

**Ephesians**  
Week Seventeen  
*“The Mystery of Marriage”*  
Ephesians 5:21-33  
Pastor Steve Treichler  
May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)  
*For His Glory and our joy!*

Passage:

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

<sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—<sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body.

<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Message Notes:

**Introduction** – *I love a good mystery!*”

Ephesians 3:6-8

Today's Message:

*The Mystery of Marriage*

Ephesians 5:22-33

**The context of the mystery**

Ephesians 4:1

Ephesians 4:17

Ephesians 5:1

Ephesians 5:15-21

**The Mystery Revealed**

Ephesians 5:31-32

*Rewatch the movie*

Genesis 2:18, 24-25

Genesis 3:16

Ezekiel 16:4-8

Hosea 1:2

Romans 7:4

Revelation 19:7-8

Revelation 21:1-4

## **The Analogy**

Ephesians 5:22-33

## **The Gospel Application**

Ephesians 5:33

## **Four Views of Men and Women in Marriage and the Church**

*Patriarchal*

*Feminist*

*Egalitarian*

*Complementarian*

**Gospel Application** - *Are you floored by the Mystery of Marriage?*

*What is God specifically asking you to do about this passage, married or single?*

## Scripture Passages used (New International Version)

### **Ephesians 3:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

### **Ephesians 4:1**

<sup>1</sup>As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

### **Ephesians 4:17**

<sup>17</sup>So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

### **Ephesians 5:1**

<sup>1</sup>Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

### **Ephesians 5:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

### **Genesis 2:18, 24-25**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him...."

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### **Genesis 3:16**

"Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

### **Ezekiel 16:4-8**

<sup>4</sup>On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths. <sup>5</sup>No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

<sup>6</sup>“ Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, “Live!” <sup>7</sup>I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew and developed and entered puberty. Your breasts had formed and your hair had grown, yet you were stark naked. <sup>8</sup>“ Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

### **Hosea 1:2**

<sup>2</sup>When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD.” <sup>3</sup>So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

### **Romans 7:4 (NASB)**

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

### **Revelation 19:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

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<sup>1</sup>Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

### Quotes:

Paul is saying in 5:31 that God has instituted marriage “because” the church is Christ’s body. This probably means that the union of husband and wife in “one flesh” was originally intended to prefigure and to illustrate the union that Christ now has with the church. This is something that could become clear only after Christ had died to create the church in its new, multiethnic form (2:14–15; 3:8–11), and this is why it is a μυστήριον (*mystērion*, mystery): a truth that could be known only through God’s gracious revelation of it (1:9; 3:3–4, 9; 6:19). It is a μέγα (*mega*, great) mystery because it is unusually mysterious. The adjective μέγας, says I. Marshall (1999: 522n63), “appears to express the greatness of the degree to which the thing or person is what it is; a ‘great mystery’ is especially mysterious.” The application of Gen. 2:24 to the union

of Christ with the church would be nonsensical apart from a special revelation from God that tells of this application.<sup>1</sup>

“Men and Women are made in the image of God and therefore given equal value and worth. In addition to equality, they have been given different roles by God within the marriage and church in order to tell the two-gender story of the gospel.

This story is told well within the home when husbands reflect the leadership of Jesus, in their self-giving, sacrificial love toward their wives. And though well-aware of their husbands' flaws, wives tell the story of the good news of Jesus when they celebrate and encourage their husbands similar to how the church responds to the love of Christ.

This complementarity is also seen in the church through the relationship between elders and the congregation. Elders are a small team of godly and trained men, approved by church members, who are called to reflect the leadership of Jesus in shepherding, leading, spiritually directing, and sacrificing for the church. As with Christ, this group is to lay down their lives in whatever ways necessary to care for, protect, nourish, and bless the congregation. The congregation plays a complementary role to the elders. This group, made up of men and women, is called, gifted, and empowered to lead and exercise their talents alongside the elders and, ultimately, in honor of Christ.”

~ *Gender Roles* by [Kaelyn Larson](#) | Apr 5, 2022

| <https://hopeccresources.com/marriage/259352/?highlight=kaelyn>

#### APPENDIX from THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE: DECISION MAKING AND GENDER ROLES

Tim and I (Kathy) have used the following principles to guide us in our everyday decisions as well as our more complicated decisions. These five guidelines have proved useful to us, and so I hope they will for you.

**The husband’s authority (like the Son’s over us) is never used to please himself but only to serve the interests of his wife.** Headship does not mean a husband simply “makes all the decisions,” nor does it mean he gets his way in every disagreement. Why? Jesus never did anything to please himself (Romans 15:2–3). A servant-leader must sacrifice his wants and needs to please and build up his partner (Ephesians 5:21ff).

**A wife is never to be merely compliant but is to use her resources to empower.** She is to be her husband’s most trusted friend and counselor, as he is hers (Proverbs 2:17). The “completion” that embracing the Other entails involves a lot of give and take. To complement each other means husband and wife need to hear each other out, make their arguments. Completion is hard work and involves loving contention (Proverbs 27:17), with affection (1

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<sup>1</sup> Frank Thielman, [Ephesians](#), Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010), 389–390.

Peter 3:3–5), until you sharpen, enrich, and enhance each other. She must bring every gift and resource that she has to the discussion, and he must, as any wise manager, know when to allow her expertise to trump his own, less well-informed opinion.

**A wife is not to give her husband unconditional obedience.** No human being should give any other human being unconditional obedience. As Peter said, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). In other words, a wife should not obey or aid a husband in doing things that God forbids, such as selling drugs or physically abusing her. If, for example, he beats her, the “strong help” that a wife should exercise is to love and forgive him in her heart but have him arrested. It is never kind or loving to anyone to make it easy for him or her to do wrong.

**Assuming the role of headship is only done for purposes of ministering to your wife and family.** Some say, “In the Biblical view, both husband and wife are to minister to each other unselfishly, so then what is the difference?” It is clear that the Son obeys his head, the Father, and that we obey our head, the Christ.<sup>1</sup> But how does this authority work out in the context of mutually serving persons equal in dignity and being? The answer is that a head can only overrule his spouse if he is sure that her choice would be destructive to her or to the family. He does not use his headship selfishly, to get his own way about the color of the car they buy, who gets to hold the remote control, and whether he has a “night out with the boys” or stays home to help with the kids when his wife asks him.

This is the area in which the most misunderstanding, on the part of both men and women, has occurred. Some men, unaware or unwilling to assume their servant-leader roles, believe that simply being male brings entitlement with it. And women, often the victims of such mistaken understanding, want no part of any teaching that would demote them to inferior status.

But in a marriage, where there are only two “votes,” how can a stalemate be broken without someone having to give way? In the vast majority of cases, the stalemate is broken because each will try to give the other his or her pleasure. The wife will try to respect the husband’s leadership, and the husband will in turn try to please his wife. If this dynamic is in place, in the course of a healthy Biblical marriage, “overruling” will be rare. But what of a case where both parties cannot agree, but some kind of decision must be made? Someone must have the right to cast the deciding vote and (thus) take the greater responsibility for the decision.

**This should be the place where the one the Bible calls “head” takes the accountability. When it happens, both people “submit” to their role.** Often, an intelligent husband doesn’t want this role, and the intelligent wife does! The situation could be chaotic, but here we are called to act out the drama of redemption, where the Son voluntarily gives the headship to the Father, saying, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

In the late 1980s, our family was comfortably situated in a very livable suburb of Philadelphia where Tim held a full-time position as a professor. Then he got an offer to move to New York City to plant a new church. He was excited by the idea, but I was appalled. Raising our three wild boys in Manhattan was unthinkable! Not only that, but almost no one who knew anything about Manhattan thought that the project would be successful. I also knew that this would not

be something that Tim would be able to do as a nine-to-five job. It would absorb the whole family and nearly all of our time.

It was clear to me that Tim wanted to take the call, but I had serious doubts that it was the right choice. I expressed my strong doubts to Tim, who responded, “Well, if you don’t want to go, then we won’t go.” However, I replied, “Oh, no, you don’t! You aren’t putting this decision on me. That’s abdication. If you think this is the right thing to do, then exercise your leadership and make the choice. It’s your job to break this logjam. It’s my job to wrestle with God until I can joyfully support your call.”

Tim made the decision to come to New York City and plant Redeemer Presbyterian Church. The whole family, my sons included, consider it one of the most truly “manly” things he ever did, because he was quite scared, but he felt a call from God. At that point, Tim and I were both submitting to roles that we were not perfectly comfortable with, but it is clear that God worked in us and through us when we accepted our gender roles as a gift from the designer of our hearts.

Why should the woman submit at times like these? We must reject the “traditionalist” answer—namely, that “women are not decisive enough.” The fact is that many wives are more decisive than their husbands. So why are women called to this position? As I said, the answer to that question is another question: “Why did Christ become the one to give up the authority to the Father?” We don’t know, but it is a mark of his greatness, not his indecisiveness! Women are called to follow him here. But remember, taking authority properly is just as hard as granting it.

~ Tim and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* (pp. 233-236). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.



DENZEL WASHINGTON

GARY OLDMAN

THE BOOK OF  
**ELI**

GOOD WILL KILL TO HAVE IT,  
BUT WE'LL KILL TO PROTECT IT.

CASTING BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
COSTUME DESIGNER  
HAIR BY  
MAKEUP BY  
CINEMATOGRAPHY  
EDITED BY  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
PRODUCED BY  
SCREENPLAY BY  
DIRECTED BY

**BELIEVE**  
1-15-10



*Ephesians*



## Ephesians 3:6-8

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Today's Message:  
**The Mystery of Marriage**  
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**SPILER  
ALERT!**

# 1. The Mystery Revealed!

## Ephesians 5:31-32

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“Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

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## Hosea 1:2

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# 3. THE GOSPEL APPLICATION

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## The uses of "submit" or "be subject to"

Joseph and Mary / Jesus

God the Father / God the Son and everything else (3)

Disciples / Demons (2)

God the Son / Everything else (4)

→ God's Law / Hostile Mind

You/Me, Me/You, Us/Them, Them/Us

God / Creation's Frustrations

→ God's righteousness / Israel

Husbands / Wives (5)

Government or Authorities / Everyone (4)

Master / Servant (2)

→ Angels / World to Come

Prophets/ Spirits of the Prophets

Older / Younger

→ God the Son / God the Father

# Four Views of Men and Women in Marriage and the Church

# Patriarchal View

(also called Hierarchical View or  
Traditional View)



Men

Women

# Evangelical Feminist

(also called Radical Feminist)



Women

Men

# Egalitarian View



Men

Women

# Complementarian View



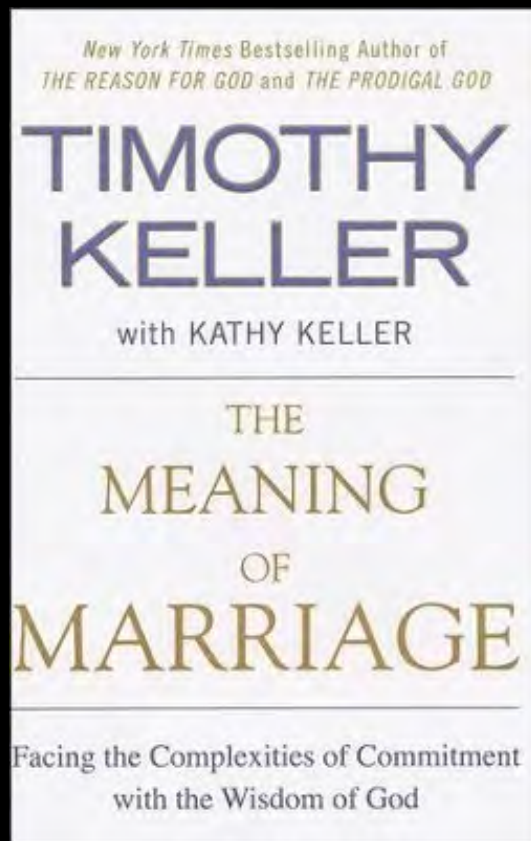


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# DECISION MAKING AND GENDER ROLES



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## DECISION MAKING AND GENDER ROLES

**The husband's authority (like the Son's over us) is never used to please himself but only to serve the interests of his wife.**

**A wife is never to be merely compliant but is to use her resources to empower.**

**A wife is not to give her husband unconditional obedience.**

**Assuming the role of headship is only done for purposes of ministering to your wife and family.**

*But what of a case where both parties cannot agree, but some kind of decision must be made? Someone must have the right to cast the deciding vote and (thus) take the greater responsibility for the decision.*

**This should be the place where the one the Bible calls "head" takes the accountability. When it happens, both people "submit" to their role.**

# Gospel-Centered Application:

*Are you floored by the Mystery of Marriage?*



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*Are you floored by the Mystery of Marriage?*

*What is God specifically asking you to do about  
this passage, married or single?*