

"Renewing our Marriages" Ephesians 5:22-33

Introduction

Renewing our hearts and vision. Looking back so that we can move forward. What has God called us to?

- Renewing our hearts
- Renewing our vision
- Renewing our outreach
- Renewing our hospitality

Today, Renewing our marriages. Jenny and I attended a seminar at Calvin this last week on the subject of hospitality, led by David and Ruth Hanson. Lots of really helpful things. One little point caught my attention at the end of their teaching because it made me think about this message. David made the point the when you are involved in hospitality, make sure that you settle family feuds and problems before you bring people into your home. He said that if you and your spouse are in the middle of some kind of rift, your guests will know something is wrong even if nothing is said.

As we look back on the life and ministry of this congregation over the years, one of the reasons ministry has been able to move forward with God's blessing is because he has granted us strong families and marriages. Just as it is true that a visitor in your home can tell when something is not right, so too can visitors to the church tell if our marriages and families are not living in harmony.

Today we are want to review and renew our commitments to developing marriages where the husband and wife are one flesh. If our marriages are weak we will have no energy to fulfill other things God has called us to.

[Ephesians 5:22-33]

I. What does the Bible tell us about marriage?

- * established by God
- * permanent
- * children are a gift
- * leaving and cleaving
- * sex is good
- * roles
- * picture of Christ and church

II. What are the foundations upon which a good marriage is built?

Jesus Christ

- The one flesh principle (Gen. 2:18, 22-25)
- the creation mandate (Gen 1:26-28)
 - fruitfulness (physical and spiritual children)
 - purpose ('Thy kingdom come')

III. What responsibilities must you fulfill to make your marriage successful?

HUSBAND

- **LOVE** your wife the way Jesus loves the church (Eph 5:25)
 - protection – calming the storm

- provision – feeding the 5,000
 - leadership – Great Commission
 - serving – washing the disciples feet
 - giving up own life – cross (literally and figuratively)
 - forgiving – paralytic
 - companionship – appointed 12 that they should be with Him
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- **LIVE** with your wife in an understanding way (1 Peter 3:7)
 - what is a “weaker vessel”
 - goal is to know your wife
 - honor her as a fellow heir of grace

 - **LEAD** your wife, fulfilling your role as the head of your home (Eph. 5)
 - What are the implications of biblical headship?
 - Accountability in day of judgment

 - Doesn't imply superiority
 - What is the goal of biblical headship?
 - To insure that Christ is known and honored as the head of the home

 - To find and follow the will of God for your family

 - How should you implement biblical headship?
 - Setting the example in godliness

- Prayerfully seeking God's purposes for your family
- Seeking the counsel and wisdom of your wife
- Paying the price to follow God's will (dying to own desires and/or leading wife to the same)

WIFE

- Love you husbands (Titus 2:4)
 - Develop holiness (I Peter 3:1-4)
 - Submit to your husband (Eph. 5:22)
 - What does submission mean?
 - Not being a 'doormat'
 - Involves attitude of respect
 - Desires to help you succeed as the leader
 - Full involvement in work of the kingdom
 - Chief confidant and counselor
 - Willingness to follow
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Two pitfalls to avoid

- Taking Your Role to an extreme.
 - Husband Acting as the "Lone Ranger"
 - Wife manipulating her husband to get her way.
- Failing to Embrace Your Role

- Husbands Acting like “Ted Forth”
- Wife acting like Sally Forth