



“The Great Mystery”

September 13, 2026 | Text: Ephesians 5:22–33

Big Idea: God made marriage to preach: to put on display the sacrificial love of Christ for His bride, and the glad reverence of His bride for Him.

1. The Wife Displays the Church (vv. 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.

2. The Husband Displays Christ (vv. 25–30).

[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.

3. The One Flesh Displays the Gospel (vv. 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.

Application:

1. Remember your marriage is always preaching. What does it say about Christ?
2. Husbands, lead by loving and dying, not by demanding.
3. Husbands, nourish and cherish her; make your love unmistakable.
4. Wives, give glad, Christ-honoring respect he can actually experience.
5. Stop asking your spouse to be the savior only Christ can be.
6. In a hard marriage, go first; do not wait for your spouse to obey.
7. Single or suffering, rest in the reality the picture points to: you belong to the Bridegroom.

Next week’s sermon text: Ephesians 6:1-4

If you were to share a key insight from today’s sermon with a friend, what would you say in a sentence or two?

Application Questions: What is my marriage preaching to the people who watch it, a true sentence about Christ, or a lie? Husbands, does my wife feel safe in my strength, or braced against it? Is she flourishing under my leadership, or merely surviving it? Can I name one thing I am actually sacrificing for her good? Wives, does my husband experience my respect, or only hear my corrections? Am I asking my spouse to carry a weight that belongs to God alone? Where am I waiting for my spouse to obey before I will? And if I am single or suffering, am I resting in the reality the picture points to, that in Christ I already belong to the Bridegroom?

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