

Husbands And Wives

Ephesians 5:18-33

MEMORY VERSE

EPHESIANS 5:33

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough packs of Kool-Aid (or similar drink mix) for the number of children in your class to have a small amount, the amount of sugar called for in the directions, and a container to mix the Kool-Aid in.

Three strands of colorful twine, leather or vinyl long enough to make a braided bracelet for each child.

A chalk board w/chalk or a dry erase board w/dry erase markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Filled with the Holy Spirit

For this activity you will need enough packs of Kool-Aid (or similar drink mix) for the number of children in your class to have a small amount, the amount of sugar called for in the directions, and a container to mix the Kool-Aid in. NOTE: Make sure that you find out from parents if there is any problem giving sugar to particular children. Before class make the Kool-Aid in the container, but do not add the sugar (and keep the sugar out of the view of the children).

As you begin your lesson today explain that you have a special treat of Kool-Aid for the children. Pour a small amount for each child (you can have small cups prepared before class, but do not let the children drink the Kool-Aid until they all can together. Next have the entire class drink the Kool-Aid. They should immediately notice a problem – it does not have any sugar. In the remaining Kool-Aid add the proper amount of sugar and serve some to the children for being good sports.

Explain to the children that the Kool-Aid is kind of like our lives. If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit we are like the Kool-Aid without sugar. Our lives are missing a very important ingredient. But if we are filled with the Holy Spirit then we will be able to be everything God wants us to be, and be a joy to others. Today we are going to learn about relationships. One of the important things we will learn today is that we can be a blessing to others when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

LESSON TIME!

Today we are going to talk about relationships. We will especially be looking at the relationship of a husband and wife. God has a lot to say in the Bible about the different kinds of relationships we have in life. And He has much to say about a very special relationship between a man and a woman in marriage. The last half of Ephesians chapter 5 shares a lot of valuable things with us concerning God's plan for marriage.

It is important for us to learn what the Bible has to say about marriage and relationships at a young age because as we grow up there will come a day when boys become interested in girls and girls interested in boys. It may sound crazy right now, but it will someday happen. God, who is our creator, was the One who instituted marriage when He created man and woman in the garden of Eden. So we certainly need to understand what He says about the relationship between husbands and wives.

God has a plan for relationships.

EPHESIANS 5:18-21

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

submitting to one another in the fear of God.

As we begin our study of the relationship between husbands and wives we have a couple of important principles to understand. First of all, as the Apostle Paul begins to explain the marriage relationship he says that a Christian marriage is an example of Jesus' relationship with His bride the church. So the relationship we have with our husband or wife should reflect the relationship that Jesus has with us. We will be looking at this a little closer as we continue.

If our marriage is to be a reflection of Jesus' relationship with the church then certainly marriage should only be between two believers in Jesus. This is so important for us to understand and remember. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ then you should never marry an unbeliever. If you do then you will no doubt have struggles and problems because you are part of two different kingdoms that oppose one another.

Second Corinthians 6:14 tells us not being “unequally” yoked with unbelievers. We should not enter into important relationships with unbelievers because again we are from two different kingdoms. It doesn’t mean that we should be rude to unbelievers or never talk to them, but it does mean that we should be careful about entering into important relationships or agreements with them; marriage being one of them.

We see a couple of things in these first few verses that are important in a marriage. The first is that we need to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit. There are a lot of marriages that have problems for many different reasons. But God’s plan is that marriage would be a wonderful blessing, the husband and wife loving each other very much. How a husband and wife can have a wonderful marriage is when they are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says that we should not be drunk with wine. When someone is drunk with wine they say and do things that may be mean or that they regret later. They do silly things, or things that even hurt other people that they would not do otherwise. We should continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. We should be under His influence and when we are then the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5) will come forth from our lives. Being filled with the Holy Spirit will help us in every relationship, not just if we are married. So even now we should always be filled with the Holy Spirit.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we will be filled with joy. We will love to sing praises from our heart to the Lord and our hearts will be filled with thanksgiving. It will also help us with the next important thing in our relationships and that is submission. The Bible talks about submitting to one another. We will see a little later how that the Bible talks about the roles of a husband and a wife, but something we should see right off is that as believers we should be submitting to one another.

We should never think that we know everything and that our way is always the right way. Sometimes we can be very selfish and want our way all of the time. But when we are under the control of the Holy Spirit then we are going to listen to other people’s opinions and even be willing to lay down our opinions or rights in order to serve them and love them. It is important that we learn about a godly relationship between a husbands and a wife. **God has a plan for relationships.**

EPHESIANS 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

In these verses Paul talks about the role of the husband and the wife. Basically he is saying that a marriage is a picture of something greater. We may not be able to understand everything about it, but God established this special relationship between a man and woman; one man to spend their life with one woman.

Verse 22 says that the wife is to submit to their husbands, as to the Lord. So in the same way that we would submit to Jesus wives should submit to their husbands. Now, as we are going to see a little later, this put a lot of responsibility on the husbands. Because they are to treat their wives in the same way that Jesus treats the church.

It is very easy for us to submit to Jesus as our head, or Lord because we know that everything He does will be out of love, care and concern for us. In the same way, when godly husbands love their wives like Jesus loves the church then it is easy for wives to submit to that kind of leadership.

God established authority in the home so that there would not be any confusion. It does not mean that the husband is any better than the wife, but simply that the husband is given the responsibility before God to be the one to make the final decisions in the home. But again, he is under God and has the responsibility to make decisions based on prayer, God's Word and God's will for their lives.

In order for there not to be confusion, and there not to be many different "heads" in the home God established a chain of authority. It begins with Him. He is over the husband, the husband is over the wife and the parents are over the children. This way it is clear who has the responsibility of leadership in a home. But again, with greater authority comes greater responsibility to use that authority in loving care of those they are placed over. **God has a plan for relationships.**

A Strand of Three

This craft is a friendship bracelet. You will need three strands of colorful twine, leather or vinyl long enough to make a braided bracelet for each child. Give each child their three strands. Have the children hold the three strands together. At the top have the children tie a knot so that all three strands will hold together. Next, do a regular braid so that all three strands are braided together. At the bottom tie another knot so that it will not come loose.

Next help the children tie the bracelet onto their wrist if they would like.

Explain to the children that marriage is like this bracelet. Two strands alone cannot make a bracelet like this. It takes three strands to make a beautiful braid. In the same way, a husband and wife by themselves cannot fulfill God's plan for their lives. But if Jesus is a part of their marriage then He will help them to make something very beautiful. **God has a plan for relationships.**

EPHESIANS 5:25-30

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

In this set of verses, Paul is addressing the husband. He says that husbands are to love their wives in the same way the Jesus loved the church and even gave Himself for her. Think about that! What was the ultimate demonstration of Jesus' love for His church? He willingly went to the cross and laid down His life for her. In the same way, a husband should love his wife so much that he would be willing to even sacrifice his own life for her well being.

Jesus is never selfish or demanding. We are referred to in the Bible as the “bride of Christ”. Think about how much God loves each one of us. He does not boss us around, or yell at us, or make us do things because he wants to be selfish. No, His love is selfless. It is really easy for us to respond to that kind of love in submission. We know He is for us and will only do what is best for us. We never have to worry about trusting Him; He keeps every promise. In the same way, the Christian husband should treat his wife.

This picture of Jesus and His church is important. When a Christian husband and wife are out in public, people should be able to look at the love and respect that they have for one another and see something different than what they see in the world. A godly relationship shows that Jesus lives in the hearts of the husband and the wife. When a husband treats his wife like Jesus treats His church, it is an example to the whole world of who Jesus is.

So young boys who might be learning this lesson this week, understand that if and when you are married, treat your bride like Jesus treats His bride. They you will have a very blessed relationship and home life. **God has a plan for relationships.**

EPHESIANS 5:31-33

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Here we are reminded about how special God made marriage. Verse 31 is a quote from Genesis 2:24, 25. When God made man in the garden, he created man first. Man realized that he did not have a helper suitable for him. So the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and made a special helper for him from his own “flesh and bone.”

This “helper” was like him and a perfect companion in every way. God instituted marriage at this time and men and women have been getting married ever since. The Bible says that when a man and woman get married they become “one flesh”. In other words, God really sees them as one person. Two companions come together to serve Him as one. This is one reason why marriage is so important to God. God’s plan is for one man to marry one woman for their entire life.

Paul says that this is a great mystery. In a similar way we become one with Jesus when we are saved. We really cannot understand everything about this here and now, but we will one day when we go to be with the Lord. What is important for us to remember is that the marriage relationship between a husband and wife is very important to God. It is an earthly picture of a heavenly reality. So we should not take it lightly.

We need to understand what God says about marriage. Someday it may be a part of God's plan for you to be married. Remember that it is a special relationship that God blesses. We should not have any relationship with a member of the opposite sex outside of marriage. (NOTE TO TEACHERS – Be sensitive on this topic. Be aware of age appropriateness and refer children to talk to their parents if they have questions regarding relationships outside of marriage). **God has a plan for relationships.**

God loves us so much and when we obey His word He will always bless us. Let's remember that regarding our relationships. Remember that **God has a plan for relationships.** So we need to find out what that plan is and how it relates to our lives and we grow in Him and obey Him in all things.

Building a Home

This game is like "Hang Man" except you will be drawing a house instead of a person. You will need a chalk board w/chalk or a dry erase board w/dry erase markers. Divide your class into four groups. Before class come up with 8 to 10 words from the today's lesson for the game.

Write the number of blank spaces for the first word on the board. Explain to the class that each group will get one turn to guess a letter. Play will continue in a clockwise rotation until all four groups have been able to guess a letter. With each turn the group can have one guess at the word. If they are wrong play will continue to the next group. Tell the children that they cannot shout out the word or guess outside of their turn.

If the letter guessed is not in the word then draw a part of a house. For example, you would draw a side of the house with the first wrong guess; next the other side of the house; next one side of the roof; next the other side of the roof; next the bottom, next the door, etc. until a house is drawn. If the house is drawn before the word is guessed then no team will win that word. Keep track of the teams and how many words they guess. As an option you may award a small prize to the group who guesses the most words.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.