



**Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009: The Family and the Kingdom  
Part IV (Marriage)**

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:21-33**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Marriage is not a sacrament. A sacrament is a visible means of grace in which all believers can partake, such as baptism or the Lord's Supper. But not all believers enter into marriage.
2. Marriage is a dynamic relationship; it is an activity.
3. Marriage is used throughout Scripture as a picture of the relationship between God and His people, Christ and the Church, and even a picture of the relationships within the Trinity.
4. In marriage, there is a deep unity possible between a man and a woman which is so radical and profound that what results is described as a new creation.
5. This deep unity requires self-abandonment and submission. Submission has three aspects which are applicable to both the husband and the wife.
  - (a) We need to give our spouses authority over our bodies. This includes matters of health, appearance, and cleanliness, in addition to granting sexual claims.
  - (b) We need to give our spouses the authority to redeem our self-image. How others view us lacks significance compared to how our spouse views us. This form of redemption is in a small way a picture of Christ's redemption of us.
  - (c) We need to recognise that the idea of equality can prevent deep unity. Equality taken too far results in a loss of identity. Equality should be viewed as medicine, not food.

6. In our current day, we face not only a broadening of the definition of marriage but a flattening of the relationship of marriage. Many married couples in our day resemble two blocks of wood glued to one another: the two blocks can be easily separated, but even more important to note, the blocks are never changed despite having been glued together.

**Application Questions:**

1. Adam and Eve, although they were one flesh, worked together against God (Cf. Gen.3). What does this teach us about the right orientation of a Christian marriage?
2. What does Hosea 1 add to our understanding of the marital relationship between God and His people? Is it any different today?
3. In accordance with 1 Corinthians 11:3, in what ways does Jesus model the behaviour of a good husband or wife?
4. In the New Testament, Jesus warns us about the spiritual danger of money. How can money prevent a man and wife from becoming one flesh?
5. In what ways do your words have a redemptive or destructive effect on your spouse?