

**Ephesians 5:15-33**  
**Week 11 - Marriage and the Gospel**  
**5/30/21**

### Introduction

Tim. Pastor. Sup. **Genesis 1**. We're going to look back at some things we talked about last week. I want to start us here to give us a foundation before we head over to Ephesians 5. Quick word of warning - I'm going to go long today. I've tried and tried, I just can't cut anymore out and I think we all need to hear it so buckle up.

Today, if you couldn't tell from the text Cole just read for us or the video, we're talking about marriage and the Biblical roles of husbands and wives.

Before we get into it let me say a couple of things first:

#### **A word to women:**

- I want to acknowledge and condemn the ways historically this passage has been abused within the church.
- I want to acknowledge and condemn the injustices and wrong done to women both throughout history and even throughout our world today.
- I also want to acknowledge the fears some of you might have going into this sermon.

#### **A word to singles:**

- I don't want this sermon to feel exclusionary to you. It's in Ephesians, that's why we're preaching it. We see you, value you. You're not less than in the kingdom of God.
- You have a role to play in the lives of your married friends. You can speak into their marriage with the weight of the Scriptures. I hope this sermon is helpful for you towards that aim.
- If you do get married one day, it's good to be learning these lessons now - about why it's absolutely necessary for you to marry another Christian who's pursuing the Lord.
- **\*\*PODCAST - check that out.**

All that being said, there's a lot of landmines today for everyone...but I want to invite us to let our guards down for just a few minutes to look at God's Word together. To entrust ourselves to a God who created the world, knows how it is designed to work, is after His glory and our good. And I hope this passage can be a blessing to you.

Let me **pray** towards that end.

### Creation Narrative - Man + Woman

#### Genesis 1:26-28

**26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

God creates humanity in His own image. We are the apex of God's creating work. God sought to fill the world with beings who look and act and operate like He does, and He did so with us.

But the author of Genesis includes a very specific detail: He doesn't just say God created mankind in His image, full stop. He says → **Male** and **female** He created them. Both men and women are created in the image of God.

Now here's why this matters → That means with men and women - there is undeniable equality of personhood. You can't say one matters more than the other, you can't say one is greater than the other or less than the other - because both are made in the image of God. Which should bring from the jump a mutual respect between the sexes - both should recognize the image of God in the other.

Equal in personhood. Equal in dignity. But there's also an emphasis on the distinction. He says, "male **and** female." If you read Genesis 1 up until this point you'll notice that God has been creating the world with all sorts of distinctions between created things:

- Night and Day
- Light and dark
- Sky and sea
- Heaven and earth

Each part of creation is distinct, yet complements its counterpart. In the creation of human beings, God yet again distinguishes by creating male and female. They are equal in value as image-bearers, yet different in form and function as male and female. They are, like the rest of creation, **complementary counterparts.**

In fact, our distinctiveness, as male and female, lies at the heart of what it means to mirror the image of God in the world. **Both male and female are a good and necessary part of being made in God's image. There is equality with distinction.**

### **Genesis 2:15-18**

Moses, the author of Genesis, is going to revisit the account of God creating man and woman in a little bit more detail.

**15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."**

God creates Adam, puts him in the garden with a calling - with a job to do - to cultivate it, work it, keep it and tend to it. Tells him not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (notice - he gives this command to Adam first, not to Adam and Eve together, we'll come back to that later on). But he can't do this alone. This is the only part of creation that God says is not good. Men and women need each other for flourishing and wholeness.

### **HELPER.**

So God creates Eve. A helper fit, or corresponding to, or complementary to Adam. Remember → Equal, yet different. Equal yet complementary. There's a fitting of two parts God has in mind here. A team.

Now, just so we're on the same page, this word helper in the text is not a weak word. It's a strong word.

**The hebrew word translated as helper here is Ezer. Ezer in the Old Testament has two meanings - (1) supporting strength and (2) to rescue or to save.** (think military reinforcements)

Throughout the Old Testament the word is most frequently used to describe God's relationship to His people.

- Psalm 33 - God is our help (ezer) and shield.
- Psalm 70 - God is our help (ezer) and our deliverer.

This is not a weak word. It's a word of power. God says → It's not good for Adam to be alone, this is off, I'm going to send him a strong helper. Some powerful reinforcement that will compliment him.

God causes Adam to fall asleep, takes one of his ribs and uses it to create Eve. Wakes Adam up, Adam sees Eve and says the Hebrew equivalent of "woah baby!".

And we read this in **Genesis 2:24-25:**

**24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.**

God institutes the first Biblical marriage between the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. Harmony. Equal - both made in the image of God. Yet complementary - different. Male **and** female. A helper.

**This is God's design.** This is pre-fall. Pre-curse. Pre-sin. This is how it was designed to work. Now, keep your finger there, we'll come back to Genesis 3 in a moment, let's turn over to Ephesians 5. A little bit more set up.

### Ephesians 5:15-21 - Set Up Quick

Let's start in verse 15:

**15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

Lots in these verses but for our purposes today, look closely at verse 18 and 21. Paul's encouragement to the church at Ephesus is to **be filled with the Spirit**. To let the Holy Spirit dwell within them, which is then going to characterize how they relate to other people within the church, namely, as we see in verse 21 → in mutual submission one to each other out of reverence for Christ.

In other words, **as a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit dwells within you, which should lead you to humility towards other believers as an act of worship to Christ.**

As Christians, we submit ourselves to one another out of love for Jesus and love for each other. That's part of the beauty of belonging to a local church. This is the context by which we learn to submit, or **yield**, our preferences, our desires, our wants for the good of our Christian brothers and sisters.

We all are called to this throughout the Scriptures. This is a part of love for each other we're called to over and over again → your good over mine.

**Spirit filled, humble, laying down of rights and privileges for the good of the other.**

**Paul is then going to outwork this into three specific relationships:** Parents and Kids, Bosses and Employees, and the one we are addressing today - husbands and wives.

So with all of that as the backdrop - Genesis 1+2, Eph 5:15-21. Let's talk about our roles, those of who are married, we are called to live into as husband and wife. With each one I'm going to address **the command God gives and then two errors to avoid.**

### Husbands - Ephesians 5:25-30

I want to actually start with husbands first.

**25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.**

**Husbands, love your wives.**

I want to hone in on the two illustrations Paul gives us for what this love should look like.

**(1) He says first - love her as Christ loves the church.** How does Christ love the church? He tells us - He gave Himself up for her. One of the pictures the Bible uses to talk about Christ's relationship to the Church is that the Church is the bride of Christ. The bride for which Christ, the great bridegroom, came to earth, lives, sacrificed, and died.

**How did Christ love the church?** With a self-sacrificing love.  
**Why did He do this?** So that we would be holy and blameless before God.

The call on the husband is the same → **Love your wife with a self-sacrificing love to help her live a holy and blameless life.**

(2) But then Paul continues → love your wife as Christ loves the church. **But also, love your wife as you love yourself.** The Church in Scripture is not just the bride of Christ, but also called the **body** of Christ. Christ cherishes us and nourishes us and builds us up.

Same call on a husband → You don't neglect yourself. Even the most lazy of people will at least eat when they're hungry. Paul says → love your wife. Nourish her. Cherish her. Care for her as you do your own body and as Christ cares for His own body → the Church.

In all of this here's the command:

	<b>Husband</b>	
	<b>Loving, Humble, Sacrificial Responsibility</b>	
	<b>Wife</b>	

That's the goal. That's what Christian husbands are called to strive after, by the grace of God, as they seek to lead their wives and families towards Christ → Loving, humble, sacrificial responsibility. Husbands in the room - you have God-given responsibility for the spiritual health and well being of your family. Full stop.

But there's some errors that you have to be careful about. And these errors can go one of two ways, there are errors of dominance. And errors of passivity.

I'm going to deal with the error of dominance first:

<b>Errors of Passivity ←</b>	<b>Husband</b>	<b>→ Errors of Dominance</b>
	Loving, Humble, Sacrificial Responsibility	<b>Tyrant</b>
	<b>Wife</b>	

**TYRANNY**

It's leadership gone bad through control, manipulation, and force.

Flip back to Genesis 3. We're actually told that this is going to be a problem. Adam and Eve sin, mess up. There is a curse given as a result of sin. Things are no longer going to be as they should be. And look at what God says to Eve because of her sin:

**16 Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.**

Instead of having dominion together with God over all created things, the husband will now sinfully be tempted to have unhealthy “rule” over his wife.

This is the husband who makes every decision on his own. Who doesn’t listen to his wife, cherish his wife. His wife and his kids are there to make his life easier, so he can go to work and bring home the money, and when he comes home it’s nonstop aggression and barking orders and must be exactly what he wants all of the time. **It’s “leadership” (if you can even call it that) without the self-sacrificing part.**

This is not the way of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life away as a ransom for many. Who had every right to only lord over people with an iron fist, and yet in humility lowered himself and went to the cross.

**Marriage is a call to die to yourself and to live to Christ which means also dying to yourself and living for the blessing and sanctification of your spouse.**

If your first thought of headship is authoritarian - you don’t understand the love of Christ. If your first thought is what you can get or that you get to call all the shots, you don’t understand the love of Christ. Dying to self may involve sacrificing your schedule and even good ambitions. It means giving yourself away for the good of the bride. It involves crucifying your flesh and resolving to be faithful to your bride, not yielding to the temptations of lust, anger, or pride.

**Now, tyranny is the one I would argue our culture is most on guard about.** This is part of why we are bent towards not liking this passage. Because immediately our minds go to the worst case scenario of toxic masculinity, right? And it absolutely is a problem. Tyrant men have done indescribable amounts of damage, and their trails of destruction are usually very visible. When a man uses his energy to take instead of to give, to harm instead of bless, that causes tremendous fallout that often lasts through generations.

But, in some ways we’ve run so hard away from that side of the cliff that we’ve missed that there’s another dangerous error as well on the other side. We’ve pushed and pushed so much that we don’t realize we’re pushing men towards the other error and sin. The error of passivity:

Errors of Passivity ←	Husband	→ Errors of Dominance
<b>Coward</b>	Loving, Humble, Sacrificial Responsibility	Tyrant
	Wife	

Stay in Genesis 3. Look at verse 1:

**1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman,**

Now remember, who did God give the command about not eating from the tree to? The **man**. Who did Satan approach? The **woman**. Which begs the question → Where’s Adam? Is he off naming animals or something? Where you at big dog?

The text tells us. Skip down to vs 6:

**6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband [notice this] who was with her, and he ate.**

Passivity. The devil shows up, he’s straight up tempting your wife with the one “don’t do this” command God gave you, and Adam just stands to the side and does nothing.

There’s no → HEY SATAN - SHUT UP. There’s no → HEY EVE - HE’S LYING TO YOU.

He does nothing. **Passivity**. He doesn't protect. He doesn't nurture. He doesn't cherish. He doesn't sacrifice. He's passive.

Here's the dictionary.com definition for you: **passivity is the acceptance of what happens, without active response or resistance.**

This is just how it is, I am, we are. Our marriage is just gonna be this way. We're just going to be disconnected. We're just gonna stay at opposite sides.

**I can think of maybe no more prevalent or dangerous sin to men right now in the American church than passivity.**

- First person in a household to become a Christian is one of the kids, there is a 3.5% probability everyone else will follow.
- Moms? 17%.
- Dads? 93% probability everyone else in the family will become a Christian.

Married men in the room - the spiritual health of your family is so drastically affected by you. This matters! Your passivity matters. It is not a game, it is not a joke.

**Passivity is crippling some of your marriages.**

- Some of you know more about fantasy football players each year than you do about your wife's hopes and dreams, or her prayer needs, and that's sin and it deserves repentance.
- Some of you spend more time planning for your retirement than you do for your kid's discipleship, and that's sin and it deserves repentance.
- Some of you spend more time pursuing images of women you don't know online than you do pursuing your wife in the bedroom, and that's sin and it deserves repentance.

For some of us, it's just apathy and laziness.

**MISPLACED ENERGY.**

For a lot of us, it's misplaced energy. We're not passive in all areas of our life, we're just passive in the most necessary of priorities God gave us. So for some of us we need to go put down the playstation controller.

For others of us, we need to actually leave work at 5pm like we said we would so we go home and connect with our families. Then instead of turning on the TV after dinner, actually learn to have a conversation with our spouse, pray with our spouse, read the Bible with our spouse, ask some hard questions, learn to be a little bit vulnerable emotionally.

**FEAR.**

For some of you, you're letting fear drive you. You're afraid of the responsibility. You're afraid of accountability. You really just don't want to be culpable for a decision you make going poorly so you pass the decision making responsibility (and the blame for the outcome) onto your wife.

Listen - God's going to hold you accountable regardless.

But we let passivity rule. We're phoning it in on the spiritual health of our wife or of our kids because we are lazy or apathetic or because we let shame and fear of our inability get in the way of stepping up.

**But we're not called to be passive or tyrannical. Why? Because we follow a king who is neither passive nor tyrannical.**

We follow King Jesus, who was not passive, but stepped into our world, took on flesh, took on our sin, sacrificed himself on the cross so that we could be forgiven, washed clean, redeemed, made new. So we can say no to our old passive selves and say yes to God and pursue the real tangible woman He has given us to love, cherish, nurture, and build up more and more into the image of Christ.

**The goal is to image Christ.**

**Your goal everyday when you wake up should be to be a picture of Christ to the world by the way you love your wife and in self-sacrificing humility take responsibility for her growth in Christ, her well being, her joy, all of that.**

Could someone look at the way you love your wife, the way you sacrifice for your wife, the way you care for and nourish and cherish your wife, the way you nurture her and support her and lead her and get a glimpse of how Christ loves His Church?

**“2nd Job”.** Let me give you one real quick helpful reframe that was shared with me a few years ago that I don’t do perfectly at but is something I’m striving for constantly - when you drive home from work, or I guess walk downstairs or whatever - you’re not leaving work and heading into relaxation. You’re leaving work and heading into your 2nd job. Small shift in mindset - I’m ready to serve here now. I’m ready to be attentive to my wife and kids, be available, care for them, be present with them. I’m not shutting it down for the day, I’m heading into work 2.0 ready to love and serve my family and push them towards Jesus.

**Let me give you a few probing questions before we switch and talk to the wives.** Questions I want you to ask yourself this week and ask your spouse too:

1. **Would your wife describe your love for her as passive, oppressive, or sacrificial and why?**
2. **What is one way you can better sacrifice for the holiness of your wife moving forward?**

**Wives - Ephesians 5:22-24**

**22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

**Wives, submit to your own husbands.**

The command Paul gives to wives is the specific shape their love is to take. If husbands are to love their wives through humble, sacrificial leadership, wives are to love their husbands through humble, sacrificial submission.

<b>Errors of Passivity ←</b>	<b>Husband</b>	<b>→ Errors of Dominance</b>
Coward	Loving, Humble, Sacrificial Responsibility	Tyrant
	<b>Wife</b>	
	<b>Joyful, Humble, Sacrificial Submission</b>	

Now, this rubs us because our modern world hates the idea of submission to any type of authority. We are living in an age of liberation. Anything that we feel prohibits our rights, privileges, desires is to be strongly resisted. I mean think about the rise of entrepreneurship - we want to be our own boss.

And I think part of the rub and frustration with this command is because your mind immediately goes to the lowest common denominator. The worst version of leadership either in tyranny or passivity and you think - “I have to submit to that?”

**But listen - God is not anti authority, and He’s not anti-submission to authority.** Now, God is anti bad authority, absolutely. God is absolutely against authority that is self-seeking, authority that leads people into sin and away from Him. He’s against authority that harms and mistreats others for the gain of the leader.

God is anti bad authority, but he's not anti authority. God sees and establishes good authority throughout history, throughout Scriptures, and throughout our lives for our good.

- There are different levels of authority within the Trinity. Son submits to the Father. Spirit submits to the Father and the Son.
- He gives elders spiritual authority over the church.
- He gives parents authority over their children.

**God sees good authority as a necessary thing for human flourishing.**

Now, here in the Scriptures, we see this reality play itself out between husbands and wives. Paul commands wives - submit to your own husbands.

This word here translated as **“submit” is the word “to arrange under”**. It's the turning loose of a personal or selfish agenda to gladly live for the good of others.

And it is a response to, hopefully, everything we just said about husbands → That as a husband graciously and sacrificially leads, a Christian wife willingly and joyfully comes up under that leadership.

**Some important things to note about this command:**

**First, He says that wives should submit to their *own* husbands.** This is not a command for every woman to submit to every man. This particular passage does not have implications for whether women can be president, or CEOs, or managers. It's not generic - women submit to men. That's against the bounds of Scripture. Paul says submit to ***your own*** husband.

**Second, He grounds this command in the wife's submission to the Lord.** This is not one of bullish surrender, or forced servitude. The picture is one of joyful and voluntary submission as an overflow of a wife's worship of Christ. This is a happy, joy-filled relationship. Christian wives freely and responsibly follow the loving leadership of a faithful husband ***because they want to follow Christ***. There is a calling on the wife to submit to her husband as a part of her submission to Christ because you're recognizing Christ has given this authority over you.

**Third, when Paul says “in all things” he means all areas of your life, and it is not a command to follow your husband into sin.**

But there's some errors you must avoid here as well...

Errors of Passivity ←	Husband	→ Errors of Dominance
Coward	Loving, Humble, Sacrificial Responsibility	Tyrant
	Wife	
<b>Doormat</b>	Joyful, Humble, Sacrificial Submission	

The first error is the error of passivity. Passive women are, and I say this sadly not jokingly, are doormats. Day after day, month after month, year after year in their marriage, it's "Yes dear, whatever you say . . . yes dear, whatever you say." She doesn't contribute at all to the decision making process. She has no preferences, no desires, no voice. She's a doormat.

Submission doesn't mean you leave your brain at the altar. It doesn't mean you don't also bring spiritual strength to the table. It doesn't mean you aren't responsible for your spiritual health or the spiritual discipleship of your children and you just sit back and the husband does all the work and you just receive.



This is wrong. The call to submission is not the call to simply fall over and play dead. You're called to be a supporting strength. An Ezer. **Being an ezer necessitates that you are a source of stabilizing strength in your relationship.** To support your husband's leadership.

God's design is that you can and should share with your husband if you see your family headed in an unhealthy path. It means you can and should prompt conversation if you see something he is blind to.

**Now, I would say this is probably the side that our culture is most afraid of.** Given our history, rightly so. Women who are taken advantage of, thought of as less than, harmed and abused because of sinful men. And that is wrong and should be declared as such.

But the swing, in light of that has been to the other side, which is also not God's design:

Errors of Passivity ←	Husband	→ Errors of Dominance
Coward	Loving, Humble, Sacrificial Responsibility	Tyrant
	Wife	
Doormat	Joyful, Humble, Sacrificial Submission	<b>Usurper</b>

Not a word we tend to use in 2021, so let me define it for us: **a usurper is "a person who takes a position of power wrongfully or by force."**

In response to the leadership of her husband, even if it's the most gracious, sacrificial, and kind leadership there is, still wants to rebel. "I've got this, I'll take control. I'll take over."

This is actually what God says is going to happen as a result of sin. Look back at Genesis 3:16 again: **16 Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.**

The desires will go against, will want to rebel and push back against. Because of sin, many of you will want to take charge, to run things.

**Some of you have absolutely cut the leadership legs out from under your husband.** You think (consciously or subconsciously) - well I'm more gifted, I'm more of a natural leader anyways, so I'm gonna be in charge.

We're not talking about gifting or personality, we're talking about **roles**. A role is whose responsibility it is. God didn't give you the role of spiritual leader of your house. Your husband is the one who will stand before God accountable for how he leads your family. God gave this role to your husband, and he's called you to come up under that.

**Some of you have justified it by saying - well my husband is passive, so I need to take control.** The Bible actually says that's a wrong response to a wrong situation. You're just perpetuating the cycle. He's not leading me, so I'm gonna take charge, which is then going to cause him to shut down even further. Rather than coming up alongside, pushing him in his leadership.

For some of you, your response to perceived passivity with your husband is **pride**. A good desire for him to lead, has turned into frustration. So you're not praying for him, encouraging him, supporting him. Instead, you're puffing yourself up - arguing with him about what he is or is not doing, questioning every little decision he tries to make, about how you know better. You're gossiping about him and his lack of spiritual health to your friends.

Neither of these are God's design → not to be a doormat or a usurper. But rather → joyful, humble, sacrificial, submission. **But what does this look like?**

### Practicals on Submission:

I think what Paul says in v33 is really helpful - **33 let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

One study done a few years ago found that 74% of men would rather feel lonely and unloved than inadequate and disrespected. Wives in the room - your husband's need for respect is deep.

We think in our culture love is given, respect is earned. The Bible doesn't say this. It says it as a command to wives. Your husband needs to have your respect. If you want your husband to feel loved by you, show him that you respect him. If a man feels disrespected, he is going to feel unloved.

Here's some easy ways to grow in your tangible and outward signs of respect for your husband:

- **Pray for him.** Pray for him to love Jesus, to be led by the Holy Spirit. To have strength in the endeavor's and tasks God has given him at work and in the home.
- **Encourage Him.** Man, Lindsay is such a great encourager towards me. She's really good at seeing what God is working in me, ways I'm growing, ways I'm serving her or our church or others. And man there are times where she'll look me in the eyes and say something so deeply encouraging that it's like - point me in the direction of the nearest brick wall because I'm running straight through it. You can't stop me. I got the Spirit inside of me, my wife is cheering me on. LOOK OUT. Your husband longs for your encouragement.
- **Honor him around others.** You should talk about your husband in a way that makes people want to be friends with him. Be really careful in how you tease your husband in public, how you talk about or point out his flaws to others in the church. Now, there's a place for sharing struggles with the women in your CG, but you gotta watch your tone.

**Let me give you a few probing questions.** Questions I want you to ask yourself this week and ask your spouse too:

1. **Would your husband describe your submission to him as a doormat, a usurper, or joyful?**
2. **What is one way you can better support your husband's leadership moving forward?**

### Conclusion

Let's end with this, Ephesians 5:31-33:

**31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

The call of a husband is loving, sacrificial, and humble responsibility for his wife.  
The call of a wife is loving, joyful, and humble submission to her husband.  
And all of this with the goal of putting the gospel on display for the watching world.

We follow Christ in this. He died to Himself. He humbled Himself and went to the cross. There's freedom for us to pursue this together, in our marriage, as a team, striving for the glory of God above everything else.

Your primary application this weekend is to apply the gospel to you. Not to your spouse, to you. Not the ways they need to grow, to you.

Let the gospel of Christ do a work within you. Confess and repent to your spouse. Confess and repent to God.

Let's follow King Jesus in this together.

**Pray.**  
**Communion (w/ your spouse).**