



I DID IT “MY WAY”

Frank Sinatra’s song, I did it “My way,” is 100% opposed to Jesus’ call to be a disciple. To do it ‘my way’ or ‘follow my heart’ leads me to the path of death. What are the many roles/times in life where we are required to submit or do it someone else’s way?

WHAT IS GOD’S WAY?

God is and has always been relational. He has eternally existed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in perfect harmony, community, and love. God also created us to be like Him – relational, intimate, and living in companionship and partnership. This week’s focus is on two marriages: the marriage of a man and woman and the marriage of the church to Jesus Christ. God created us to be with Him in an intimate relationship. He also created marriage to be an intimate relationship between a man and a woman. This marriage relationship is to point to our eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

So far in Ephesians, the Apostle Paul has focused on what God has done to create a new community. In these chapters, he is focusing on how God wants to reshape this community in their relationships, character, and behavior. This week focuses on the foundational role of marriage. Read through Ephesians 5:21-33 and consider the following questions:

Before we explore the marriage relationship, review what Paul wrote concerning how we are to live in relationships. What do we learn from 5:18-21? How is this essential to living Jesus’ way?

God’s plan for roles in marriage and in the church are a reflection of God Himself. Specifically, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have different roles but share one essence. 5:21-24 include the subjects of headship, submission, and Christ. How are each of these roles connected to Christ? What is His role?

The summary role of husbands is to “love your wives as Christ loved the church.” What is required of husbands to fulfill this command? (25-33)

What did Jesus do to love the church?

What was the purpose / goal of Jesus’ work to love the church? (26-27) How can a husband love his wife and help fulfill similar objectives?

The example given of being a “head” is Jesus Christ. Therefore, what is required of a husband to fulfill his role? What doesn’t it mean?

What is the role of wives?

What does submission mean or not mean? What is the motivation and reasons given for a wife to submit to her husband?

The theme of ‘oneness’ recurs in this passage. What are the indicators of oneness?

Jesus’ love for the church is shocking in light of what He knows about us. What does this imply about the kind of love we should have for our wife or husband? How is this even possible?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Throughout this passage, our model is Jesus’ love for the church. Why is this such a significant truth? What should we learn about marriage from this?

How is the role of husbands, i.e., to “give himself up for her,” an example of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? (See Matthew 4:19; 16:24; Luke 9:23; 14:33)

Submission to anyone is never easy and certainly not in vogue. Yet, Paul calls us to a life of submission in 5:21. To submit to an imperfect husband is always a challenge. What reasons and motivations does Paul offer to wives and all people?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Husbands, what is a way that you can “give yourself up” in love for your wife this week? Wives, how can you show “respect” and love to your husband? Church, how can you express thanksgiving for Jesus giving Himself up for you? How can you love Jesus more than anyone or anything this week? (Luke 14:25-27)

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for the people in your world that don’t yet know that Jesus died for them.
- Pray for your coworkers in the good news and their relationship with Jesus and the people in their world.
- Pray for global workers and the persecuted church. Many disciples in places like Nigeria are suffering, being killed, and enduring horrible pain.