

Ephesians 5.22-33

Forever Love with Skin On

SCARRY Thunderstorm - Mom to Bedroom Several X's - COMFORT Daughter  
 Prayed WITH her > "Don't be afraid, GOD is with you" > Started to LEAVE...  
***"Mommy, I know God is with me BUT I NEED Someone WITH SKIN ON!!"***

Christmas Time we REMEMBER God's Forever Love with Skin On

GOD So Loved World gave us all Christmas Present of ONLY SON

NOW We are BODY of Christ > World Find & Feel EMMANUEL in Church

So far in Ephesians 5 Somewhat ABSTRACT IDEAS - Love, Light, Truth, Spirit

Rest of Letter > Paul will PUT SKIN ON THESE ETERNAL TRUTHS

Describes them Lived Out: Marriage, Children, Workplace, Daily Battle of Faith

1<sup>st</sup> RELATIONSHIP > Marriage > Affects NEARLY All of Us

Urge you to HEAR this Message even IF you are NOT MARRIED Now

Most BROUGHT Into World thru FAMILY > May be CLONES Among Us?

Most Us THOUGHT of Marriage, Now Married, Tried Married, Failed Married

Some WISH they were Married – Others GLAD they're NOT > VITAL Topic

HOT TOPIC - RELATED QUESTIONS - Divorce, Polygamy, Homosexuality

Paul is POLARIZING Figure – Radical & Revolutionary Ideas – 1<sup>st</sup> C & 21<sup>st</sup> C

...in the twenty-first century, we forget that (Paul's) model has always  
 throughout the ages been a challenge to the cultural norms of the day...

(marriage) is a calling... Spirit-filled men and women specifically called to be  
 worthy in their marriage relationships

Paul Gardner

## 1. Marriage: Revealed in Scripture

EVERY PRODUCT - "for best results, follow instructions of manufacturer"

MARRIAGE - CREATION OF GOD / Owner's Manual – Holy Scripture

JESUS was ASKED Hard Questions about MARRIAGE / DIVORCE answered:

“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female...”  
Matthew 19.4

Commonly CHARGED that Jesus NEVER talked about HOMOSEXUALITY

What Jesus DID here was ENDORSE God’s CREATION Plan for Marriage

ONE Man married to ONE Woman for LIFE – All Else FALLS SHORT

TELLS US – If Want to Understand Marriage - GO BACK TO BEGINNING

LET US LOOK INTO 1<sup>st</sup> Book of BIBLE - SEE WHAT IT TEACHES

Begins with God’s BENEDICTION over ALL CREATION on 6<sup>th</sup> Day

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1.31

God KNOWS WHAT is GOOD > PERFECT Understanding of GOOD & EVIL

TREE of KNOWLEDGE of Good & Evil SYMBOLIZED His Authority

a. God Makes Partners

HE made ALL VERY GOOD / KNOWS Perfectly what IS Good, says:

Then the LORD God said, “It is *not good* that the man should be alone...”

Genesis 2.18

NO SOUL Mate for Adam – NO INTIMATE Life Partner – No HELPMATE

Man is a social being, made for fellowship, not power: he will not live until he loves, giving himself away to another on his own level. Derek Kidner

ANIMALS he Just NAMED will Not Fully Satisfy Need for COMPANION

1) Social v. 18 "not good for the man to be *alone*" SAD & LONELY WORD

NO EVE > SAD and LONELY WORLD > ALL PEOPLE come from HER

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.  
Genesis 3.20

Next Time SQUEEZED Subway, THANK EVE for all our HUMAN FAMILY!

“BEING Alone” – Never Good – Married or Single > Family, Friends, Church  
Pray that ZGC will be REAL FAMILY to One Another, esp HOLIDAY Season

2) Service Adam CREATED to be WORKER > Eve made to HELP him WORK

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2.15

In Ephesians TEACHING about MARRIAGE FOLLOWS SERVICE

Building UP the Body of Christ – God’s 1<sup>st</sup> PRIORITY for Men & Women

IF you Marry should be to SERVE God Better > Advance Kingdom of God

Looking for HUSBAND or WIFE? 1<sup>st</sup> Quality should be SERVANTHOOD

WASHES Dishes, Teaches Kids, Feeds Homeless, Filled with Compassion

3) Sexual v. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

EMBARRASSING to READ - WE FEEL SHAME - WE ARE SINNERS

Verse EULOGY of GLORY of ADAM and EVE in GOD'S PERFECTION

SEX is GIFT of GOD for Pleasure - Not just Procreation

Hedonist: Chief Goal is Pleasure / Christian seeks Holiness even in Bedroom

So the LORD God caused a 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 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.” Genesis 2.21-23

One LIKE him but WONDERFULLY DIFFERENT: **WOW! MAN** spoke CA

WHAT a Woman – in PRISTINE GLORY – Wonder Woman / Miss Universe

God himself, like a father of the bride, leads the woman to the man. G. von Rad

Man and Woman / True Partnership - PERFECT COMPLIMENT

## b. Man Makes Promises

Marriage NOT for Everyone, Does NOT Complete You or Guarantee Happiness

CHOICE you Can Make > Every Choice carries RESPONSIBILITIES

1) **Ultimate** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother Genesis 2.24

If you Choose Marriage > NO HUMAN Being is MORE IMPORTANT to You!

Other important things: Parents, Children, Friends, Work, even Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

IF you are their – Parents, Kids, Friends, Church – Please RESPECT THIS!

2) **Permanent**

and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh Genesis 2.24

Marriage Not JUST Convenience or Contract – COVENANT with God

The marriage covenant is only to be broken by death.

IRONY Many People want to MAKE SURE they're Ready for BIG Decision

by LIVING TOGETHER before Marriage

STATS – Divorce Rates HIGHER for those who Played House before Marriage

If you LIVE Together without Commitment to Marry > SELFISH

SELFISHNESS brings DEATH to MARRIAGE

God DESIGNED Marriage to be Forever Love with Skin On

3) **Intimate** - Socially, Spiritually, Sexually – Best Friends > Nothing to Hide

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2.25

ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER DESPITE IMPERFECTIONS

People Need INTIMACY / Companionship > Even if NOT MARRIED

We must live in a house with no roof and no walls. East African Revival

Good MOTTO for ALL of Life – esp. Protect INTIMACY & Trust of Marriage

## 2. Marriage: Ruined by Sin

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2.16,17

ALL Wonderful CHOICES in God’s Garden – Make ONE Forbidden Choice

INTERNET – Great Tool could ENRICH Minds & EDIFY our Souls

Some People – too Many People - Set all Bookmarks to NASTY Sites!

TREE – Likely Real Tree with some Tasty Fruit – Symbol of God’s Authority  
Asks Who’s In Charge? What is Source of Truth? Determines Good and Evil?

EATING FRUIT - Rejection of God and His Authority / SLAP in His face  
RESULT? - Death and Judgment on Them & Everything / Including Marriage

GOD – the Offended Maker and Judge – Enters CRIME SCENE of Eden

Sees Remnants of Half-Eaten FRUIT > GUILTY Pair Hiding among LEAVES!

NAKED Innocence LOST > NOW Covered with SHAME and GUILT

SIN is Total GAME-CHANGER – Smog, Suffering, and Separation BEGIN...

a. Husband: Irresponsible

God said, “Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Genesis 3.11,12

ADAM GIVEN COMMAND - HEAD OF FAMILY - MOST RESPONSIBLE

ADAM STARTS BLAME GAME – Every MAN After him STILL PLAYING!

Adam - Blamed Woman AND God / LUTHER: Adam "YOU Lord have sinned"

Today: Men want SEX w/out Marriage > Force Pregnant Women ABORTION

UNFAITHFUL to Wedding VOWS > Neglect Child SUPPORT

WOW!! Really BAD STUFF!! – *Must be Somebody ELSE'S FAULT!!*

c. Wife: Dominant - “If he won’t run things, then I sure will!”

To the woman he (God) said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Genesis 3.16

"DESIRE" – That’s GOOD Right!?!? - Wife will Love her husband??

Context CURSE > Pain / Partnership SHATTERED / Desire = Negative

SAME WORD in English & Hebrew – God’s WARNING to Cain – Next chptr...

“...if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.” Genesis 4.7

So here in early chapters of Bible -- DESIRE = CONTROL

AS THE MAN FAILS TO TAKE UP HIS RESPONSIBILITY WOMAN SAYS

"don't worry honey, I'll take care of it" / MAN "good now I don't have to do it"

VICIOUS CYCLE - IRRESPONSIBLE / DOMINANCE - Family Collapse

BOTH "Women's Liberation" and "Male Chauvinism" RESULTS OF FALL

Now have HAPPY CHRISTMAS Background to Consider Ephesians 5...

### 3. Marriage: Restored through Salvation

Great News – Ephesians > Undeserved, Wondrous, Salvation of God

Salvation so POWERFUL Everything Changes > Cosmic, Comprehensive

GLORY of Risen & Exalted Jesus > **God’s Forever Love with Skin On**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places Ephesians 1.3

EVERY means Every > MERCY for ME...and for MY MARRIAGE!!

This is the GOSPEL TONIC that Irresponsible Husbands,

Dominant Wives, and Sin-Sick Marriages Need....

...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith  
Ephesians 3.16,17

HEALING BALM of GRACE Applied Right to Open Wound from EDEN

Men & Women Saved by Grace, Filled by Spirit of God > Can Reverse CURSE

My NEXT 2 Sermons – focus on HUSBAND and Wife, brief comments now...

a. Wives: Loving Submission - Submit Like Jesus

Wives, a submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Ephesians 5.22

SOME WOMEN *"my husband just won't be the leader of our home"*

Not Easy! Sometimes Wives WILL NOT YIELD TO HIS

LEADERSHIP

WORD "Submit" - NEEDS UNDERSTANDING

NOT - Dictator, Superior, Exclusive Decision Maker, Always Right

After Discussion > HUSBAND RESPONSIBLE FOR FINAL OUTCOME

When his PLAN FAILS > Wife will say, "I TOLD YOU SO!" --- NO!!

My WIFE says "That's Right, my Husband is the Head"

BUT I AM THE NECK THAT MOVES THE HEAD!!

v. 22 "as to the Lord" – Not Because Man is Good, Even if he's UNBELIEVER

SUBMISSION is to the LORD

b. Husbands: Loving Leadership Love Like Jesus

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her  
Ephesians 5.25

DOES NOT THINK OF HIMSELF FIRST - BUT THE NEEDS OF WIFE  
JACOB LOVED RACHEL SO MUCH HE WORKED 14 YRS FOR HER  
“but they seemed like only a few days because of his love for her”

HAPPY WIFE MEANS A HAPPY HUSBAND - Husband takes the LEAD

By GRACE > STRENGTH to Do What – Only GOD can ENABLE Us to do...

HUSBAND: Love & Lead like Jesus / WIFE: Submit & Serve like Jesus

PEOPLE DO NOT NEED DIVORCE - THEY NEED CHRIST

DIVORCE - AVOIDS PROBLEMS // CHRIST - REMOVES PROBLEMS

"I do not think there are wrong marriages, only wrong people. There is nothing final and unchangeable about the wrongness of people...I've never seen a marriage that could not be saved. But I have seen plenty that died because one or both partners did not want to pay the price to save the relationship"Marriage Counselor

TRIANGLE – STRONGEST GEOMETRIC SHAPE

THREE-WAY LOVE COMMITMENT is STRONGEST

HUSBAND & WIFE Submitted to EACH Other UNDER Christ

IF you're LOOKING for Life Partner > LOOK for Such Person like this NOW

Foolish Idea > When you GET MARRIED you can CHANGE a Person

REAL Change – Learn DISAPPOINTING things about Your Prince or Princess



Without a sure relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, we simply do not have the strength or security necessary to sacrifice for the good of another...the only resource we have that enables us to love as Christ requires is His own love...Only when we rest in his love can we reflect it     Bryan Chapell

## TWO THINGS ARE NECESSARY FOR A BLESSED MARRIAGE

### CONSIDER WHAT TO LOOK FOR IF YOU ARE NOT YET MARRIED

- 1) a godly man who lovingly leads as Christ loved the church
- 2) a godly woman who lovingly submits to her husband as to the Lord

### c. THE Bridegroom

Does Good Marriage just COME NATURALLY?? – I WISH!

But SADLY Our NATURE IS SINFUL - NEED POWER OF GOD

vs. 31,32   “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.

Paul refers with wonder to the spiritual union between Christ and the church. For he exclaims that this is a great mystery...no language can do it justice...The great mystery is that Christ breathes into the Church His own life and power     John Calvin

There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand: the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and *the way of a man with a maiden.*                     Proverbs 30.18,19

Marriage is CLOSEST Human Relationship God Created > TWO become One

Created for OUR GOOD – AND for God’s GLORY

Marriage POINTS to Our ETERNAL Love Relationship with Him in Christ

PROPHETS Promised we will be BLISSFULLY United to God FOREVER...

For your Maker is your husband -- the LORD Almighty is His name     Isaiah  
54.5

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in  
love and compassion.

Hosea 2.19

PAUL SAW HIMSELF as NEW Covenant GOSPEL MATCHMAKER

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to  
Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 2 Corinthians 11.2

With ALL THE PASSION & EXCITEMENT OF ROMANCE  
GOD USES THIS MOST INTIMATE OF ALL RELATIONSHIPS  
AS A FITTING SYMBOL OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE

as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you

Isaiah 62.5

"It was he who sought us and joined us to Himself through spiritual marriage. He  
courted us. He won our love...He took the vows first of all: 'I, Jesus, take thee,  
sinner, to be my wedded wife; and I do promise and covenant, before God and  
these witnesses, to be thy loving and faithful Savior and Bridegroom; in plenty  
and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, for this life and for  
eternity.' And we looked up into His face and said the same vows after Him to  
Him...we took His name and became His. Before we were Miss Sinner. Now we  
have become Mrs. Christian - "Christ-one." Now we must be careful to keep His  
name unspotted by the world. Have you done that?"                     James Boice

INVITATION is OUT - DO NOT MISS YOUR GREAT WEDDING DAY

“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”  
Revelation 19.9

Ephesians 5.<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,<sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.<sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,<sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body.<sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.<sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Genesis 2.<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”...<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.<sup>23</sup> 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.”<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.<sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2.18,21-25

