

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 20 “The Wife’s Role in Marriage”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on positional truth (who we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places, how much God loves us, etc). The last three chapters of Ephesians focus on practical application or how we should live out of who we are.

D. We are taking a few weeks to study *Ephesians 5-6* about the family. This is the first institution God ever created and it is the primary revival unit.

1. If we want to see revival sustain and accelerate, we must learn how to do marriage and parenting right. The family is the institution God created to replicate himself and reveal His glory through and it has come under attack.
2. In ancient Israel’s history, there was a link between idolatry and sexual immorality. The devil still uses the same tactics today to attack the church and end revivals today so it’s important to get this right.
3. So far with focusing on marriage, we have talked about unity in marriage. God took Eve out of Adam just like He took the church out of Jesus. We need to see ourselves that way.
4. Last week we talked about the husbands role in marriage. He’s called to lead, but he does so by loving and serving not dictating. Jesus led the disciples by loving and serving and they were loyal to him. They loved and respected him.

II. The Wife’s Role in Marriage - Tonight we’re going to talk about the wife’s role in marriage. To make this more impactful, I want you to imagine the husband isn’t that great. The reason is unless the husband commits adultery or is abusive, she is to respect and support him. If she’ll do this, she’ll dramatically influence his ability to follow Christ and live more godly.

A. Ephesians 5:21-33

1. **Show her husband respect - Verse 33** Primary need of a man - respect. The woman’s primary need is love. Ex: kids example.

a. **Proverbs 21:9 NLT** Ashley conflict example. If she's kind to me and brings me an issue, I feel respected and will move heaven and earth to bring change. If she's harsh I feel disrespected (not unloved), and it provokes me. **That said, my responsibility is to love her like Christ loves the church no matter how she disrespects me.**

b. **1 Peter 3:1-6**

i. Peter says likewise (relating back to how slaves should submit to masters). This takes great strength to submit. He goes on to say that when they do, the husband can be won by her chaste conduct.

ii. **Verses 3-4** put more focus on internal character than external beauty.

iii. **Verses 5-6** - Quotation of **Genesis 18:10-12** It was a sign of respect and showed great faith on Sarah's part to call Abraham lord (she said this to herself not to impress anyone else). **How affirmed to you think this made Abraham feel? Sarah may have been the hidden reason for Abraham's faith. She followed and supported him therefore Abraham could take great risks like leaving his homeland to go to a place God would tell him of.**

iv. Whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with terror. It takes great faith to submit to a flawed husband. Doing this, however will bring great change in the flawed husband. Ex: Ashley submitting to me on church when we were first married. She submitted and God dealt with my heart.

2. **Being a support to her husband. Ephesians 5:22-24** say the wife should be subject to their husband as the church is subject to Christ. The idea is to yield. Why does this say this?

a. **Genesis 2:18-22** - Eve was made as a helper to Adam to walk out his calling. Adam was in the field he was called to (also Isaac, Boaz examples). She was made from his rib (side). She was called to come along side of him to rule and reign in life.

b. If I'm a wife, does this mean I'm less important? No. It means God's grace is released to come along side. Ex: Christ and the church. We are called to come along side Jesus not do our own thing. It is how we get maximum fulfillment. There is a grace released to ladies to empower them to do this. Ex: Greg Mohr prophecy about Ashley

c. What about Dave and Joyce Meyer? How do you explain that? Dave comes along side her in ministry role, but in terms of how they run their house, based on things I've heard Joyce say, he leads.

d. **1 Corinthians 7:13-14** **Answers the question what if I feel stuck in marriage and illustrate the redemptive power of God's grace.** If God's grace can sanctify an unbelieving spouse, it can help wives yield

and be a support to their husbands and can't it empower the husbands to lay down their lives for the church?

III. Conclusion - As I close I want us all to acknowledge our spiritual husband, the Lord Jesus. He's the one that saved us, cleansed us, and empowers us to live the impossible.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Offering Verse: **1 Timothy 6:17**

C. Call Up Prayer Team