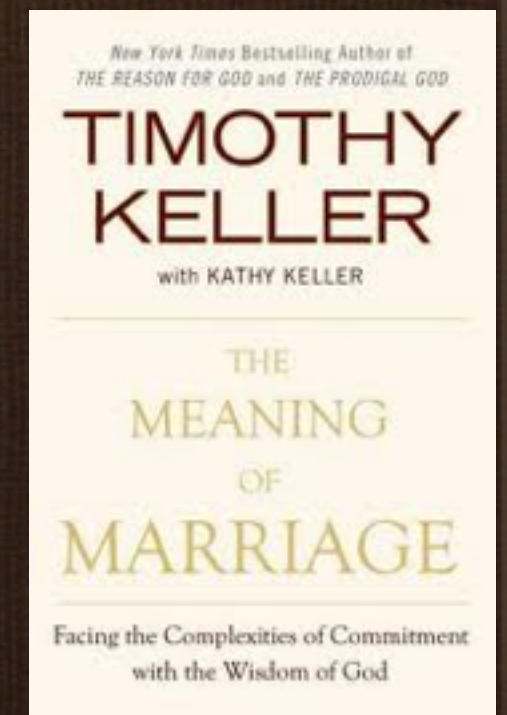
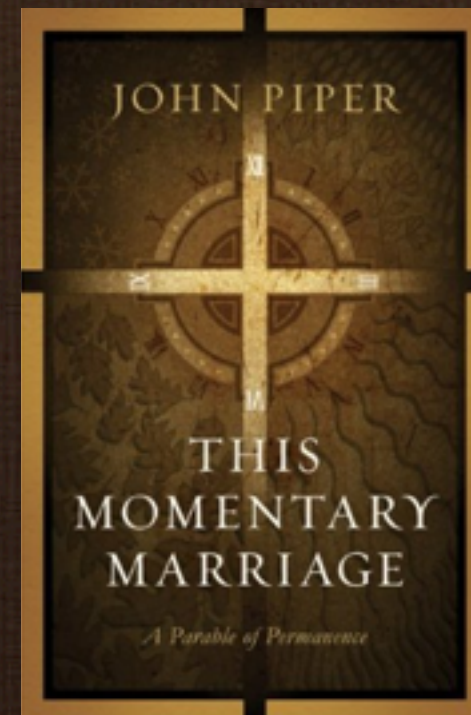


Marriage (4)

Husband's Role

Slides by: Timothy Chan, based on
John Piper's "This Momentary Marriage"
& Tim Keller's "The Meaning of Marriage"



Discussion Question

- ❖ (Q) In your experience or opinion, name one essential difference between the role of a husband vs. the role of a wife.

Newsflash: “Genderless Marriage”

- ❖ Since 2010, when Prop 8 was overturned, marriage in California has been redefined as “genderless.”
- ❖ “The evidence shows that the movement of marriage away from a gendered institution and toward an institution free from state-mandated gender roles reflects an evolution in the understanding of gender rather than a change in marriage. The exclusion [of same-sex married couples] exists as an artifact of a time when the genders were seen as having distinct roles in society and in marriage. That time has passed.” (U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, Aug 4, 2010)

The Beginning

- ❖ (Gen 1:27-28) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- ❖ Our maleness or femaleness is in our essence.
- ❖ Men and women are equally made in the image of God, equally blessed, and equally given the mandate to have dominion over the earth.

The Beginning

- ❖ (Gen 2:18) Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
- ❖ (Gen 2:22-23) 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.”

The Beginning

- ❖ (Gen 2:24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- ❖ “The entire narrative of Genesis 2, in which a piece of the man is removed to create the woman, strongly implies that each is incomplete without the other.” (Tim Keller)

Ephesians 5:18b-33

- ❖ (Eph 5:18b-21) But be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:18b-33

- ❖ (Eph 5:22-27) 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 husbands. 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.

Ephesians 5:18b-33

- ❖ (Eph 5:28-30) 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.

Ephesians 5:18b-33

- ❖ (Eph 5:31-33) “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.

Mystery

- ❖ (Eph 5:31-32a) “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 ...
- ❖ When the Bible uses the word “mystery,” it doesn’t refer to something unknowable.
- ❖ Rather, it refers to a hidden purpose of God that God now chooses to reveal for our understanding and enjoyment.
- ❖ The mystery of marriage is that it is a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the church. The husband’s (and wife’s) roles are to be seen as a purpose to mirror this relationship.

Mutual Submission

- ❖ (Eph 5:18b-21) But be filled with the Spirit submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- ❖ Mutual submission, and mutual service, is an effect of being filled with the Spirit.
- ❖ Some “egalitarians” choose to stop at 5:21 without distinguishing the role between husband and wife.
- ❖ Rather, after declaring mutual submission in 5:21, Paul devotes the following twelve verses to unfold the different ways a husband and a wife should serve each other.

Mutual Submission

- ❖ (Eph 5:22-23) 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 ...
- ❖ Husbands are uniquely called to “headship”.
- ❖ Wives are uniquely called to submit to the husband’s headship.
- ❖ Remember: both headship and submission are “servant roles,” just different ways of serving.
- ❖ “There is nothing ugly or undesirable in these distinctions of headship and submission when they’re seen in the light of the gospel of grace.” (John Piper)

Headship

- ❖ (Eph 5:23) 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.
- ❖ “Headship” essentially means “leadership.”
 - ❖ (Q) Does this mean the husband makes all the decisions?



- ❖ The Bible does not teach male domination.
- ❖ (Q) So what should a husband's headship be like?

1. Headship = Servant Leadership

- ❖ (Eph 5:21,23) ... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ ... 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.
- ❖ Since the husband's headship is his unique position of service, his leadership is characterized as "servant leadership," just like Jesus' leadership.

1. Headship = Servant Leadership

- ❖ What was Jesus' leadership like?
- ❖ **(Matt 20:28)** Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- ❖ **(Rom 15:2-3a)** Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself ...
- ❖ Also read this: Christ washing disciples' feet in **John 13:12-15**.

1. Headship = Servant Leadership

- ❖ Unfortunately, some men think their “headship” entitles them to do whatever they please.
- ❖ “Jesus redefined all authority as servant-authority. Any exercise of power can only be done in service to the Other, not to please oneself.” (Tim Keller)
- ❖ (Eph 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
- ❖ “You cannot lead like Jesus without encountering suffering and sacrifice. His supreme act of leadership was laying down His life.” (Trevin Wax)

2. Headship = Primary Responsibility

- ❖ (Eph 5:29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church
- ❖ “Headship is not a right to control or to abuse or to neglect. ... Rather, it’s the responsibility to love like Christ in leading and protecting and providing for our wives and families.” (John Piper)
- ❖ “The role of headship is only done for purposes of ministering to your wife and family.” (Tim Keller)

2. Headship = Primary Responsibility

- ❖ Primary responsibility also means:
 - ❖ When necessary, take the initiative to provide for and protect your family, spiritually and physically.
 - ❖ E.g. take the lead to organize family prayer and devotions, to instruct the children, to break the ice when resolving conflicts, etc.
 - ❖ Wives are frustrated when men do not take initiative.
 - ❖ (Q) How can you improve in taking initiative?
 - ❖ Seek your wife's opinions and value her inputs (it's "primary" responsibility, not "sole" responsibility).

3. Headship = Loving Leadership

- ❖ (Eph 5:23,25) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church ...
Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...
- ❖ The husband should lead with acts of love.
- ❖ However, “love” is hard for men:
 - ❖ We men have few role models, let alone ones who show us what a loving husband is like.
 - ❖ Men feel competent with jobs, sports, mechanical things, studying of facts, and we devote our recreation hours on these “safer” subjects. But “love” is hard to grasp.

3. Headship = Loving Leadership

- ❖ Solution: learn from Christ, the “Perfect Husband.”
- ❖ “The task is too great for sinful, weak human beings. ... It is only as the Spirit of God works in your life that you begin to approximate the Lord’s loving leadership over his Church. Yet you must aspire to nothing less in your relationship to your wife. You must emulate him in all your ways. To be like Jesus Christ in relationship to your wife is an enormous order to fill.” (Jay Adams)
- ❖ “While human men cannot match the degree of love Jesus displays, they are to love in the same manner.” (Alistair Begg)

Exercise for Husbands

- ❖ Slowly and honestly read through 1 Cor. 13:4-7 while substituting your name for the word “love.”
- ❖ (Q) Which attributes of love seem foreign (in regard to your relationship with your wife) when your name is inserted?
- ❖ (Q) In what ways might the Lord be calling you to change?

Summary of Study #4

- ❖ **Genesis 1 & 2:** male and female were created equally in the image of God, yet men and women are complementary and incomplete without each other.
- ❖ **Eph 5:** God reveals the mystery that marriage is meant to be a reflection of Christ and the Church.
- ❖ Headship (husband's role) and submission (wife's role) are different ways of serving each other.
- ❖ Headship = leadership, but not male domination. It is a responsibility, not a right.
- ❖ It is characterized by (a) sacrificial servant leadership (b) taking primary responsibility and initiative (c) loving your wife as Christ loves the Church.

Additional References for Study #4

- ❖ “Loving Your Wife as Christ Loves the Church” by Larry McCall