

“Unpack to Arrange”
Ephesians 5:22-25

Introduction

I am not coming to you with statistics that give percentages and numbers in support of the statement that I am about to make. I am simply coming with a hard truth and statement that marriage and the home is being riveted and literally torn to shreds by the values and actions of those who have either said I do or the ones that refuse to enter into a marital relationship while they simply cohabit and make babies. Teenagers are getting pregnant with young men that in many cases will not become their husbands, and spouses are saying “I do” at an altar and then walk away to join with someone else. Is this here say? Are these fabricated stories? NO. This is real. And it has happened and is happening right here, right now in Lathrop and our area.

The Scripture tells us that the relationship between the husband and wife is an earthly picture of the relationship between the Groom, Christ, and His Bride, the Church.

Not only did God establish and ordain the relationship of marriage between a man and a woman, He died and rose again for man to have a forgiven and restored relationship with God through Christ. BUT Satan is equally set on destroying these relationships.

Today we begin a series of messages on the relationships that are addressed in Ephesians 5 and 6. In Ephesians 5:22-25 Paul begins addressing the relationship between the husband and the wife.

READ Ephesians 5:22-25 **SLIDE 1** I want to say it again = The covenant union between the man and woman in marriage is a picture of the covenant union between Christ as the Groom and His Bride the Church.

Let’s begin this series by looking at two things:

1. The Union of Two People
2. The Unpacking of Two People

I. The Union of Two People (vv 22-25)

- A. Husband and Wife – Biblical Union – any other marriage relationship or arrangement is contrary to God and His Word
- B. Look at two terms – submit and love
 1. v 22 – “Wives submit to your own husbands”
 - a. Wives – inclusive – the qualifier here is that Paul is speaking to the church = Christians = “as to the Lord”
 - b. Submit – “subject yourselves”
 - Military term – place yourself under rank of; arrange yourself under the authority of your husband
 - This is from the root word *hupatasso*
 - *Hupa* – under
 - *Tasso* – to arrange

➤ Means to “put under; be made subject to, be under obedience, submit self too”

2. v 25 – “Husbands love your wives”

a. Husbands – again - inclusive – the qualifier here is that Paul is speaking to the church = Christians = “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”

b. Love – *AGAPE* – God’s love – His nature (1 John 4:8)

3. The Covenant Relationship seen between husband and wife begins with the Covenant Relationship between each individual and Christ.

C. For the relationship to function in the truth of this Scripture, there must be an unpacking of baggage.

II. The Unpacking of Two People (Gen. 3:1-24)

A. How many married couples have been married for years and still have unpacked boxes that are not being used?

B. Qualify Baggage for this message – Baggage is what we carry from our past.

1. In this case – baggage is not a good thing to carry – it hinders us from being free to mutually submit and love

2. Baggage comes from experiences good and bad.

a. Good things that become gods to us and we cannot live without – so “it” becomes more important to us than our spouse.

b. Bad things that cause us to perceive and read into things that are not really being said or thought.

- We hear through filters.

- We see through filters.

- The filters are caused by past experiences that still haunt us – baggage.

c. From Warren Wiersbe: Dr. William Culbertson, a former president of Moody Bible Institute, used to warn about “the sad consequences of forgiven sins.”

C. Look at the very first couple that were chosen and ordained by God – Adam and Eve.

1. vv 1-7 – Because of Sin they drifted into Self-Protection. **SLIDES 2-3**

a. v 7 – They covered themselves.

b. They acted in an unnatural way - contrary to the way God intended.

c. Baggage causes us to go into self-protection because of shame, guilt, any number of things because of past experiences.

WE ACT AND REACT OUT OF THIS BAGGAGE.

2. v 8 – Baggage makes us hide. **SLIDE 4** - They hid themselves.

3. v 10 – Baggage makes us afraid.

a. Why are we afraid?

- We’re naked – vulnerable – out in the open. We’ve been hurt and we do not want to be hurt again.

- We do not want to be seen for what is there. We do not want the truth to be known.

- That’s why we cover it up.

b. So we hide our emotions behind other emotions

- We may hide the hurt with laughter.

- We may hide the hurt with indifference.

- We may hide the hurt with aggression.

- We may hide the hurt with passiveness.
 - We hide hurt in so many different ways.
- c. We hide by going into an emotional or physical corner or a cave and shut the door. Because of whatever reason we hide, it causes:
- Depression.
 - Despair.
 - Disengagement.
- d. We become overly protective of ourselves or of what is close to us that we do not want to be taken from us in any way.
4. vv 12-13 Baggage causes us to blame others. **SLIDE 5**
- a. We blame a person, a thing, an instance for what has happened.
 - b. We say – I am this way because of that.
 - c. In truth – I am this way because I choose to remain this way.
 - d. Why? BAGGAGE. === UNPACK IT.
5. vv 14-19 Baggage has its consequences.
- a. vv 14-15 – Consequence of the Tempter **SLIDE 6**
 - b. vv 16-19 – Consequence of the Tempted because of their Choice
 - **SLIDE 7** v 16 – Woman – multiply sorrow:
 - Pain in giving birth
 - Desire shall be for your husband
 - He will rule over you == “Wives submit to your husband for he is the head”
 - **SLIDE 8** vv 17-19 – Adam the man – because of your choice:
 - Ground is cursed – v 17
 - You will work – 17
 - You will have hardship – v 18
 - The work will be hard – v 19
 - Your body is cursed – v 19
- D. What is God’s choice? **SLIDE 9**
1. God wants to care for us. – v 21
 2. God cannot tolerate sin. – vv 22-23
 3. God must judge sin. – v 24
 4. God provided the sacrifice for Sin
 - a. v 15 **SLIDE 10**
 - b. Eph. 5:22-24 **SLIDE 11**
 5. Unpack the baggage – example of suitcase on the altar with **SLIDES 12-15**

Conclusion

What is your choice?

Will you receive Christ by calling upon Him to be your Lord to arrange your life under His Lordship? Unpack to arrange your life under His authority.

Will you unpack your baggage to be able – to be free to be the wife, the husband, the person God has called you to be? Unpack to arrange your life to submit and love.

How do you unpack it? What God shows you whenever He shows you:

See it.

Confess it.

Release it – give it up.