

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

4-25-07

*“Submitting to a Dead Man & Loving a Blemished Bride!”***1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Terri Ferro – Peru trip. (Henry & Geri)
- 1.2. Hollywood actors and actresses don’t always set the best example when it comes to lifetime marriages:
  - 1.2.1. Mickey Rooney, Elizabeth Taylor, & Lana Turner each married **8 x’s**;
  - 1.2.2. Rex Harrison and Gloria Swanson, **6 times**.
  - 1.2.3. Richard Burton, Henry Fonda, Clark Gable, Judy Garland, Cary Grant, and Rita Hayworth, **5 times**.
  - 1.2.4. Many have signed up *for better or for worse* - but not for long!
- 1.3. Henry Ford’s gave great advice when asked on his *50th wedding anniversary* for his rule for marital bliss and longevity. He replied, “Just the same as in the automobile business, **stick to one model.**”
- 1.4. Martin Luther described marriage, “**Let the wife** make the husband glad to come home, and **let him** make her sorry to see him leave.”
- 1.5. **Outline: Submitting to a Dead Man & Loving a Blemished Bride.**

**2. SUBMITTING TO A DEAD MAN! (22-24)**

- 2.1. **SUBMIT POSITIONALLY!** (22,23)
- 2.2. Marriage is likened unto **Christ & His church** “which lifts marriage out of **the sitcom sewer** and elevates it into the **bright, clear sky of God’s glory** where it was meant to be.” (John Piper)
  - 2.2.1. Marriage is the **Doing of God & the Display of God.**
- 2.3. **Submit** – to line up one’s self under.
  - 2.3.1. Used in a **military sense** of **soldiers** submitting to their **superior**; **Jesus** subjecting himself to his **earthly parents**; **slaves** submitting to their **masters**; **persons** to **civil authorities**; **1 Christian to another.**
  - 2.3.2. **Primary idea** – giving up one’s right or will.
  - 2.3.3. **Doesn’t mean** – being a doormat; being inferior; have to do w/worth before God or each other;
  - 2.3.4. It is an expression of a **God-ordained role!** [any problems...take it up w/Him]
    - 2.3.4.1. **See why** in 1 Tim.2:13,14.
    - 2.3.4.2. He is the **God-appointed leader** of the home...& he is **held accountable** for that role!
  - 2.3.5. Submission has the sense of **voluntary yielding in love.**

- 2.4. Her submission to her husband *is* her service rendered “to the Lord”
- 2.4.1. **Q: Can you imagine the church being the head over Christ?**
- 2.4.2. **Head** – speaks of **authority & direction**.
- 2.5. Women often find it easy and natural to express love, **but** difficult sometimes to accept their husband’s authority.
- 2.6. **SUBMIT TOTALLY!** (24a)
- 2.7. This was spoken in a time when **marriages were arranged & morals were so loose**, to fulfill the commands of *subordination & love* was ***not an easy task!***
- 2.8. **SUBMIT FITTINGLY!** (24b)
- 2.9. **See** Col.3:18.
- 2.10. **SUBMIT RESPECTFULLY!** (33)
- 2.11. A man craves to be respected! [appreciated; valued; esteemed]
- 2.11.1. A young man in his newly found **man-hood**; a young man in his **new career/occupation**; a man with his **wife**.

### **3. LOVING A BLEMISHED BRIDE! (25-33)**

- 3.1. **LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY!** (25)
- 3.2. **Love** (agapaō) - means seeking the highest good for another person.
- 3.2.1. A continual habitual action.
- 3.2.2. He tells husbands to love their wives, & immediately tells us how!
- 3.3. Being the head, he is responsible to go 1<sup>st</sup>, to create the order of married life.
- 3.3.1. **But to do this he must be loving 1<sup>st</sup>, unconditionally; w/o waiting for or insisting on** his wife’s submitting 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 3.4. Husbands...you are **dead men!**
- 3.4.1. **When Christ calls a man he bids him *Come & Die!*** (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- 3.4.2. **Dead men don’t whine; Dead men don’t live selfishly; Dead men don’t live uncaringly. Dead men take up their cross daily & follow Jesus!**
- 3.5. Paul could’ve written, **“Wives, love your husbands” & “Husbands rule your wives”**
- 3.5.1. **But men often find it all too easy to throw their weight around, but hard to communicate love sensitively, in a self-giving fashion.**<sup>1</sup>
- 3.6. **LOVE GLORIOUSLY!** (26,27)
- 3.7. **It’s inferred:** She’s **not** holy & clean. She’s **not** glorious. She’s **not** spot/wrinkle free
- 3.7.1. **Both Jesus’ bride & man’s bride!**
- 3.8. **Note also:** Jesus expressed His love in the **past** (25 His death); **but also** shows His love towards us **presently** by Him working in our sanctification process (26,27).
- 3.8.1. **He loved & cared for us; but today he loves us & cares for us!**

<sup>1</sup> The Jewish N.T. Commentary.

- 3.8.2. **Don't miss it...**In this text it is made clear that Jesus **loved** and **still loves** the church(you & me).
- 3.9. **The bridal bath** - A Jewish bride enters the mikvah (ritual bath) in order to be purified prior to the marriage ceremony.
- 3.9.1. Yet the cleansing here is unlike baptism/emersion **it is perpetual & is from the Word.**
- 3.10. Song of Songs 4:7 **“You are altogether fair, my love, there is no blemish in you.”**
- 3.10.1. This was a condition required of all sacrifices.
- 3.10.2. **Spot** = speck, fleck, stain.
- 3.10.3. **Wrinkle** = fold. A wrinkle or fold on the face. (Term was taken from physical beauty, health, & symmetry; **to denote** spiritual perfection)
- 3.10.4. **Q: Is all you see & point out is their blemishes?**
- 3.11. **LOVE NOURISHINGLY & CHERISHINGLY!** (28,29)
- 3.12. Men care for their bodies even though they are **imperfect**, and so they should care for their wives though they are **imperfect**.
- 3.13. **Nourish** – This includes the **whole process** leading up to an attained goal. (LKGNT)
- 3.13.1. **Don't quit on your marriage!**
- 3.14. **Cherish** – to show affection & tender love.
- 3.14.1. **Prov.19:22 “What is desired in a man is lovingkindness.”**
- 3.15. **LOVE ADHESIVELY!** (30-32)
- 3.16. **Joined** - indicating that the bond between husband and wife is **greater than** that between parent and child.
- 3.17. The greatness of the **mystery** refers to the two becoming one flesh.
- 3.18. (33) This is a **restatement** of the responsibilities of the husband and wife toward each other: love by the husband & respect by the wife.
- 3.18.1. **Talk about Love & Respect book & home studies.**
- 3.19. **Q: So what difference would it make in your home if the wife showed respect to her husband; & the husband put the good of his wife ahead of his needs & wants in every decision?**
- 3.20. **Q: What difference would it make if YOU just did your part?**
- 3.21. **Again, Martin Luther** described marriage, **“Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.”**
- 3.22. **Note:** what's **before & following** this passage! **I believe this is the key to a great marriage.**
- 3.22.1. The habitual **filling with Spirit** (5:18).
- 3.22.2. The continual bombardment of **spiritual warfare** (6:11,12).
- 3.23. **End:** **Pray for Randy & Lycia heading back to Kosovo on Monday.**

*Twelve Rules for a Happy Marriage* [Ann Landers]

1. Never both be angry at once.
2. Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire.
3. Remember that it takes two to make an argument. The one who is wrong is the one who will be doing most of the talking.
4. Yield to the wishes of the other—as an exercise in self-discipline, if you can't think of a better reason.
5. you have a choice between making yourself or your mate look good—choose your mate.
6. If you feel you must criticize, do so lovingly.
7. Never bring up a mistake of the past.
8. Neglect the whole world rather than each other.
9. Never let the day end without saying at least one complimentary thing to your life partner.
10. Never meet without an affectionate greeting.
11. When you've made a mistake, talk it out and ask for forgiveness.
12. Never go to bed mad.