

Modern Romance
Role of Men in Marriage

Welcome to CHC. It is so good to see you this morning. Your presence matters. It's truly an honor to spend a few minutes with each of you today.

We believe God brought you here for a specific reason. You are not here by accident.

Before we jump in: *Pledge Cards and The Loop*

I'm really excited about this new series we are kicking off today. For the next 4 weeks we are taking a deep dive into what Gods word around the topics of marriage, love, sex, and relationships in general.

IDK if you know this, but there are marriages struggling all over the place. We want to invest these next 4 weeks into the lives of those of you who one day want to be married. This will hopefully give you a great head-start. You won't have to be 10 years down the road and say I wish I knew that.

We want to equip you with some spiritual truth that will help prepare you for a relationship that will honor God.

We also want to speak directly into and strengthen current marriages. So that your relationship becomes all that God intended.

We entitled this series **Modern Romance**

The thought here is that many things have changed throughout dating and the romantic scene throughout history.

Think about how dating has changed... Sock Hops, drive ins, local diner, roller skating, arcades, bowling alleys and pool halls.

Went steady. Hold hands. Pop kiss. Pass letters in school (Do you like me? Check yes or no)

Beepers/pagers | Chat rooms | Cell phones | Text messages | Dating apps

The strategy and the art of dating has evolved.... but relationships remain just as vital today as ever before.

Even though there are more modern approaches, the fact is **Relationships are from God and for God.**

Even though that's the case. Relationships can be complicated...Amen?

Marriage is from God and for God...but marriage can be really complicated...bigger amen?

God loves marriage. He starts and ends the Bible with marriage. In Genesis, a lonely Adam receives Eve as his bride. In Revelation, Jesus receives his bride, the church, at the great marriage supper of the Lamb.

Marriage is glorious, but it's hard. Its joy and strength and yet it is also blood, sweat, and tears. There are remarkable victories and humbling defeats.

We are going to unpack this a little more today and throughout this series, but, Paul gives a phrase in his famous discourse on marriage that most of us can relate with...

Ephesians 5.31-32 | ³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³² This mystery is profound...

At times, marriage can seem like a maze or unsolvable puzzle in which you begin to feel lost.

Going to church or reading your Bible or leading a group or giving tithe doesn't exempt any of us from these types of struggles.

As hard as it may be...It's something that God designed between male and female with a purpose in mind.

It's vital that we know the purpose. If we don't know the purpose, we have little or no hope of being successful.

Purpose Statement: "The Bible presents marriage as a sacred foundational institution designed by God for human flourishing, the well-being of children, and the advancement of his kingdom."

If we know the purpose, we can take the necessary steps to get to that place. Since marriage is made up of one male and one female...it's vital that each knows their role.

So... this week we are going to tackle the role of men in marriage. Next week we'll be looking at the role of women in marriage. Week 3, we are going to look at the topic of sex. And finally in week 4 we'll be looking at fighting God's way.

We are going to look at a couple of passages this coming, but our primary text comes from Ephesians 5. Stand with me in honor of the reading of God's Word.

Ephesians 5.22-26 | ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to

submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word.

Pray

JOKE | There is a story of a man who died and went to heaven to find two signs above two different lines. One sign said: "ALL THOSE MEN WHO HAVE BEEN DOMINATED BY THEIR WIVES, STAND HERE." That line of men seemed to stretch off through the clouds into infinity. The second sign read: "ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN DOMINATED BY THEIR WIVES, STAND HERE." Underneath the sign stood one man. He went over to the man, grabbed his arm and said, "What's the secret, how did you do it? That other line has millions of men, and you are the only one standing in this line." The man looked around with a puzzled expression and said, "Why, I am not sure I know. My wife just told me to stand here."

Now obviously we are being funny, but I think this is super important. Women and men need to understand the God-given roles in marriage.

I want to encourage all women in here to know and understand and even trust in the roles God has given men. You cannot encourage your husband or future husband to the man God created him to be, if you don't know what that is.

Also, your mission as a wife is not to help him become the husband or father you want him to be, but rather the husband or Father God wants him to be.

Let's look at Gods call to men in marriage found here in Paul's letter.

1. Love your wife

Ephesians 5.23 | Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...

God jumps straight to the point. He knows that most men don't want to have this long-drawn-out conversation discussing our feelings and how much everything means to us.

He gets straight to it...Fellas, love you wives. In this straight-forward approach it is our job to understand what he truly means by love.

That word is tossed around in many different capacities today. If I say I love Tacos, is that the same as I love my wife?

In the Bible the word love is often translated as 3 different Greek words.

- A. *Eros* | Passionate or sexual expression of affection between two people.**
- B. *Phileo* | Companionship or friendship. Share common interests or values.**
- C. *Agape* | Committed or self-sacrificing love that gives preference to others.**

As Paul writes these roles of men, he is using the last term here...*Agape*.

God wants to men to love with a self-sacrificing kind of love. It's not about me mentality.

What does that kind of love look like?

1 Corinthians 13.4-7 | ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, ⁵ is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. ⁶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This is what true *Agape* love looks like. To love in this manner takes a commitment to attitude and action.

Can I keep it real for a second guys...When I read this...many times I feel guilty. Because that's a hard list. If that's the mission of a Godly husband, we're in trouble. I have too much sin and baggage, and brokenness to live up to that.

But here is what I've found...If I keep my eyes on me and my ability to give this type of love...we are in trouble.

So, seeing this list and command from God to love in this way forces me to my knees to beg God and seek the power of the Holy Spirit. I need Him to transform my character and enable me to love Shira in the way He calls me to.

Its an attitude and an action. Notice 7 positives (do's) and 8 negatives (don'ts). Love is as much about what we do, as what we do not do.

So he says, husbands love your wives...and then

2. Serve your wife

We are called to give ourselves up for her. This is what Jesus did for his bride, the church.

I think its noteworthy to see what God is comparing here. There is a theological connection between the. mission of a husband and the work of Christ.

We must understand that how we treat our wives is a reflection of the Gospel and of Christ himself.

If Christian men do not live to this standard, the gospel is perverted. On the contrary, when Godly men are servants and give themselves up for their wives, Christ is honored, and the Gospel is on full display.

There are many examples of serving your wife. Many can be found in any list of random acts of kindness. Those types of service should always be a part of your marriage. Not just at the beginning.

Those little gestures often keep the romance and affection going. But serving your wife is more than just flowers or note cards for no reason.

Serving your wife is prioritizing, providing, protecting, praising, and praying.

Showing affection. Its leading your children in a Godly manner. Its honoring and being gentle. It's making her a priority in a way she feels it.

Remember you are imitating what Christs love for you is as you serve her.

We love, we serve, and finally...the role of the man in marriage.

3. Lead your wife

Let me start by what this is not. This isn't a beat your chest moment. This isn't a do as I say woman. This isn't men are better.

I think is the calling that separates the men from the boys.

Men are called to love and serve their wives for a specific reason. See if you catch it.

Ephesians 5.25-26 I ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy,

This kind of leadership was counter-cultural in the ancient world. Husbands often treated their wives in a domineering and demeaning fashion.

So this message was a new one.

The reason is to make her holy. Your ultimate mission as a husband is to lead and encourage your wife to become more like Christ.

You are called to love and serve in order to lead. You have a role in helping her become the person God created her to be. You have a role in caring for a leading her soul closer to the Lord.

That's a big deal! My first thought: She's way more mature and spiritual than I am. How can I lead her in that?

But look at this job description and the manner in which he lists these...love, serve, then lead. Why?

If you try to lead without loving and serving what's the results going to be?

Leading without a heart of love and service will be received as controlling and dominate.

Now...let's get down to it as we close our time together today. Lean in.

Guys...**We can't lead our wives in a direction we aren't going.** If you are not pursuing a deeper relationship with Christ. If you are not seeking the presence of God. If you are not seeing areas of growth and making changes...how can you nurture hers?

This type of leading is a spiritual one. God designed you with this purpose in mind.

Conclusion:

Love | Serve | Lead

That's a husband calling. His role in the marriage.

Men...when you start living in this role that God created you for, be sure that Satan is going to do all he can to distract and defeat you.

I think the enemy is content with us loving and serving. I think when we move to leading our wives spiritually is when he gets nervous.

When you start praying over your wife and reading Gods Word together, and serving in the church, a going on mission trips...that's when you know he's coming after you.

Because you're fulfilling the role you were designed to fulfill.

Ask the Lord to change your heart towards the role He's given you.