

Ephesians 5:21-33 - CCH 25th August 2019.

- Q: Turn to neighbour- how would you describe that passage?
 - Outrageous?
 - irrelevant (not married)
 - old fashioned?
- Word Of God- so mustn't ignore/ discount (out of date).
- Listen humbly
- PRAY
 - Finished Psalms. Back to finish off Ephesians next 4 weeks. We don't ignore diff bits.
 - V33 Summary.
- Introduction- passage is...
 - **CONTROVERSIAL**
 - Any ideas of submission easily misunderstood: doormat
 - Some think leads to male domination, even abuse. (that may have been the tragic situation for some of the women here- never justified). Others:
 - Surely in this age of equality, this is suggesting men & women not equal.
 - Also some like to be but not. So it's not that relevant.
 - Not so fast.
 - Submission is not subjugation. Wives are to do it willingly and out of reln w J.
 - **CHRIST CENTRED**
 - V31-32: talking about Christ and Church! for all of us
 - V18, Be filled with spirit, then several things that flow out. Sp filled life.
 - Reln with each other, as been seeing about church, reflect reln w Jesus.
 - Seen
 - **CRUCIAL**
 - Rather than doormat. Window.
 - Really powerful.
 - If marriages and future marriages in this church do what supposed: reflect Christ to Huntingdon.
- Here's where going:
 - 2 sections: Wives and Husbands.
 - Husb more verses, and poss harder thing. Let you make up mind.
 - Keyword submit, sacrifice.
 - IF do that- reflecting J relationship with his people.
 - DIAGRAM. Here's Harry & Sally. Just married.
- 1) WIVES SUBMIT WITH CHRISTIAN RESPECT (v22-24)
- Look carefully at verses lot of confusion cleared up...
 - V21- shows in context of all submitting.
 - Submission is not controversial. We do it all time. Not demeaning.
 - Even B Johnson, submits to the traffic warden or fire officer.
 - We all submit.
 - Can be abused but can be good ordering of society and family.
 - Football team needs a captain.
 - And going to see 3 key relationships over next few weeks: WIVES&HUSB. CHILD&PARENTS. SLAVES & MASTERS.
 - Next submit yourselves.
 - Though NB not "OBEY" contra 6:1 and 6:5.
 - Not address first to husb, about what they do, wives are to willingly submit themselves. Onus on them.
 - Own husbands- not all men thinking they can call shots to all women.
 - As to Lord.

- Here's big thing.
 - Jesus submits.
 - 1 Cor 11:3. "The head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God".
 - So it's a Christlike thing.
 - Jesus is not less God than the Father, he's not less important.
 - Yet Father doesn't submit to Son's direction and lead.
- And "headship" within marriage or church doesn't make someone better
 - Equals in partnership.
 - Different roles.
 - Neither is more important than the other.
 - Like the church there's diversity in unity.
- That's why I've said with "Christian respect".
 - A Christian is someone who respects the leadership of Jesus.
 - Wives are to respect the leadership of their husbands.
- **What might this look like for Sally?** (prob slightly diff in each unique reln)
 - I Don't think means she has to do all the housework.
 - I Don't think that it means the man makes all the decisions by decree.
 - As one person put it "head has ears."
 - Harry will respect her skills & superior knowledge in all sorts of areas
 - Delegating all sorts of things where she is far more capable.
 - Taking her expertise into consideration in all sorts of areas.
 - But he will take initiative to make sure that important things happen
 - Especially for their spiritual growth
 - And the good of the family if they have kids.
 - And she will respect him as the captain of the team
 - May occasionally be times where they disagree
 - (if agree on everything one is unnecessary!)
 - ... yield to his final decision.
 - Can I give one examples from own marriage... (some have heard)
 - 1) **Schooling.** Had to choose school in Camb.
 - School near preschool. But up to 20 min drive.
 - Walk- see more people on route, get to know new.
 - Could both see each other's point
 - Had to make final decision.
 - E respected my lead.
 - ☞ So wives, do your husbands know that you respect them?
 - Respect their lead. It's hard.
 - Calmly tell them where getting wrong
 - (rather than telling your friends or your mum).
 - Or nagging like a dripping tap (as Proverbs 27:15 puts it)
 - But to the best of your ability,
 - Encourage them
 - Support them. Don't think the grass greener somewhere else.
 - Affirm them in their leadership, by letting them lead you.
 - ☞ Single women hoping to be married one day, look for guy who you can respect. A Christian man who can lead you in a Christ honouring way, and who will lay down his life for you, as we're about to see.
 - ☞ All of us. Watch the women in church respecting their husbands, and let it be a reminder to respect Jesus- the perfect husband who loves us so much.
 - Let the marriages in this church point to the greatest love story- that of Jesus's love for us.

- **2) HUSBANDS SACRIFICE WITH CHRISTLIKE LOVE (v25-33)**

- Now it's time to speak to all the husbands, or prospective husbands.
- And the message is simply this.
 - **Walk to the cross every day in your marriage.** x2
 - If you think the wives have a challenge, look at this.
 - **V25-27**
- **The guys leadership is to be cross shaped.**
 - It's a surprise that Paul has to tell the guys to love their wives, but that wasn't a given in the ancient world,
 - And it isn't in the modern world too.
 - Hollywood tells us love is spelled TAKE.
 - But here it's spelled G I V E.
 - Remember that marriage relationships are to be a window onto Jesus' relationship with Christians.
 - And how does Jesus love his people? (the church- ppl not place).
 - V25 gave himself up.
 - That's going to be painful. It was for Jesus. It will be for us.
- **Walk to the cross every day in your marriage** husbands.
- Lay down your lives for your wives.
- Make sure they know that they come first.
- Look at the way Jesus loves:
 - **Sacrificially** v25- so you bear the cost for her of time, and energy and sacrifice.
 - **Sanctifyingly** v26-27- so we want them to become more beautiful on the inside, and more holy, even as they become a little more wrinkled on the outside. That means encouraging her bible reading, and life group attendance.
 - **Selflessly** (v28-30).
 - Should instinctively think of their wives as they instinctively think of their own bodies.
 - You appreciate a cup of tea first thing- think of her.
 - You like to sleep when the baby cries- so does she- let her sleep.
 - You like to do something fun on the weekend- choose her preferences.
 - You like to be looked after when you are ill. Well look after her when she is ill.
- And again it's all done for Jesus.
- He's been talking for 10 verses about marriage, and then says that he's not talking about marriage. He's talking about Jesus.
- V31-32.

- **So what might this look like for Harry.**

- There's an excellent blog that I have 30 copies of on the way out called 10 ways to exercise Christlike Headship.
- But here's my own top tips for
 - Make sure your wife knows that she comes first. Above your work, above your hobbies, above your time with the lads.
 - Treat her kindly. Not shouting, not but loving her like Jesus loves you. Make sure she knows she is your no 1
 - One example that some of you have heard. "Go to bed!"

- **So that's Ephesians 5- wives and husbands.**

- It's all summed up in v33.
- A relationship that all of us need to know about,
- Because all of us are to be more like Jesus.

- For those whose marriages are tough at the moment.
 - God wants to help you.
Keep fighting.
 - When you submit and sacrifice , even though it's hard, you tell the world, and the spiritual forces of this universe that Jesus Christ is Lord.
 - If Jesus can bring 2 different people together in unity
 - Just like he brings different kinds of people together in the church in unity
 - Then he must be very special.
- And for those whose marriages have just got a bit routine and have lost the sparkle.
 - Look at Jesus. He doesn't love us because we deserve it. But because he has chosen to love us. Now pray for his grace to do the same.
- And for all of us.
 - What Paul really wants us to see is not how wonderful marriage is,
 - Because some of us won't be married in this life
 - Or we will have experienced divorce or loss
 - What Paul wants us to see is how wonderful **Jesus** is.
 - "I'm talking about Christ and the church".
 - I've told some of you the story of Hugh and Margaret...
 - ▲ Hugh and Margaret= but I know who she is.
 - Two 90 year olds still showing the universe how Jesus loves us.
 - **LET'S PRAY**
- Time for questions?