

## The Importance of the Wedding Vows

- Which came first? The chicken or the egg? Neither. The rooster (*Adam*) came first.

Gen 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

- Then came the hen (*Eve*).

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called **Woman**, because she was taken out of **Man**." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (*Heb 1320- person*).

Gen 5:2 Male and female created **He** them; and blessed them, and called **their** name **Adam**, in the day when they were created. (*KJV*)

Gen 5:2 Male and female **He** created them, and **He** blessed them and named **them** **Man** when they were created. (*ESV*)

- When two people become one, there can be no closer relationship. So it is with **Christ** and **His** church.

Eph 5:31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and **hold fast** (*Gk.4347- to glue to, that is, to adhere*) **to his wife**, and the **two** shall become **one flesh** (*Gk.4561- as a means of kindred*) [*family*]." 32 This **mystery is profound**, and I am saying that it **refers to Christ and the church**. (*This was the relationship through which God was able to show the intimacy between Christ and His body, the church.*) 33 However, let each one of you love his wife **as** himself, and let the wife see that she respects (*Gk.5399- be in awe of*) her husband. (*These are commands to married couples! It is as though your spouse becomes a "voodoo doll" of yourself.*)

Eph 5:22 Wives, **submit to** (*Gk.5293- to subordinate, to obey*) your own husbands, **as to the Lord**. (*How a wife respects her husband reflects on her obedience to Christ.*\*) 23 For the husband is the head of the wife (*Wives, are you encouraging your husbands to be the spiritual leader of your household? Do others know and respect him as such? \*\**) even as (*on the same level as*) **Christ** is the head of the church, **His** body (*Once married it is as though the wife has become part of her husband's flesh and bone.*), and is **Himself** its (*her*) **Savior**. 24 Now as the church submits to **Christ**, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (*Taking into account 1 Cor 7:15 when her husband is not a Christian she is first "to obey God rather than men" [Acts 5:29] This is where the husband is to be the spiritual leader of his family.*)

\*Pro 31:30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but **a woman who fears the LORD** is to be praised.

**\*\*Pro 31:23** Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. *(Something of her reputation added to his being so well known.)*

**Eph 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, **as** *(on the same level as)* Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, *(Husbands are to love their wives to the point of dying for them. Verse 21 states we are to submit to each other "in the fear of God" but I do believe the relationship between husbands and their wives goes even deeper.)*

**Eph 5:28** **In the same way** husbands should love their wives **as** their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as **Christ** does the church, **30** because we are members of **His** body.

- Would we want the relationship between **Christ** and the church imitating our own marriages? Husbands, what if **Christ** never died for **His** bride the church? Where would that put all of us? Wives, how would you think **Christ** would feel toward **His** church if **His** bride had the same level of respect toward **Him** that you have for your husbands? Would any of us want to be divorced from **Christ**? Based on the direct correlation of **Eph 5:31-33** and **Gen 2:22-24** *(husband cleaving to his wife)* our marriages are to reflect on how we, as **His** church, are to mirror our marital relationships in the same manner as we would expect our spiritual relationship as the church to be with **Him**. As **Eve** came from **Adam**, so we, as the body of **Christ** the church, came from **Christ**. **Adam's** side was pierced to give *(physical)* life to **Eve**. **Christ's** side was pierced to give *(spiritual thus eternal)* life to those of **His** body, the church.

**Eph 5:30** For we are members of **His** body, of **His** flesh, and of **His** bones. *(Gen 2:23) (KJV)*

### Concerning Divorce

- Whatever we agree to, whether verbally *(as in a vow)* or on paper *(legal document such as a marriage certificate)*, whether as **Christians** or not, if we were to break whatever we've agreed to, we risk suffering the wrath of **God**.

**Jas 5:12** But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

**Mat 5:33** "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear **falsely**, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

**Mat 5:37** Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

*"That the Jews were notoriously guilty of common swearing is allowed on all hands; and that swearing by heaven, earth, Jerusalem, the temple, the altar, different parts of the body, was not considered by them as binding oaths, has been sufficiently proved."*  
Adam Clarke

- In addressing the **Jews** on this matter as well as on the matter of divorce, **Jesus** condemned the practice of giving oaths they knew they wouldn't keep by already giving

themselves a “way out”. In taking wedding vows, a bride and groom should never do so with the idea “I can always get a divorce”. Marriage vows are between three persons; husband, wife and God.

Mal 2:16 "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

*“he covereth his garment with violence”, so that it cannot be hid, nor washed away, nor removed, but envelopes him and his garment; and that, to his shame and punishment.’*  
Albert Barnes

- It has been said that losing a beloved spouse to death is emotionally, psychologically and financially **less stressful** than going through a divorce and the constant reminder of having a stain or scar that such an event ever even took place. Especially when children are involved!

Mat 5:31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'  
32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except on the ground of sexual immorality** (Gk.4202- harlotry (including adultery) (The only exception.), makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Mat 19:8 He said to them, "Because of **your** (speaking to the Pharisees who at that time were under the Old Law) **hardness of heart** Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning** (Adam & Eve) **it was not so.** 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, **except** (Gk.1508- if not) **for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery." (We aren't to believe there are scriptures that give us reason [Gk.1223- the channel of an act. Webster: a **cause** or **motive**.] to divorce. Reason gives the idea of “necessity” while exception gives the idea of choosing to divorce. There are many who, when these teachings hit home, will try to find such passages but they don't exist now, or ever did, no matter how hard one might try to find them. There is only **one exception**, which is the selfish act of adultery.)

- As head of his wife the **Christian** husband is liable to take care of her with the number one responsibility being to her spiritual well-being.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as **Christ** loved the church and gave **Himself** up for her, 26 that **He** might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water (*baptism*) with (*according to*) the word (*scripture*), 27 so that **He** might present the church to **Himself** in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- Marriage is a responsibility that is not to be taken lightly. It is never to be understood as a 50/50 commitment. Both husband and wife are to commit to their vows with a 100% desire to their love (*wanting what's best*) for each other and to the **Lord**. After all, our individual marriages are to emulate the relationship between **Christ** (*as Husband*) and **His** bride (*the church*).

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