

SERMON OUTLINE

GOD HAS A PLAN—AND WE'RE PART OF IT "God's Plan for Marriage" Ephesians 5:21-33

No. 2973

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I. The Context of Paul's Teaching on Christian Marriage.

- A. Greco-Roman culture believed communal and domestic order to be directly related.
- B. Domestic order maintained by male headship exercising sweeping authority.
- C. Women, children, and slaves were subordinate to husbands, parents, owners.
- D. Christianity taught that all of the above were brothers and sisters in Christ.
- E. This was seen as subversive and disruptive of society and had to be addressed.

II. The Content of Paul's Teaching on Christian Marriage.

- A. The Spiritual dynamics of Christian marriage.
 - 1. The command—"be filled with the Spirit." 5:18
 - 2. The consequences—"speaking," "singing," "thanking," "submitting."
 - 3. The context—"loving" (5:1-2) and "submitting" (5:21).
- B. The specific directions to the wife. vv. 22-24
 - 1. "Submit to your husbands as to the Lord."
 - a. Husbands are exercising the Lord's delegated authority.
 - b. Women are addressed as moral agents living for the Lord.
 - 2. "The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church."
 - a. Male "headship" is a creation issue not a cultural invention.
 - b. Male "headship" is modeled by Christ and the church.
 - i. Christ is authoritative for the church's benefit. 1:22-23
 - ii. Christ is source of supply for the church's good. 4:15-16
 - iii. Christ is the "Savior" of the body—the church.
- C. The specific directions to the husband. vv. 25-32
 - 1. To love their wives as Christ loved the church. vv. 25-27
 - a. A love characterized by sacrifice—"gave himself up for her."
 - b. A love committed to her well-being—"to make her holy."
 - 2. To love their wives as they love their own bodies. vv. 28-32
 - a. Christ "feeds and cares" for the church—His body.
 - b. Husband "feeds and cares" for his wife—"as (his) own body."

III. The Consequences of Paul's Teaching on Marriage. v. 33

- A. A marriage in which the Spirit of God is producing a submissive attitude.
- B. A marriage in which husbandly submission shows in self-offering love.
- C. A marriage in which wifely submission is seen in deep respect.

Point to Ponder: Whatever happened to Spirit-controlled Christian marriage?