

**A Marriage That Works – Relationships That Work**  
**Ephesians 5:18, 31-33**  
**2-13-22**

Hebrews 13:4 – *"Marriage should be honored by everyone."*

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NLT) – *"I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another."*

**In America, Marriage is:**

1. Dishonored.
2. Delayed.
3. A trial run.
4. Used to solve problems.
5. Redefined.

Matthew 19:4-6 (NLT) – *"He said...He Who made them in the first place made them man and woman? It says, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will live with his wife. The two will become one.' So they are no longer two but one. Let no man divide what God has put together."*

**God created Marriage:**

**I. To Reflect Christ and His Church.**

Ephesians 5:32 – *"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."*

Ephesians 5:18 – *"And do not get drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit..."*

**Results of being filled with Him:**

1. Teaching and praise.

Ephesians 5:19 – *"...addressing (proclaiming toward) one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing and (praising) to the Lord with your heart..."*

2. Thankfulness.

Ephesians 5:20 – *"...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."*

3. Looking after one another's interests.

Ephesians 5:21 – "*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*"

### **Husbands are to:**

1. Give affectionate and sacrificial love.

Ephesians 5:25 – "*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...*"

2. Live in God's truth.

Ephesians 5:26 – "...*that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...*"

3. Treat her as God's daughter.

Ephesians 5:27 – "*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.*"

4. Meet needs.

Ephesians 5:28 – "*In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.*"

### **Wives are to:**

1. Follow Christ.

Ephesians 5:22 – "*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*"

2. Support her husband's leadership.

Ephesians 5:22 – "...*submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord*"

3. Respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:33 – "...*let the wife see that she respects her husband.*"

Genesis 2:18 – "*It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who is right for him.*"

## **II. For the Multiplication and Protection of Children.**

Genesis 1:28 – "...Then God blessed them and commanded them, 'Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth!'"

### **Every child needs his/her parents to:**

**1. Love and trust God.**

Psalm 20:7-8 – "*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright."*

**2. Cultivate their identity.**

Isaiah 43:1 – "*...I have called you by name; you are mine.*"

Proverbs 14:26 – "*Those who obey and respect the Lord have a secure fortress; their children have a place of refuge and security."*

### **Growing Deeper This Week**

1. Read Ephesians 5:18-33.
2. In your view, what are two to three qualities that sustain a marriage relationship?
3. Why is being filled with the Spirit important to having the marriage God wants us to have? (John 3:30)
4. In what specific ways does the love between a husband and wife illustrate Christ and the church?
5. How is a husband to love his wife? Explain.
6. What is one characteristic a wife is to give her husband and why is this important?
7. Some say that the husband is the head, but the wife is the neck who turns the head. What do you think about this approach and where might that lead?
8. A marriage is much like a basketball team. Each player has a different position. Each person is to work together in harmony towards a common goal. What are some common goals and characteristics a godly marriage is to have? (See 1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 2:3-5, Matthew 6:9-15)
9. Pray for someone.