

EPHESIANS: The Mystery of Marriage Ephesians 5:22–33

The Mystery of Marriage

Introduction:

- 1. Ephesians is about the Mystery of God’s plan and your place within it**
 - (1) Love and Marriage and Family...
 - (2) are a part of the Great Mystery of God’s Plan.
 - (3) The Love of two that become one
 - (4) The love of a mother for a child
 - (5) The love of parents for their children
 - (6) These Are all a glimpse of something even far greater...
 - 2. Gary Chapman:** "For love, we will climb mountains, cross seas, traverse desert sands, and endure untold hardships. Without love, mountains become unclimbable, seas uncrossable, deserts unbearable, and hardships our lot in life" -Gary Chapman
 - 3. Paul reveals by inspiration of God—that Marriage is a great Mystery...**
 - there is much more to marriage than any of us realize (5:22-33)
 - >So Let’s examine at 6 aspects of the mystery of marriage...
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I. THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

(1) MARRIAGE WAS DESIGNED BY GOD & GIVEN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

- 1. In the first chapter of Genesis we read: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...**
 - a) As God completed each phase of creation He pronounced His blessing: “It is Good.”
 - b) But after creating man He said: “It is not good for man to be alone.”
 - c) **(Genesis 2:18)** And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”
- 2. This is all a part of the mystery... (Genesis 2:21–22)**
 - a) God created man from the dust of the ground, but he created Eve from Adam’s side.
- 3. God brought her to him—as a father brings a bride— (Gen. 2:23-25)**
 - a) And There God stated the unity of the Marriage Relationship...
- 4. MARRIAGE was Created by God and given in the Garden of Eden...**
 - a) before sin, before suffering, and before death,
 - b) Before human government, before the Fall, before the Curse
- 5. MARRIAGE was Plan A by Design from Beginning!**
 - not a Plan B** (or a band-aid for human sin or suffering)
 - a) The blessings of Eden have passed—
 - but Marriage, a Piece of Paradise, Remains Today!

(2) MARRIAGE IS DESIGNED TO BE A MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP THAT DISPLAYS THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF LOVE

- 1. Marriage is a Process of Transformation—Through the Refining Fire of Love**
 - a) In Choosing Love—you are Choosing to be Refined and Polished ...
to Reflect the Glow of Selfless Love...
- 2. Through the Praise, the Criticism, the Frustration, and the Excitement & encouragement of the one you Marry...**
 - a) You will be Challenged and Inspired to Transcend your own Limitations...
 - b) Your Judgements, Your Lack of Trust, Your Fear of Intimacy, Your Pride & Self-Focus
 - c) — and Strive Instead for their Beautiful Opposites...
- 3. This Love You Share Together Invites you (even forces you) to Grow in the Very Dimensions you Lack...**
 - a) Qualities that as you acquire them will represent an Enlargement of your Soul.
 - b) You Will Learn to be Kinder, Gentler, More Empathetic and more Trusting.
 - c) Your Love for Each Other will Help You Transcend your own limitations
- 4. This Very Person You Love—who Strengthens & Challenges You...**
 - a) (and yes, will sometimes Irritate You :)
 - b) Will Also Inspire You — to Become Greater Together than You Are Alone.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

“Marriages which are dependent on [romantic] love fall apart, or at best are in for a stormy time of it. But marriages which consistently look back to their vows, to those wild promises made before God, and which trust him to make sense out of them, find a continual source of strength and renewal.” (Mike Mason, *Mystery of Marriage*)

MARRIAGE

Tertullian 3rd Century AD

"Beautiful is the marriage of two Christians, two who are one in hope. They are both servants of the same Master. Nothing divides them, either in flesh or spirit. They are two in one flesh, and where there is one flesh, there is also one spirit. They pray together, they worship together. Instructing one another, strengthening one another. Side by side they visit God's church; Side by side they face difficulties and persecutions. Share their consolations.

They have no secrets from one another, they never bring sorrow to one other's hearts. Unembarrassed, they visit the sick and assist the needy. They give alms without anxiety. Psalms and hymns they sing. Hearing and seeing this, Christ rejoices. To such as these, He gives His peace. Where there are two together, there also He is present; and where He is, there evil is not."

(3) MARRIAGE & FAMILY FORM THE FOUNDATION & FABRIC OF SOCIETY

1. **Marriage is not a social construct or man-made contractual arrangement**
2. **Marriage is the 1st human institution because it was the 1st relationship between human beings that God created.**
3. **This is where Family is formed—where love is learned.**
4. **Where communication is cultivated.**
5. **Where education begins... inter-personal relationships develop**
6. **The Marriage and the Family Form the Foundation and Fabric of Society**
7. **So All other human institutions rest on this 1st institution...**

(4) MARRIAGE IS FROM GOD AND IS UNDER ATTACK FROM THE ENEMY

1. **Since Marriage and Family Form the Foundation and Fabric of Society**
 - a) The Breakdown of Marriage and Family leads to the breakdown of society
2. **The Breakdown of Society then leads to chaos, corruption and confusion...**
 - a) Anarchy and violence, and the disintegration of relationships and eventually the psychological disintegration of individuals.
 - b) Think of the children raised in broken homes, in a climate of anger and fear.
 - c) Raised with learned helplessness by the neglect of selfish parents.
3. **Marriage is from God—and therefore is under attack from the Enemy...**
 - a) Usually by the most common deception in the World—Exalting SELF...
—My Needs, My Wants, My Hurts, My Pain, My ‘truth’...
 - b) Exalting SELF to the point of Victimhood Status...
—Once you reach victimhood status then you reach “sainthood” status.
 - c) Then anything you do for yourself is made automatically “self-righteous” by your “sainthood” virtue.
4. **Which is what the enemy wants...**
 - a) Satan wants husbands and wives fighting with each other...
 - b) He wants you to choose anger, jealousy, hate, neglect, mind games, divorce.
 - c) He wants the children to learn it early—in their own dysfunctional homes...
from their own dysfunctional parents.
5. **The hatred Satan has against God’s plan for marriage and family shows there is more going on in the spiritual realm than you think...**

(5) MARRIAGE IS A MYSTERY: A PICTURE OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

1. **‘This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church’ (v.30-32)**
 - a) In the Garden God said it is not good for man to be alone (**Genesis 2:21-22**)
 - b) Why Did God Create Woman From Man?
 - c) Paul is pointing to a hidden prophesy given in the Garden of Eden...
2. **God’s Great Mystery seems beyond our comprehension...**

- a) **A Jewish tradition states:** “God made woman, not out of man’s foot to be under him, nor out of his head to be over him, but she was taken from under his arm that he might protect her and from next to his heart that he might love her.”
- b) **As Jim Hoff used to say,** “The man was created from the dust of the ground but the woman was created from man, therefore she is twice refined.”

3. But There seems to be a Deeper Meaning...

- a) “When Eve was formed, a deep sleep fell upon Adam, and Eve was taken from his side. In the redemptive act on the cross, the deep sleep of death came upon Christ; His side was pierced; blood and water came forth, these emblems of the two great Christian ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, making it possible to see (in a figurative sense) that the church came forth from the side of Christ. (James Coffman)

4. Just as Eve (the bride of Adam) was created by a miracle of God...

— from the side of Adam while he was in a deep sleep...

- The Church (the Bride of Christ) was created by a miracle of God
—from the bleeding side of Jesus when He died on the cross for us,
- and was in the grave 3 days before He rose alive from the dead.

5. Paul also recognized another spiritual meaning (2 Corinthians 11:2-4).

- a) Just as Satan deceived Eve (Bride of Adam) by tempting her to violate God’s word
- b) Satan tries to seduce the church (Bride of Christ) to deceive the church to apostasy
- c) Falling Away from the Faith to a different gospel—a counterfeit gospel.

(6) MARRIAGE IS AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME—AND THE END OF TIME

1. Marriage marks the Beginning—the Middle—and at the End of the Bible

- The first human institution created by God was Marriage.
- The First Miracle Jesus performed—was at a Marriage Ceremony in Cana.
- Jesus Turned Water into Wine —> Jesus Can Make All Things New!
- And Our Salvation in Christ is compared to an invitation to a Wedding (Mt 22:1-14)
- The End of Time is symbolically Pictured as a Wedding.

2. Just as the Bible Begins with a Wedding—it also ends with one

(Revelation 19:6–9)

- a) Jesus said that In heaven there will be no marriage relationship in human terms.
- b) “For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (Mark 12:25)

3. But the deeper meaning and symbolism of a marriage—is used to describe the loving relationship of God and His people

CONCLUSION:

1. Marriage is a mystery that points to Christ and His Church
2. A Mystery that is designed to display the transforming power of love
3. A divine love that will last for eternity (Revelation 21:2–5)