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My Message Notes

We live in a time when marriage is as disposable as a paper plate. But that has never been God's intention for marriage. So how do you reconcile your differences when they seem insurmountable? That's what this series is all about and it starts with looking like Jesus in your marriage and relationships. In this message you'll learn how to look like Jesus to your spouse so that you complement each other instead of competing with each other.

Marriage is hard, but...

When we fight God's DESIGN we're forgetting His DEITY

We spend a great deal of time fighting others for what God gave them instead of operating in what He gave us.

Bottom Line: Healthy couples COMPLIMENT each other they don't COMPETE with each other

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV - Taken from)

Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which He is the Savior. So the church submits to Him.

Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, in order to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Christ Jesus loves His church, like it's His own spiritual body, feeding and caring for it — individuals within the Church make up that body — so He cares for us like He cares for Himself.

This is the picture God gives us of Christ and the church.

Do you feel sad for the Church's position in this metaphorical relationship?

Do you think Jesus is oppressing the church in order to elevate Himself?

Our instinct isn't to obey God's order of things, it's to oppose God's order.

In large part because in every marriage relationship or any relationship **sin will always seek ways to elevate self.**

SIN corrupts God's STANDARD

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—30for we are members of his body. 31“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

SUBMITTING to your spouse doesn't mean you're SUBORDINATE in the relationship it means you're STABLE in the relationship

Man and woman are not subordinate to one another – Rather, the bible tells us that:

We are equal in God's eyes.

- 1 Peter 3:7 – co-heirs of the gracious gift of life
- 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 – man and woman are not independent – their co-dependent

- Galatians 3:28 – there is neither...male or female...all are one in Christ Jesus

That there is to be no favoritism –

- Romans 2:11 – God does not show favoritism
- 1 Timothy 5:21 – we're to do nothing out of favoritism
- James 2:9 – if you show favoritism you sin

Submission looks different for men and women

For the wife - submission looks like FOLLOWING

For the husband - submission looks like FAVORING

- Love your wife by sacrificing for her benefit - spiritual/emotional
- Love your wife by serving her needs - physical
- Love your wife by standing up for her - relational

Wives, when you follow your husband you are respecting him.

Husbands when you favor your wife you are loving her.

You don't look like Jesus when you leave

We want you to know that you matter to God and us.

If you think you might be ready to make Real Life YOUR church home then Pizza with the Pastor is your Next Step. It's a casual conversation designed for newcomers to Real Life and you can register right [HERE](#) right now. It happens on Sundays following the morning service and you can see the schedule by clicking the link above.

Need more help taking your next step?

1) Stop by the **CONNECTION HUB** in the back of the big room and a volunteer will help you discover your next step!

2) Fill out the **connection card** and leave it on your seat when the service is over. We'll pick it up and be in touch!

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