

引言 INTRODUCTION

Let me begin with a question: who wants to have a blessed marriage? I am sure every couple hopes to live happily ever after their wedding ceremony. But why are there unsatisfied marriages? Why do some people who said “I do” to their partners later become “I don’t?” Problems arise when two persons differ in their expectations. I always caution future couples in pre-marital counseling that conflicts in marriage are common. After all, we are putting two sinners under the same roof. We are selfish in nature. I cannot tolerate another me if I am able to clone myself! No problem in a marriage is a problem in itself. The key is how to resolve disagreements. Marriage does not begin in a church or a court. It started in the Garden of Eden. God created Eve for Adam. Marriage is a holy union designed by God. He made everything for good intents. Something being misused or abused will not cancel out God’s original purpose. A distant relationship does not prove that marriage no longer works. God has a perfect solution for us. This message is for you, whether your current marriage is in smooth-sailing or is going through some rocky paths. This message is also for single people. God’s Word will prepare you for a fulfilling marriage in the future.

It may sound strange for Paul to bring up the topic of marriage after discussing our salvation and our new life in Christ. In the next chapter, Paul also gives us instructions on parenting and work relationship. To early Christians, church and family were two major venues of their daily life. Home was very often the center of their jobs too. It shows that Biblical truths are relevant inside and outside of the church. God will bless every aspect of our life if we follow His instructions. We can clearly see two general commands in this passage. One for the wives and the other one for the husbands.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 妻子：順服妳的丈夫 Wives: Submit to Your Husband

Paul says to the wives: submit to your husband. How? Verse 22 says: **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** Sisters: do you submit to the Lord? Do you do all that He asks you to do and avoid the things He disapproves? Submitting to your husband will be easier if you submit to the Lord. We mentioned last week that the Greek word for submission is a military term. It means arranging a troop under the supervision of a commanding officer. One person directs all the soldiers so that they will work together as a team. The Chinese word for submission has a double meaning of going along and agreeing from the heart. You can comply without consent. Some people call that a school, an office or a traffic light. But you can also consent without comply. You say yes but you keep delaying the actions. True submission must be a willful response coming from a willing heart. Submission is a hard lesson because it gives us negative pictures of manipulation, oppression and even slavery. Some wives may argue: “Aren’t men and women born equal? People call me boss at work.

I'm smarter and I make more money than my husband. He cannot even give birth to babies!" In the Bible, submission never means being inferior. It is an act of obedience to the order God has ordained. Paul says in verse 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.** No one will have question about the leadership of Jesus in the church. In the same way wives should submit to their husband because God assigns him as the head at home. With authority comes responsibilities. It was Eve who was tempted by the serpent when she and Adam ate the forbidden fruit. But God held Adam accountable for the sin because Adam was the head. He was supposed to help Eve obey God's command. By submitting to your husband, you acknowledge his leadership role in the family. When my sons were small, there were times when my wife disagreed with my decisions. But she would maintain: "Whatever dad says, that is the final answer." Then she would explain to me why I made some dumb mistakes when our kids were not present. Besides, what is the scope of submission? Paul gives us the answer in verse 24: **...wives should submit in everything to their husbands.** It means everything except those things that God forbids. Wives should say no if their husband asks them to lie, cheat and steal. But what if a non-believing husband does not allow his wife to go to church? It takes a lot of wisdom, patience and prayer to deal with that situation. Apostle Peter gives us some good advice in 1 Peter 3:1-2 – **1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.** At the end of the previous chapter, Peter tells us Jesus' model of submission. Our Lord willingly submitted to the rulers of the land and endured suffering because He submitted to the Father's will. Since Jesus submitted to the hands of non-believers, "likewise" wives should submit to their non-believing husbands. In doing so, they may win the souls of their husbands by their godly attitude and conduct. Their testimonies at home show that God is real and He lives in them.

2. 丈夫：愛護你的妻子 Husbands: Love Your Wife

After giving instructions to the wives, now Paul turns to the husband. His command to the husbands is simply: love your wife. Paul helps us understand it by using two comparisons. First, he says in verse 25: **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.** Jesus demonstrated His love for the church by sacrificing Himself. The Lord gave up His glory and became a man. He gave up His privilege to serve people. He gave up His dignity and suffered shame and pain on our behalf. Eventually, He gave up His life to save us. Jesus sacrificed everything for the church to achieve certain goals. Continue to read verses 26-27: **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 things, that she might be holy and without blemish.** We see some words in these two verses that are commonly used in the Old Testament rituals. The priests and all the utensils have to go through a cleansing process. The animals to be sacrificed must be healthy. Everything is presented to God as gifts. He deserves the best of us. Paul points out that God's Word is the agent of cleansing. The Bible is God's truth. It is the only means to preserve the church so that believers will stay pure in a fallen world. Such cleansing has the ultimate purpose of preparing the church like a charming bride, ready for the wedding

day. Secondly, husbands should love their wife like their own body. Look at verses 28-29: **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.** The two words nourishes and cherishes in verse 29 sum it all. Jesus continues to care for the church after saving souls. He did not just drop a Bible from heaven and said: “Here you go. You’re on your own from now on.” God sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. He gives us wisdom to understand the Bible. He empowers us to live out truths. He gives believers spiritual gifts to serve in the church. God loves us and He provides for all of our needs. The question for husbands is: how do you love your wife? Some husbands allow their wife to spend money to decorate herself. Ladies buy clothes, jewelry and handbags. They put makeup on their faces. They look good on the outside. But guys, do you help her furnish on the inside too? Do you encourage her to become more mature Christians? Do you motivate her to read the Bible and serve in the church? Jesus sacrificed everything for the church. Perhaps you let your wife spend money the way she wishes. Do you sacrifice your time for her too? Do you help her prepare dinner when both of you are tired after a day’s work? Do you volunteer to wash dishes or do laundry? Will you get up in the middle of the night when little kids call for mommy? Will you watch your kids and allow her to spend time with her friends? Do you praise her in front of your kids? There are two questions no wife will get tired of hearing. First: how may I help? Second: how can I love you more? Pay attention to her answers and do accordingly. Prove by actions that you are a loving husband.

3. 夫妻：明白神的心意 Couples: Know God’s Intent

Paul has not finished after giving instructions to the wives and husbands. He also reminds them to know God’s intent in marriage. It is not only a matter between two persons or two families. There is a deeper spiritual meaning in this union. Read verses 31-32: **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.** Verse 31 is from Genesis 2:24. God gave the command to Adam and all the men. God created Eve by pulling a rib from Adam. Guys: you do not need to feel your chest. There is no missing bone! The process pictures the closeness between the two persons. God reunited Adam and Eve in one body through marriage. God is doing the same thing in every marriage. Couples enjoy intimacy in their bodies, minds and souls. Paul goes on and says that such union reflects a mystery of God. The apostle uses the word “mystery” in chapter 3 to describe God’s plan to put Jews and Gentiles into one church body. No one could have imagined that those two people groups can call each other brothers and sisters in the Lord. Here, another mystery of God is revealed through marriage. The union of a man and a woman points to the union of Christ and the church. An imperfect and short-term relationship foretells a perfect and eternal relationship. The point is that if the appetizers are so good already, then the rest of the meal will be even better. Revelation 19:7 tells us that there will be a future wedding feast in heaven. The passage says: **Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.** The Lamb is Jesus Christ, and His Bride will be with all the believers throughout history. The whole church will be ushered into glory when Christ returns. There will be a

huge party and a wonderful celebration in heaven. If you think the wedding of certain celebrities and royalty are extravagant, you have not seen anything yet! The first Adam in Genesis married Eve. The last Adam, Lord Jesus, will unite with His church. It is not a polygamy where Jesus gets multiple wives. It is about our closeness with the Lord. Though Jesus lives in us now, sometimes we do not feel His presence. In eternity, Jesus will be His followers forever. They will also have a much deeper understanding of Him. We need to know God's intent if we want to have a fulfilling marriage. The world tells men to find a super-model, the best cook, a capable maid and a baby-making machine. And ladies should look for the most handsome money-copier and a muscular handyman. People get upset when beauty fades away, machines malfunction and even go on-strike. We need to get married for the right reasons. Christian marriage is a testimony of God's mystery. Non-believers will be amazed to see how close two persons can be. They humble before each other. They accept the short-comings of the other person. They forgive instead of holding grudges. They admit their own mistakes without any pride. Your marriage has a gospel effect. It should portray an unconditional love that can only come from Jesus. People will no longer center on their own needs when they model after Jesus' love. Instead, their focus is on their spouse and ultimately on God. It is not an ideal. It is the only kind of marriage that God intends it to be.

結論 CONCLUSION

Both the husband and the wife must go back to God's initial design to guarantee a successful marriage. Marriage is not just a human institution. It is more than a license that allows opposite genders to live together. It is the closest human relationship God ordains. It is commitment between two persons, and their commitment to God. Floyd and Margaret's marriage is a beautiful example. They were high school sweethearts. They led a simple life in their cattle farm soon after they were married. The couple was inseparable. They were married for 68 years. When Margaret had Alzheimer's disease and Floyd's knees began to bother him, the two would work together to push the lawn mower. Floyd once said that he dedicated his life to two persons he loved – Jesus and Margaret. This couple was blessed with four children, 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Their population keeps growing. Family members have a serious concern as their parents got into their golden years. They wonder how one spouse could survive when the other person passed away. God took their worries away in a special way. In October 2013, the couple died together in a car accident. When the police went to the scene, they found Floyd and Margaret holding their hands. One of their sons later commented: "I'm dumbfounded. I think the world wants the kind of love they had and has no idea how to have it." As Christians, we surely know where that love came from. If we want to have a blessed marriage we must put God's blueprint into practice. Will you ask God for grace to overcome your shortcomings? Will you ask Him for courage to repent to your spouse the mistakes you make? Will you say to each other: from now on it is not my way or your way; it has to be God's way?

引言 INTRODUCTION

讓我先問大家一個問題：誰想要擁有美滿的婚姻？相信每對新人都希望在婚禮結束後能夠過著快樂的生活。但為什麼會有不滿意的婚姻呢？為什麼有些人先前對伴侶說「我願意」，後來卻變成「我不願意」呢？當兩個人有不同的期望時，問題就會出現。我在做婚前輔導時總會提醒未來的夫婦，婚姻中的衝突是很常見的。畢竟，我們把兩個罪人放在同一個屋簷下。人的本性是自私的。如果我能夠複製自己，我也無法忍受另一個我！婚姻中沒有問題本身就是問題。關鍵是如何解決分歧。婚姻不是在教會或法庭開始的。婚姻是從伊甸園開始的。神為亞當創造了夏娃。婚姻是神設計的神聖結合。神所做的一切都有祂的美意。一件東西被誤用或濫用並不會取消神最初的目的。疏遠的關係並不能證明婚姻已經失去功效。神為我們提供了完美的解決方案。無論你目前的婚姻是在順境還是逆境，這篇信息是送給你的。這篇講道也適用於單身人士。神的話語會幫助你為未來美滿的婚姻做好準備。

保羅在講完我們的救恩和在基督裡的新生命之後提出婚姻的話題，這聽起來可能很奇怪。在下一章中，保羅也告訴我們有關教養子女和工作的指示。對早期基督徒來說，教會和家庭是他們日常生活的兩個主要場所。家也常常是他們工作的中心。這就顯示聖經真理在教會內外都是合用的。如果我們聽從神的指示，祂就會祝福我們生活的各個層面。我們可以在這段經文中清楚地看到兩個命令。一個是給妻子，另一個是給丈夫的。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 妻子：順服妳的丈夫 Wives: Submit to Your Husband

保羅對妻子們說：要順服妳們的丈夫。她們該如何順服？第 22 節說：**你們作妻子的，當順服自己的丈夫，如同順服主**。姐妹們：妳順服主嗎？妳是否做了主要求你做的一切，並避免祂不允許的事情？如果妳願意順服主，那麼順服丈夫便會比較容易。上週我們提到，希臘文的「順服」這個字是一個軍事用語。意思是在指揮官的監督下排列部隊。一個人指揮所有士兵，使他們在團隊中一起做事。中文的「順服」有「順著去做」和「從心裡服從」的雙重意思。你可以順但卻不服。有人叫那個東西作學校、辦公室或紅綠燈。但你也可以服卻不順。你口頭上答應了，但卻一直沒有行動。真正的順服必須是甘心樂意地以行

動回應。順服是一個難學的功課，因為它讓我們想到操縱、壓迫甚至奴役等負面形象。有些妻子可能會說：「男女不是平等的嗎？人們在工作場所稱呼我做老闆。我比我先生更聰明，賺錢也更多。他連孩子都不會生！」在聖經中，順服不是意味著低人一等。順服乃是同意神所命定的秩序的回應。保羅在第 23 節說：因為丈夫是妻子的頭，如同基督是教會的頭；他又是教會全體的救主。沒有人會對耶穌在教會中的領導地位有疑問。同樣，妻子也應該順服丈夫，因為神指定他為一家之主。權柄伴隨著責任。當初亞當和夏娃吃了禁果，是因為夏娃受到蛇的引誘。但神卻找亞當算帳，因為亞當是頭。他應該幫助夏娃遵守神的命令。透過順服妳的丈夫，妳承認他在家庭中的領導角色。當我的兒子們還小的時候，我的太太有時候不同意我的決定。但她仍然會說：「無論爸爸說什麼，那就是最終的答案。」然後她會趁孩子不在場時向我解釋為什麼我做了笨事。另外，順服的範圍在哪裡？保羅在第 24 節告訴我們答案：...妻子也要怎樣凡事順服丈夫。含義是除了神禁止的事情之外，其他一切事情都應該順服。如果丈夫要求妻子撒謊、欺騙和偷竊，妻子便應該拒絕順服。但如果不信的丈夫不允許妻子去教會怎麼辦？處理這種情況需要很多智慧、耐心和禱告。使徒彼得在彼得前書 3:1-2 給了我們一些好的建議：1 你們作妻子的要順服自己的丈夫；這樣，若有不信從道理的丈夫，他們雖然不聽道，也可以因妻子的品行被感化過來；2 這正是因看見你們有貞潔的品行和敬畏的心。在上一章的結尾，彼得告訴我們耶穌順服的榜樣。主甘心順服地上的統治者並忍受苦難，因為祂順服了天父的旨意。既然耶穌順服非信徒，妻子也應該順服他們不信的丈夫。當她們這樣做之時，她們敬虔的態度和行為便可能贏得丈夫的靈魂。他們在家中的見證顯明神是真實的，並且神住在她們的心裡。

2. 丈夫：愛護你的妻子 Husbands: Love Your Wife

在給妻子們指示之後，保羅現在轉向丈夫。他對丈夫們的命令很簡單：愛護你的妻子。保羅透過兩個比較來幫助我們理解這個道理。首先，他在第 25 節說：你們作丈夫的，要愛你們的妻子，正如基督愛教會，為教會捨己。耶穌透過犧牲自己來表達祂對教會的愛。主放棄了自己的榮耀，成為了人。祂放棄了部份的特權來服事人。祂放棄了自己的尊嚴，為我們承受了恥辱和痛苦。最終，祂捨棄了自己的生命來拯救我們。耶穌為教會犧牲了一切以實現一些目標。請繼續讀第 26 至 27 節：26 要用水藉著道把教會洗淨，成為聖潔，27 可以獻給自己，作個榮耀的教會，毫無玷污、皺紋等類的病，乃是聖潔沒有瑕疵的。我們從這兩節經文中看到舊約禮儀中常見的幾個用詞。祭司和所有器具都必須先被潔淨。被獻上的動物必須是健全的。一切都作為禮物獻給神。祂配得我們最好的。保羅指出神的話是潔淨的工具。聖經是神的真理。它是保護教會，並使信徒在敗壞的世界中保持純潔的唯一方法。這種潔淨的最終目的是讓教會像

一個漂亮的新娘一樣為婚禮做好準備。其次，丈夫應該愛妻子如同愛護自己的身體。請看 28-29 節：**28 丈夫也當照樣愛妻子，如同愛自己的身子；愛妻子便是愛自己了。29 從來沒有人恨惡自己的身子，總是保養顧惜，正像基督待教會一樣。**第 29 節的保養和顧惜兩個字總結了整體意思。耶穌拯救靈魂後繼續關心教會的需要。祂不是從天上掉下一本聖經然後說：「這是給你的。從現在開始你就得靠自己了。」神差遣聖靈住在我們裡面。祂賜給我們智慧來理解聖經。祂賜給我們能力實踐真理。祂賜給信徒屬靈恩賜，讓他們在教會中服事。神愛我們，祂供應我們所有的需要。請問丈夫們：你如何愛你的妻子？有些丈夫允許妻子花錢裝扮自己。女士們買衣服、手飾和手袋。她們在臉上化妝。她們的外表看起來很好。但是弟兄們，你有沒有幫助她佈置她的裡面呢？你鼓勵她成為更成熟的基督徒嗎？你鼓勵她讀聖經並在教會服事嗎？耶穌為教會犧牲了一切。也許你讓妻子隨意花錢。你有為她犧牲自己的時間嗎？當兩個人工作一整天都累壞了的時候，你會幫她準備晚餐嗎？你會自願洗碗或洗衣服嗎？當小孩半夜喊媽媽時，你會在起床嗎？你願意照顧孩子，讓她與朋友相聚嗎？你會在孩子面前稱讚她嗎？有兩個問題是任何妻子都不會厭倦的。第一：有什麼需要幫忙的嗎？第二：我可以怎樣更愛妳？聽到答案之後便照著去做。用行動證明你是一個愛護她的丈夫。

3. 夫妻：明白神的心意 Couples: Know God's Intent

保羅還沒有講完對妻子和丈夫的指示。他進一步提醒他們要明白神對婚姻的心意。這不僅僅是兩個人或兩個家庭之間的事情。這個結合有更深層的屬靈意義。請讀第 31-32 節：**31 為這個緣故，人要離開父母，與妻子連合，二人成為一體。32 這是極大的奧秘，但我是指著基督和教會說的。**第 31 節引用自創世記 2:24。神向亞當和所有男人發出了命令。神從亞當身上取出一根肋骨創造了夏娃。男士們：你不需要摸你的胸口，你沒有缺少骨頭！這個過程描繪了兩個人之間的親密關係。神透過婚姻使亞當和夏娃重新結合為一個身體。神在每一段婚姻中都在做同樣的事情。夫妻在身體、情感和靈魂上都享受親密的關係。保羅接著說，這種連合反映出神的奧秘。他曾經在第 3 章中使用「奧秘」這個字來形容神將猶太人和外邦人歸為一個教會的計劃。誰也沒有想到，這兩個民族能夠在主裡稱對方為弟兄姐妹。在這裡，神透過婚姻揭示另一個奧秘。夫妻的結合指向基督與教會的連合。一段不完全和短暫的關係預告另一份完美和永恆的關係。就像如果開胃菜已經很好吃，那麼接下來的大餐就一定更棒了。啟示錄 19:7 告訴我們，將來在天上會有一場婚宴。經文說：**我們要歡喜快樂，將榮耀歸給他。因為，羔羊婚娶的時候到了；新婦也自己預備好了。**羔羊就是耶穌基督，祂的新婦就是歷史上所有的信徒。當基督再來時，整個教會將被帶進榮耀裡。天上會有一場盛大的宴會和精彩的慶祝活動。如果你認為某些名人和

皇室成員的婚禮很隆重，那麼到時候你肯定是歎為觀止！創世記中的第一個亞當娶了夏娃。最後的亞當，主耶穌，將與教會結合。耶穌並不是要娶很多老婆。那個婚禮是形容我們與主的親近程度。雖然耶穌現在住在我們裡面，但有時我們感覺不到祂的接近。在永恆裡，耶穌將永遠與跟隨祂的人同在。他們也會對主有更深入的认识。如果我們想要擁有美滿的婚姻，我們需要明白神的心意。世界告訴男士們要找一個超級模特兒、最好的廚師、能幹的女傭和一台生孩子的機器。女士們應該尋找最英俊的鈔票影印機和滿身肌肉的修理工人。當外表褪色、機器故障甚至罷工時，人們便感到失望。我們需要根據正確的理由結婚。基督徒的婚姻是見證神的奧秘。非信徒會驚訝地發現兩個人可以如此親近。他們彼此謙卑。他們接納對方的缺點。他們寬恕而不是記恨。他們承認自己的錯誤，卻沒有抓住自己的面子。你的婚姻有福音的果效。它應該反映出只能來自耶穌的無條件的愛。當人們效法耶穌的愛時，他們將不再自我中心。他們的焦點是自己的配偶，最終是神。這不是一個理想的狀態，乃是神所期望的唯一婚姻的樣式。

結論 CONCLUSION

丈夫和妻子都必須回到神最初的設計，才能確保婚姻幸福。婚姻不只是人間的制度。它不只是允許異性同居的許可證。那是神所命定最親密的人際關係。那是兩個人之間的承諾，也是他們對神的承諾。佛洛伊德 (Floyd) 和瑪格麗特 (Margaret) 的婚姻就是一個很美麗的例子。他們是高中情人。結婚後不久，他們就在自己的牛場過著簡樸的生活。夫婦兩人形影不離。他們結婚共 68 年。當瑪格麗特患有阿茲海默症 (Alzheimer's disease)、佛洛伊德的膝蓋開始不聽話時，兩人會一起推剪草機。佛洛伊德曾經說過，他一生只委身給兩個他所愛的人：耶穌和瑪格麗特。這對夫婦有 4 個孩子、11 個孫子、24 個曾孫和 1 個玄孫。他們家族的人口不斷增加。隨著父母進入黃金歲月，家人非常擔心。他們懷疑當其中一個人去世時，另外一個人如何生存。神以一種特別的方式消除了他們的憂慮。2013 年 10 月，夫妻二人在車禍中同時過世。當警察來到現場時，他們發現兩夫婦手牽著手。他們的一個兒子後來說：「實在令人難以置信。這個世界想要他們擁有的那種愛，但不知道到那裡找。」身為基督徒，我們當然知道這份愛從何而來。如果我們想要擁有幸福的婚姻，我們就必須將神的藍圖付諸行動。你願意祈求神賜給你恩典來克服你的缺點嗎？你會祈求祂給你勇氣向你的配偶承認你的錯誤嗎？你們願意對彼此說：從現在起，這不是我的方式，也不是你們的方式；我們必須要跟隨神的方式嗎？