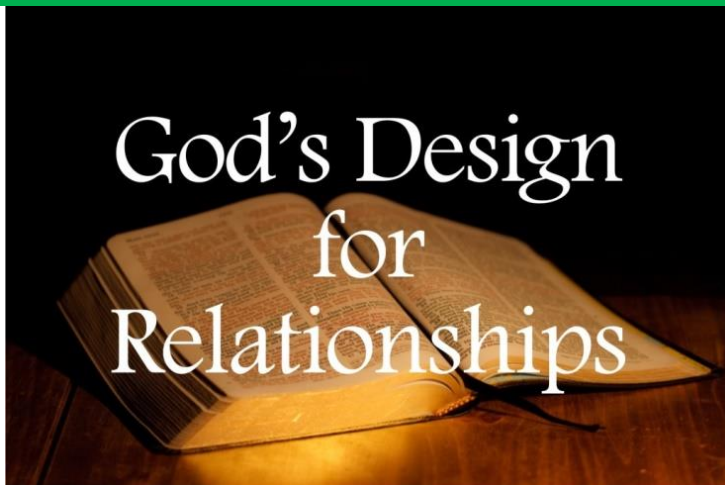


~ ~ ~ Important Parallels ~ ~ ~



Sunday, 8/26 – 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 8/27 – 7 PM
14th Sunday after Pentecost / 13th Sunday after Trinity – 2018

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: How are YOUR relationships doing? We all have many... ♦ *between us and God*, ♦ *within this congregation*, ♦ *between husband and wife*, ♦ *etc.* When we proceed in our relationships according to our **old sinful nature**, *they tend to be a mess*; for example: *“wives seek to rule their husbands and refuse loving self-subjection; husbands tyrannize their wives often to the point of enslaving them”* (Lenski, 628).

Today, *as we return to Ephesians*, remember that chapters 1-3 focus on God's work to make us holy in His sight through Christ, while chapters 4-6 focus on how we are called to live as Christians. Today, *in Chapter 5*, God will tell us HIS DESIGN for the relationship between husbands and wives! As we hear it – *and possibly even struggle with it*, let us remember and – *even be convinced* – that God's ways are truly best!

Before we get into the text, let me illustrate four things we will discover today:

- One of the four is **from Christ to us**; *it is certain because Christ has already fully accomplished it!*
- The other three are **commanded of us**, *but they are uncertain*: Will we do them or will we sin against God?

Picture two bodies:

✚ The first one is the body of Christ!

- Christ is the head
- All believers are the body



✚ The second one is the one flesh relationship between a husband and wife!

- The husband is the head
- The wife is the body



Now, as we go through the text, *keep those pictures in mind!*

1. **Church to Christ ~ ~ ~ Wife to Her Husband:** ²² **Wives, submit to [volunteer to obey] your own husbands, as to the Lord. [Why?]** ²³ **For [Because] 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 [willingly obeys] Christ, so also wives should submit [willingly obey] in everything to their husbands.**

- a. Christ to His body: His body is the Church; in other words, *all believers*. He is not only the head of His body, *but also the Savior of His body!*
- b. Wife to her husband: Her head is her husband; the Bible says **“that the head of every man is**

Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God” (1 Cor. 11:1 ESV). Therefore, **as** believers – *out of reverence for Christ* – should, *in everything*, willingly obey their head *who is Christ*, **so** a wife – *out of reverence for Christ* – should, *in everything*, willingly obey her head *who is her husband*. That is GOD’S DESIGN, *so let us be certain that His ways are truly best!*

2. **Christ to Church ~ ~ ~ Husband to His Wife:**

²⁵ **Husbands, love** [*be loyal to, highly regard*] **your wives, as Christ loved the church** [*all believers, they are His bride*] **and gave himself up for** [*on behalf of*] **her,** ²⁶ **that he might sanctify her** [*make her holy*], **having cleansed her by the washing of [the] water with the word** [*baptism*], ²⁷ **so that he might present the church** [*all believers*] **to himself in splendor** [*glory, wonder*], **without spot** [*stain, blemish*] **or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.** ²⁸ **In the same way husbands should love** [*ἀγαπᾶν*] **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.**

- a. **Christ to His body:** If we make an honest comparison between us and God’s Word, *we will surely admit that we are all filthy sinners* ☹️. Since that is true, Christ took radical action to live, suffer, and die for us! Then, *through Holy Baptism*, we were clothed with the righteous life of Christ. In other words, Christ, *our head*, demonstrated great love for us, *His body!*

- b. Husband to his wife: *His body is his wife!*
Remember, as we were made members of the body of Christ through baptism, *so a man and a woman become one flesh through marriage!*
Therefore, **as** Christ showed extraordinary love for His body, *the Church*, **so** a husband – *out of reverence for Christ* – is called to show extraordinary love for his body, *thus his wife!*

3. **Summary Statements:**

- a. ³¹ **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast [be faithfully devoted] to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” //**
God is calling us to think about unity:
- i. The ONE body of Christ, *which includes Christ and all believers!*
 - ii. The ONE body of marriage, thus ONE flesh, *which includes a husband and his wife!*
- b. ³² **This mystery is profound [great, deep], and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. //**
So one flesh in marriage is easier to understand than the deep and eternal relationship between Christ and the Church!
- c. ³³ **However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. //** As ones who are saved through Jesus, *let us believe and practice God’s Word!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, *bless every marriage!*

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