

Ephesians: From Death to Life
Marriage: A Picture of the Gospel
Ephesians 5:22-33

We live in a selfish society, among selfish people who are seemingly becoming more and more narcissistic. This shift in the way we think about ourselves and our supposed inalienable rights to happiness has deeply affected our marriages and even the way we see marriage. We need to return to the understanding that marriage calls us to an entirely new and selfless life.

1. The gospel is revealed in wives that submit.
2. The gospel is revealed in husbands that love.
3. The gospel is revealed in marriages that last.

If we view the marriage relationship as an opportunity to excel in love, it doesn't matter how difficult the person is whom we are called to love; it doesn't matter even whether that love is returned. We can still excel at love. The love that we have for God and the love that we have for others are not two distinct loves, but two aspects of a total single love. We are not just to love God *and* our spouses. We are to love God *by* loving our spouses.

Reflection

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 again and consider the following questions: Have you been treating your marriage more like a contract or a covenant? What, if anything, would have to change in order for your marriage to display submission? What steps can you take this week to practice oneness in your marriage, keeping in mind that the opposite of oneness is selfishness?