gonna fight for energy. I'm gonna try to get away when I can. Just me and Julie. I'm gonna fight for it. And over the years this means, I'm gonna put my phone away, turn it off.

And if you've texted me and you haven't heard from me in 24 hours, it's a good chance I'm just spending time with her. I'm gonna fight for my marriage and you should fight for yours.

It means husbands and wives that any thought of lust outside of your marriage should just be thrown out the window.

That if porn is a vice, deal with it. That's a way of fighting for your marriage. Take it to the Lord and deal with it. Come alongside other guys in the church, and we're gonna help you fight it and deal with it. It also means living in the power of the gospel together means forgiving one another.

I have told, I have asked Julie to forgive me. More than anyone else in my life. Have you ever thought about that? You know what babe? I'm gonna own that, I'm sorry. And she has done the same thing. Forgive one another. Don't let that sin hold, take hold and bitter. This is enemies tools to tear you apart.

Model that in front of your kids, we'll talk about it next week. Forgive one another. And finally, be faithful to the end. Faithful to the ends. The picture of Jesus in the church is Jesus says, I am not letting you go. I am faithful to the ends. This is our relationship with our spouses. Faithful to the ends.

That I am not letting go, even when it's hard, even when it's difficult. I am not letting you go. I am faithful to the end.

Last year about this time, I watched, I watched my grandma mourn the death of my grandpa and she never left his side

and watching her, they were married, like forever it felt like in their nineties. Married since they were, I think she was a teenager,

and just all the memories and all the hurts and pains as he lays there unconscious. In his final days, she's holding his hand

and she said, allow, just in passing, not once did I ever think that he didn't love. Guys, that's the testimony on our deathbeds for our wives. Because that reflects the love Jesus has for us. That even in death, there's no doubt that Jesus loves us and



gave himself for us. In a marriage that lives in the power of the gospel, it's a marriage that is contagious.

When people look at our relationship, they see that is different than any other marriage I've seen because it is Jesus that has shaped that marriage. And living in the, a marriage that's in the power of the gospel understands that if we're gonna be faithful to one another in the ends, not only does it require us to be knitted together here, but knitted to Jesus as well.

Because we cannot live together in harmony without the power of Jesus resting in us. Father, thank you for this gift of marriage. There's so much more that could be said.

