**August 12, 2018 “Wives be Subject to Your Own Husbands” Ephesians 5:22-24**

I suppose I am no different from many people, in that I have a tendency to view history in the light of what is happening in the world around me. For example, I tend to think that families and marriages are under greater assault from outside forces than ever before. Many people would agree with that statement however I am not sure that is a correct assumption.

In order for to me to understand things, I have to break them down in the simple terms.

First, what is a family? In simple terms from a Biblical perspective a family begins when a man and woman commit to each other in the bond of holy matrimony. From that moment they begin to make a home. Unfortunately, the expectations are sometimes far too lofty and the marriage begins to fall apart and degenerates into argumentation, holding of grudges, unrealistic visions of what an ideal marriage should be which can and do result so often in separations, divorce and bitterness which can drag on for years.

So why am I telling you all this? It is because this last description is not the pattern that God designed for Christian marriage. He has designed marriage to be, one man with one woman for one life and He designed it to be very good.

So where do we start with our study of Ephesians 5:22 through Ephesians 6:4 which is God’s pattern for the home?

Genesis 3:16-19… the curse of mankind

Two things stand out

1. The curse given to the woman is that the sin nature causes her to desire to rule the man
2. The curse given to the man is that his sin nature is going to cause him to
   1. Resent his wife… woman it’s all your fault
      1. The woman You gave to me (Genesis 3:12)
      2. Man is going to try to control her, grind her down into submission
   2. Toil all the days of his life and whose fault is that??
3. Marriage under assault after the fall
   1. Note
      1. Lamech… two wives… polygamy (Genesis 4)
      2. Noah… Ham saw his fathers’ nakedness… pornography (Genesis 9)
      3. Abraham and Hagar…. Adultery (Genesis 16)
      4. Lot and his daughters… incest (Genesis 19)
      5. Dinah and Shechem… fornication (Genesis 34)
      6. Judah and Tamar… prostitution (Genesis 38)
      7. Potiphar’s’ wife and Joseph… seduction (Genesis 39)
   2. Have I mentioned… there is nothing new under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:9)
4. Ephesians 5:21… note vs 21 comes before vs 22
   1. The Spirit filled man or woman is called to
      1. Philippians 2:1-5a… have this attitude in yourselves
         1. Individually… in yourselves!!!!!
   2. Note Ephesians 5:22
      1. Italicized “*be subject”*
      2. Not in the original text… refers back to Ephesians 21
   3. Note the parallel to Colossians 3:18
      1. Also note “as is fitting to the Lord”
      2. Not all things… but those that are fitting to the Lord
         1. Not things that are illegal or immoral
5. Peter expounds on this same subject
   1. I Peter 3:1-6
      1. So many lessons in this passage
   2. Lesson # 1
      1. In the same way
         1. As what?
            1. I Peter 2:13

As your husband is submissive to government

* + - * 1. I Peter 2:18

As employees to bosses

Good and bad bosses

Reward in obedience even to harsh bosses

* + - * 1. I Peter 2:19… bears up under sorrows

Refers to I Peter 3:1

Even if your husband is

Disobedient to the Word

Could be unsaved

Could be saved just not Biblical in dealing with his wife

She is God’s witness to him

How?

Without a word

By her behavior

By her example

I Peter 2:21-23

* 1. Note both Ephesians 5:22 and I Peter 3:1
     1. “Own” husbands
        1. Speaks of fidelity
        2. You are called to commitment
           1. I Peter 3:2-4

This is precious in the sight of God

Maybe your husband won’t notice

God does notice

* + 1. I Peter 3:5-6
       1. Standard of old
          1. Has not changed
       2. Sarah obeyed her husband
          1. Without being frightened

There is a certain amount of fear in submission

Whether to man or God

* + 1. Sarah obeyed Abraham
       1. The father of faith
  1. I Corinthians 11:3
     1. Submission is not a new thing
        1. Head of every man is Christ
     2. Question
        1. Does Christ treat you men the same way as you treat your wife?
        2. Do you expect Him to be:
           1. Loving?
           2. Kind?
           3. Patient?
           4. Forgiving?
           5. Keeping no record of wrongs?

Can you imagine the stress that is put on women today? If you are not a woman working outside of the home, you are deprived and are nothing more than a slave working for no wages, working with no respect for yourself… etc. etc. etc. So, she goes out and gets a job which requires her to get up early, get the kids up early, take them to daycare, apply to the state for subsistence to pay for someone to watch over her children. Work her 8 or 10 hours a day, come home to children who want her to spend time with them, a husband who wants to be fed, clothes that need to be washed, folded and put away so that at 10:00 she can fall into bed totally physically and mentally exhausted only to do it all over again tomorrow.

1. Proverbs 31:10-31
   1. Here is God’s view of the role of a fulfilled woman
      1. Worth more than jewels
      2. She has the trust of her husband
      3. Always looking out for what is good for him/home
      4. Making food
      5. Making clothing
      6. Caring and generous
      7. Her husband is blessed to have her
      8. Strength and dignity are her garments
      9. Her children are blessed to have her
      10. Her home is her castle
      11. She fears the Lord and shall be praised