



2 People + 2 Roles = 1 Healthy Marriage

By Bryan Trotter on July 19, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Ephesians 5

This will come as no surprise to you, but men and women are so different. We think, respond, act, etc., differently than the opposite sex. This is NOT a commentary on the definition(s) of gender in our current climate. This is just the facts. God has instilled men and women each with unique characteristics that reflect His own characteristics. Men and women are created differently physically, and marriage is the greatest example of the relationship of Christ and His bride, the church.

Even the way Paul writes to the church in Ephesus demonstrates the difference between men and women. Women get a few short sentences describing their role in marriage. Men receive a much longer exhortation to love their wives. Through the lens of our current culture, reading a passage about submission can seem outdated or antiquated, but look at the message. A wife's submission is not about her taking the back seat in the marriage while the husband domineers over her. Submission is also not to be commanded by the husband. Pastor and author John MacArthur writes, "The Spirit-filled wife recognizes that her husband's role in giving leadership is not only God-ordained but also a reflection of Christ's own loving, authoritative headship of the church."

I feel more times than not pastors and biblical teachers dance around the topic of the wife's submission so much that the husband's love is rarely addressed. Husbands, love your wives! If you are like me, you need a detailed explanation of how to love. Husbands, flip over to 1 Corinthians 13 and read the portion about love. Read it every day until it is cemented in your mind. God has told us how to love and explained it in detail. The next step is to do it. Love your wife as Christ loved the church with a sacrificial love that puts her needs above your own.

Both exhortations from Paul are difficult for husbands and wives for different reasons. He pinpoints the core issues for men and women. The source of much marital strife can be traced back to these two issues, love and respect. MacArthur also writes, "Failure to love is just as often the source of marital trouble as failure to submit." When we fail to love and submit, we fail to align ourselves with the way God designed marriage, which leads to bitterness, anger and unhappy marriages. This is not where God wants you to live today.

Whether you just married or you are celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary, it is never too late to start putting in the work toward a more God-honoring marriage. Today, spend some time in prayer and ask God to show you how you are reflecting these roles in your own marriage.

TOMORROW'S READING: Ephesians 6

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