

Ephesians 5 and the 'mystery' of the church and marriage

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Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

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

(Eph 5:32)

Some try to assert that Ephesians 5 is making a statement about the default state of marriage, as though these things apply to a marriage BY default.

We will show here that that is not the case but that instead it is a state that is DESIRED for marriage and is a RESPONSIBILITY of the married couple themselves to CREATE this marital state between them that is supposed to mimic the relationship between Christ and His church.

Supporting Evidence

The evidence is from the very passage itself and is very clearly shown not as existing by default but plainly being presented as OUR responsibility to bring these things into being ourselves in our marriages.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself as the glorious church, without spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So men ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord loves the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two of them shall be one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. But also let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife that she defers to her husband.

(Eph 5:22-33)

All thru this passage we see Paul showing how WE are to MAKE our marriages to be by our ACTIONS.

This state does not necessarily pre exist in any marriage, otherwise there would be no need for Paul to instruct it.

The relationship Christ as with His church is Christs responsibility to maintain with His bride...and He does. But that does not impart any 'state' into marriage between a man and his wife by default.

Instead we are instructed to take appropriate actions to MAKE the marriage mimic the relationship that Christ has with His church, since the marriage union is supposed to simulate the union between God and man when they are in fellowship.

This passage in Ephesians cannot be used to make claims that one flesh and marriage are something by default, but instead is to show us OUR responsibility to make it this way.

This passage in no one implies that 'one flesh' exists after a divorce, nor is it meant to even remotely claim as much. The only goal therein is to teach husbands and wives what they must do in order to achieve this relationship that Christ has with His church.

This passages isnt about preexisting states simply because one is married. it is about what OUR jobs are to MAKE our marriages this way.