

# The Divine Dance of Love and Respect

## Blueprint Family

**Ephesians 5:20-33**

If you have your bibles, go to Ephesians chapter 5. We are in a little mini-series called 'Blueprint Family.' We are going to take the next several weeks and talk about the family. This morning and next week, we are going to talk about the husband-wife relationship. Speaking of wife, me and my wife got to go on a little retreat a couple of weeks ago. We went down to Chattanooga, and had just a great couple of days. We left the kids at home with my parents and her parents, and we got to get away, just us two. We got to do things we don't normally do, like we ate brunch at like 11:00. We kind of just hung out, did our own things. We were only responsible for only ourselves, so we found ourselves eating dinner later than normal because if you have small kids, you eat dinner about 5:30. We were like adult, going out to dinner at 7:00. But after dinner, we were quick to go back to the place that we stayed. The reason we were quick to go back there is that was during the Olympics. For me and my wife, we live the Olympics. We love all the events in the Olympics, and for me, especially snowboarding, and snowboarding was highlighted that week so we wanted to get back and watch the Olympics. We usually can agree on all the Olympic sports, except ice-skating. My wife loves ice-skating. She loves to watch ice-skating. Ice-skating is the one event that I really wish just wasn't at the Olympics. I would rather watch curling than ice-skating. But here we are watching ice-skating. So I'm with my wife, we're watching ice-skating, we're watching the girls do their ice-skating, we're watching the guys do their ice-skating routine. It's just not doing it for me, like I'm watching it, but yeah; I mean they're doing some neat things. But then, as we're watching ice-skating together, it comes to the couple's part. It comes

where they're about to do these dances together, these performances together, both the guy and the girl, and they're doing these dances together. As I'm watching the screen, I become mesmerized because there's something about watching ice-skating when you see a guy and a girl who are together, not competing with one another, but really completing one another. Ice-skating is one of those things where you see this masculinity and femininity at work with each other. One is leading, one is following, one in strength is throwing, and the other one in grace and beauty is twirling. You see this dance as they go together, as they're completing one another, not competing against each other. As they do this, you see something beautiful, something spectacular, something that those two could not do on the individual level. But together, as they are completing each other, as they are showing off one another, what you see is something greater than themselves. You see this dance that is mesmerizing. I love when you hear the interviews of these couples. They would often tell the music behind what we were doing is actually telling this story. They would talk about what their dance was actually doing, what it was telling. Even the story was even bigger than the couple themselves.

You know, I think about what Paul is going to do in Ephesians chapter 5 is he is going to tell us that what husbands and wives get to do is they get to participate in this divine dance together. Not competing against one another, but instead, completing one another. And as they do so, they are actually telling a story that is greater than themselves. In this divine dance, they get to tell the story of Jesus Christ and His church. That is what we are going to look at this morning. So if you have your bibles, go to Ephesians chapter 5. We are going to talk about this divine dance of love and respect. Here is what we see in Ephesians chapter 5. If you would stand out of reverence for the Word of God, we are going to begin reading in verse 20. Here is what it says.

### **Scripture**

***"... giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as***

***to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."***

(Prayer)

Father God, we pray that you would help us to see this divine dance that you have ordained, this dance of love and respect that happens between a husband and a wife. And as they live that out, they get to show something greater than themselves, and that is the picture of Jesus Christ and His bride, the church. We pray this in Jesus good name, amen.

Before we move on any further, I just want to give a big warning statement when it comes to this passage. Because this morning, we are primarily going to be talking about the wives, and I just want to say that this passage is not safe for social media. I mean this passage is not safe to post anywhere. I mean just imagine if the Apostle Paul had a Twitter account and he just tweeting this morning, "Wives, submit to your own husbands." He's not going to get a lot of thumbs up. He's not going to get a lot of likes. He's not going to get a lot of retweets. If he just posted on Facebook, "Hey, wives, you need to submit to your own husbands." I can

just imagine that the angry mob is going to come for the Apostle Paul, because these principles today, they are mocked, they are marginalized; they are yelled at as antiquated and dated. I mean these are not popular concepts today in our culture, the idea of wives submitting to their own husbands. But yet, in the Kingdom of Christ, these are beautiful. These are precious. So what we have to do right off the bat is decide for yourselves as husbands and wives, you have to decide am I going to live my marriage under the lordship of Christ, or am I going to live my marriage the way I think it should go. I mean that is sort of the decision that we have to make.

You know, one of the things that I get to do a lot is to talk to young children who are in the process of salvation, and they've made a profession of faith. I'll have the parents bring them into my office and I get to talk to them and try to feel them out whether or not this is a genuine profession of faith. As I get to talk to a child, sometimes eight, nine, ten, eleven, I get to talk about what it means for Jesus to be Lord. As I begin to explain that, I begin to tell that, here's what it means for Jesus to be Lord; it means He's your boss. He's your master. He rules over you. You live your life under His authority, that when you begin a believer, your life ends; meaning, you don't have control over it anymore, and now, you're living under the lordship of Jesus. I get to explain to kids, that's what lordship means.

But sometimes I think as adults we forget that. Sometimes as adults, we've come to the Lord Jesus, we've believed in Him, but then yet, what we do is we come to the Bible and we say, yeah, I like this passage, I'm going to do that. But then we come to other verses and we say, wives submit to your own husbands...yeah, I don't really like that one, so I'm going to throw that out. I'm not going to abide by that one. But what it means to be under the lordship of Christ is you come to His Word and you say I am going to obey. Why? Because Jesus is my Lord. He's my master. He's the boss, and I'm going to follow His good Word, even when I might not agree with it or I might not think it's the best. I'm going to realize that my ways and my thoughts are often not correct. But Jesus has perfect leadership over me. He loves me and He actually knows what's best for me, so I'm going to

listen and believe my Savior rather than myself. So when it comes to husbands and wives, this marriage that we're going to talk about, it has to start, the very starting point, is under the lordship of Jesus Christ. We have to say you know what, I'm going to do marriage the way that Jesus tells me because I love Him and I believe He knows what's best for me. Paul is writing to an Ephesian culture that is all about just do what you want. Just do what feels good, sort of like our culture. But Paul is saying no, in the Kingdom of Christ, we obey what the Lord Jesus says because He actually knows better than we do.

So as we think about husband and wife, I want to look at the 'what' and the 'how,' just for a moment. So we think about the 'what' and the 'how,' we think about these roles that God has given us in marriage. So for the wife, we see that this identity marker is you are the body in this relationship. As the body, you're representing the church. Here's what you get to do, you get to submit and respect your own husband. So, that's kind of the 'what' and 'how.' That's your role, that's your identity; that's what you get to do. Now, husband, here is your role; you are the head of this relationship. You're representing the Lord Jesus Christ, and you lead and love your own wife. So that's the 'how' and the 'what.' That's the roles. But before we really dive into those this week and then next week, I want us to ask the question why. Why should we do this? What should a wife submit and respect? Why should a husband lead and love? Why do we do this? Simon Sinek wrote a book, 'Start with Why.' He's writing it to corporations, but it applies to marriage. Start with why. If you start with the reason why and you understand the reason why, it's going to help in the 'how' and the 'what.' So the first question I want to ask is why in the world should we submit and respect, and why should we love and lead. Why should we do these things?

Paul is going to take us to two places in this text. He's going to take us back to a garden, then he's going to take us to a future city. And in both of these pictures, he's going to tell us the 'why.' Here's why, wives, you should submit and respect. Here's why, husbands, you should love and lead. He goes back to a garden, and then he goes to a future city. We're going to see back in the garden is that marriage is actually God's doing. It's

something that God did. We didn't come up with this, we didn't invent this, God actually did marriage, and He did it for a reason. So how do I know he goes back to a garden? Because as he's telling husbands and wives what they should do, as he's explaining marriage, he's explained how Christ came, how Christ loves the church, he goes into this in verse 30. He says, "Because we are members of His body," and then he makes a quote. He goes back to the Old Testament, he quotes Genesis chapter 2, and here is what he says, "'Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying it refers to Christ and the church." So here, Paul goes back to a garden. He goes back to Adam and Eve. He says remember what happened in the garden; God created the man and He created a woman and He brought the two together. He told them, here's the deal; you're going to leave, you're going to cleave, and you're going to become one. That's called marriage. Now Paul says there was a reason God did marriage in the garden, and he says now I'm going to give you that reason. There was a mystery. There was something hidden in the garden that people didn't quite know yet. And here's the profound mystery of marriage that it refers to Christ and the church, that your marriage points to Jesus Christ and the church. If you are in a marriage relationship right now, your marriage points to, it refers to, it's about, not primarily you and your spouse; it's about primarily the glory of Christ. It's primarily about the gospel. So he goes back, so why should you fulfill these roles? Because marriage is about the gospel, and through these roles as you respond and love, as you lead and respect, through these roles you are displaying something. You're putting a picture on display for the world to see, and that is the picture of Jesus Christ and His bride, the church. So he goes back to a garden.

But I noticed something this week in study that I hadn't put together before. In this text, I think he not only goes to a garden, but he also goes to a future city. Now how do I know that he goes to a future city? Well, as he's talking about Jesus, and what Jesus does in pursuing His bride, the church, how He is sanctifying her, giving His life for her, he tells us the reason in verse 27, "So that He, being Jesus, might present the church to Himself in splendor without spot or wrinkle or any such thing." Why is

Jesus doing what He's doing to His bride, the church? Why is He given His life for her? Why is He sanctifying her? Why is He washing her with the Word? Because He's going to present her to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. So I just want to ask, when does that happen? When does that presenting of the bride happen? It's a future event that is to come. In other words, there is a wedding day that is coming in the future. And I just want to read just one of the places in Revelation that it talks about, and it talks about it multiple times. But here's what it says in Revelation 19:6-8, ""Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 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." You see, the garden talked about marriage as God's doing, but there's a city that's telling us that marriage is actually ultimately about God's glory. There's going to be a day where we're going to see the perfect wedding to come, where the church will be presented to Jesus Christ as a bride in splendor. And as that's happening, we're going to say hallelujah, and we're going to give glory to God. This last wedding will glorify God as it shows this relationship Jesus Christ has with the church. So he goes back to a garden, but he also goes to a future wedding day.

Do you know what I've just noticed? Most girls long for a perfect wedding day. I mean, most girls want a perfect wedding day. It starts with a calendar, getting the exact right date. And then there's actually big business in marriage. There are bridal magazines. Then there are people who are professional wedding planners. And it starts with the perfect dress, then the perfect bridesmaids dresses. Then there's the perfect cake, and the perfect decorations, and the perfect flowers, and the perfect venue. It takes months and months and months. Why? Because most girls dream about a perfect wedding.

You know, one of my favorite weddings that I went to almost got ruined. We were in Louisville, and we went to our friends, Melony and Alex Duke. And we are at their wedding, and it was beautiful. I mean, the venue was stunning. They are outside of Louisville, and there are horse farms, big houses, and manicured lawns. It set up this outdoor wedding and everything is to the tee, and it's just beautiful. About the time it's for

Melony to walk down the aisle, it begins raining, not just raining, but pouring down rain. Raining so hard that all the guests are wondering, do we need to leave, do we need to stay? We're having umbrellas over our head; we're having coats over different people, like we're trying to survive this. Then you look up at this bride and the groom, and the guy begins to play the guitar in pouring down rain, and here Melony comes with nothing over her, she just walks out in the pouring down rain. And here is Alex in pouring down rain. They are before each other, giving their vows, you can't even hear what's going on because the rain is so hard, but it was beautiful. Here in the midst of what should have been a perfect wedding that has been ruined by rain and mess, but in the midst of all of this, you can still see this beauty as the rain came down.

So I just want to ask the question, why do most ladies long for a perfect wedding? I think it's because of what Paul says here. The reason you have a heart that longs for a perfect wedding is because you were made for a perfect wedding. But it's not your wedding right now; it is your wedding day that is to come. See, as a young lady you want this perfect wedding. Why? Because in your heart, you know there is a perfect wedding coming, not only a perfect wedding, but there's a perfect marriage that is to come where it's only going to be sunny all the time. And that is the marriage of Jesus Christ and His bride, the church.

So here's what you get to do right now. Right now, in your very imperfect marriage, you get to point people to the perfect marriage that is to come. That's what you get to do! In your marriage, when the rain is pouring down and things aren't going the way you want them to go, or the way they should go, you get to constantly respect and follow your own husband to reflect there is a marriage coming that is perfect, that is without sin, and it's the marriage of the bride with the Lamb. You get to point people to that. In your very imperfect marriage, you're pointing people to the perfect marriage that is to come in a city.

So Paul, the 'why'--why do marriage this way? Why do marriage with love and respect? Because in the garden, God did it, and in the city, it's all about His glory, and every marriage in between is ultimately about showing that picture of Jesus Christ and His church. There is something bigger than

your marriage! It's this divine dance of love and respect that doesn't just say look at us and how great we are, it says look at our Savior and how great He is. As you do marriage, that's what you get to show to the world, this beautiful, divine dance of love and respect.

That's why Paul, at the end of this passage on husbands and wives, he ends with two commands. Husbands, love your wives. Wives, respect your husbands. Two commands. He sort of simplifies it. You want me to sum it up, here's what it is, wives, respect your husbands; husbands, love your wives. Now why would he sum up marriage like this? Why would he give us these two commands? Because this is gospel language. This is gospel actions, love and respect are things you do in the context of the gospel, and ultimately, they show the glory of Christ and His church, His bride.

So, just think about these two things, love, and respect. There are two ways that you can go about loving and respecting. There are two ways that you can try to do this. The first way is through the law. The second way is through the gospel. So I just want to give the first way. The first way is through the law. Here's what the law does; the law says, if you're a husband, it says I will love you as my bride if you meet the requirements of my love. So when it comes to a husband, I'm going to love my wife if she's lovable, if she's doing everything right, if she's acting like I think she should act as a wife, if she's making me happy, if she's not making me mad. If she earns my love, I will give it to her. So it becomes law; if you obey, if you do what you should, I will give you my love as a payment. If you earn it, I will pay you with my love. If you don't earn it, I will withhold it and punish you. That's what the law does. Same things with wives; I will respect my husband if he meets my requirement for respect. In other words, I will respect him if he's respectable. If he earns my respect, I will give it to him as a paycheck. If he doesn't earn my respect, I will withhold it and punish him. That's what the law does. The law says if you obey, you will be loved, if you are respectable, you will be respected, if you do good enough, then the other person will give you what they should give you. But that's not at all how God loves us. God doesn't love us because we earn it. God doesn't love us because we're lovable. He loves us because He loves us. He loves us because who we are; we are His child. We are in a

relationship with Him. So the first way, law. If you're lovable, I'll love you. If you're respectable, I'll respect you. It becomes a transaction. If you do good enough, you'll get it. If you don't, I'll withhold it. It becomes this cycle of you never measure up. It's always performance, and you're always failing, and the other one's always, either punishing or rewarding. It's just this cycle that goes on and on in marriage, and we end up yelling at each other and competing against one another rather than completing one another and showing the glory of Christ.

So there's a second way to do love and respect, and that is through the gospel. So here's what the gospel says; I will love you because you are mine. Period. That's what a husband does when he loves his wife through the gospel. I will love you even when you're unlovable, even when you're getting on my nerves, even when you do everything wrong; I'm going to love you because my love is a gift. The same way Jesus gifted it to me; I'm going to gift it to you. My disposition towards you is love because you're my bride, and that's what I do, that's who you are. You are my love, so I'm going to give it, and I'm never going to withhold it. I'm not going to keep it as a punishment to you. I'm always going to love you because of who you are. You're my bride. And the same way with a wife, it says I will respect you because you are mine. Period. A wife that fulfills the gospel says I will respect my husband even when he is not respectable, even when he's not earning my respect, even when he's messing up, even when he's blowing it; I'm going to respect who he is. He is my husband, he is my head; I'm going to respect him as a free gift because God has given me a free gift in the gospel. What does this do? It doesn't make your marriage about performance; it makes your marriage about grace and gospel. You are continually loving and giving respect, not because they're earning it or deserving it, but because you've been given what you don't deserve, and now you can go and do the same. If you live marriage like this, it will fill both of you up and both of you will become the bride and groom that Christ intends you to be. You will stop beating each other, and competing against each other, but you will start completing each other in this divine dance of love and respect.

So now, let's talk to the ladies in particular. Then next week, we're going to talk to the husbands in particular. So wives, make sure you bring him back next week. Here's what we see. So because of the gospel and through the gospel, Paul is going to tell us to do this as wives, in verse 22: "Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands." So here's the command, wives, submit to your own husband. Submit, put yourself under, arrange yourself under; submit in all things. Why? Because he is your head. I just want to start with saying this; wives, you're not just doing something when you are submitting to your husband. You are actually showing something. You're not just doing something-I'm going to follow my husband-no, you're actually showing something and that is this; Jesus Christ is Lord. That's what you get to preach when you submit to your own husband. When you respect your husband, you're not just saying I'm going to do this because I'm supposed to. No, you are saying something, you're shouting something, and that is this: that Jesus Christ is my Lord, and in obeying Jesus and following Jesus, there's actually freedom and joy. That's something the world doesn't believe. The world doesn't believe that coming under someone's authority is freedom and joy. The world says for you to have freedom and joy, you've got to throw off all authority and all restraints; that's what freedom is. But the gospel says no, freedom comes under the lordship of Jesus Christ. You make Him Lord; you will be free. So as a woman, guess what you get to do. You get to show that in a flesh and blood way, in a way that people can tangibly see. It's good for Jesus to be Lord. Well, how do we know that? Because I am submitting and following and reverencing my own husband, and guess what, I am thriving under his good leadership over me. You get to actually do that, but you also get to show that, that Jesus Christ is Lord. Now just a disclaimer when it comes to wives, submit to your own husbands, this does not say women submit to men. This is not a, ok all ladies submit to all guys. It's not what he's saying. He doesn't say, females, submit to males. No, he says, wife, submit to your own husband. This isn't just a gender thing; this is a gender within marriage thing. He's given a specific order in the home for marriage. Why?

You are to submit to your own husband, not all men in general, but one man in particular, your own husband. Why? It's not just doing something; it's showing something. Jesus is Lord. Watch me; I'm the church. Watch him; he's representing Jesus. Watch how I interact with him and it's going to show you the glory of the relationship Jesus has with the church. You get to show something through this.

So I just want to think about what, exactly, does it mean to submit? That word is *hupotasso* in the Greek. It's actually a military term where you have troops that are coming under the command of a good leader. They're following orders. They're coming under command. It actually means to arrange or to put yourself under, to be subject to. So this is a, real practically, coming under the leadership of your husband as your head. You're respecting his position over you, and you're not wanting to throw it off, but you're actually wanting to thrive under it. That's what you get to do. Notice he doesn't say husbands, boss your wives. He doesn't say husbands, be domineering. No, he doesn't give us this command; he gives the wives this command. Wives submit to your husband, and he doesn't say husband, boss your wife; he says husband, give your life for your bride. He says husbands, love her like Jesus loved her. And He went to a cross for her. We're going to talk about that next week.

So you think about this submitting, it's to put yourself under, and I want to talk about what this doesn't mean. This idea of wives submitting to your husband doesn't mean that a wife is less than her husband, or that she's not as valuable as the husband. That's what a lot of people say, well if the wife has to submit it means she's less than, she's not competent, she's not capable. That's in no way true. We see that just in the trinity. Jesus Christ submitted to His heavenly Father. He was in a place of submission; the Father was leading in sending. He submitted to His Father's will for His life, but Jesus was not less than the Father. Jesus was fully God, just like the Father. The Bible is clear that husbands and wives are equal in value, dignity, and worth. They both bear the image of God. They're both co-inheritors of the Kingdom. They're co-heirs of the Kingdom to come. So it doesn't mean that you're less than in any way. No, the reason Paul gave is

because you're showing a picture, and that picture is the church's response to Christ.

So what is the motivation? What's the motivation, wives, for you to submit to your own husband? Well, Paul gives it. He says "wives, submit to your husband as to the Lord." That's your motivation. You're submitting to your husband as to the Lord. As you submit to your husband, your husband is actually standing in the shadow of a much taller and more handsome husband, and His name is Jesus Christ. He is your perfect husband, and as you submit to your husband, you're actually showing reverence for Christ. You're showing Jesus to be your good and perfect husband. This doesn't say submit to your own husbands as his competency level allows it, or because he's good enough, or he earns it, because he's smarter than you, because he can outthink you. None of those things is what Paul says. No, he says the reason you submit to your husband is as to the Lord, because you're showing something, you're displaying Christ for the world to see. So that's your motivation. Your motivation to submit is Jesus. It's not how great your husband is; it's Jesus. You get to respect and follow your husband because of Jesus. Jesus is the why. Jesus is your motivation in submitting to your own husband.

So, what about the actual ability to do this? What about the power to actually do this? In other words, if you are a wife and you are thinking there is no way I can do this. There's no way I can submit to my husband. What is the power? Paul actually tells us in the verses before. He addresses the women; he says, "Don't be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Holy Spirit." Then he gives this whole dialogue on husbands and wives, children and parents, employees and employers. It's all to be done being filled with the Holy Spirit. In other words, you can't do this on your own. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Last night we went over to Mom and Dad's house, they're cooking steaks for us, and it's an amazing time just hanging with them all day, and spending time with Mom and Dad. And I'm kind of studying a little bit towards the end of the night, and I've got Mom there and I say, "Mom, I'm preaching to the wives tomorrow and I'm a little nervous. I love stepping on the guys toes and telling them what they need to do, but I'm really

nervous at saying anything to the wives on how they should respect and submit to their husband. I'm just nervous about this. Do you have anything that I should say? Do you have any comments?" She said, "There's one thing you need to remind us as ladies, and that is we are all daughters of Eve." Then she began to tell what that meant. In Genesis 3, after the fall, after sin invaded the garden, God actually tells Eve here's the deal now; your desire is going to be for your husband, but he's going to rule over you. In other words, your desire is going to be to rule over him, to beat him, to compete with him. Your desire is going to be to take charge and rule. That's a result of the fall. That's a result of you're no longer going to want to complete him but you are going to want to beat him at every step of the way.

You know, I talked about that beautiful dance that happens at the Olympics, this dance of love and respect that happens even in this athletic event, where you have a man and a woman who are dancing, they're leading and doing this; they're perfectly completing one another. I could not help but notice the commercials in between. Because if you watch the Olympics, almost all of the commercials were set to how women should constantly try to beat all of the men. There was one little commercial where you had this little girl and she's skiing down a hill, and she runs into one of her idols. You have this other girl who is an Olympic skier, and she's signing her little card, and she signs it, "ABFTTB," always be faster than the boys. You have the whole commercial, this little girl, she's beating all the guys, whether it's in the classroom, whether it's down the hill, whatever it is she is beating all of the boys. At the end of it, now she is an Olympic athlete signing another little girl, passing the baton, always beat the boys, always be faster than the boys.

I just want to say to you ladies, this is the constant message of our culture. Your identity, and your value, is in how much you compete and beat men. That is your whole value. We take that into marriage. Your value is how much you rule, how much you beat him, no completing him. Here Paul would say the gospel is telling you a different story. The gospel says your value and identity is not in how much you beat him up, or how much you exploit, or how much you rule over him, but your value is in the Lord Jesus

Christ. In this beautiful dance of love and respect, you get to display for the world the beauty of the gospel. So it got a constant message in your flesh, you've got to beat them at all points. So you've got to walk in the Spirit, and the Spirit is going to say no, reverence him, respect him, follow him. Why? Because it's not about him, it's about Jesus Christ. It's about a marriage that is to come. It's about a garden event, it's about a city event in the future, and you get to be a part of that. You get to display that for the world to see.

So ladies, you've got to choose. Which one are you going to do? Are you going to follow the world, or are you going to follow the Lord Jesus Christ? Now just, if you're on the I'm going to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, I want to do this, I want to show this, I want to end very quickly with six practical ways to respect your husband; six ways in six minutes.

1. Honor his position as your head.

Don't resist it. Don't run against it. Instead, honor it and try to thrive under it. I love how my little Evie Kate will go into Katie's bathroom as she's getting ready and she's watching her mommy put on makeup. Evie Kate is trying to put makeup on her face as well. And I've noticed, ladies; you honor, you love your face, you arrange it, you spend time on it. You need to take that same idea, as you honor your physical face, that you would honor and love and show respect to your head, who is your husband; that you would spend time and effort on him in the same way you spend time and effort in front of the mirror on your physical face. Show the kids how this looks, teach the kids to respect their daddy as you respect him and honor his position.

2. Respond to his leadership.

Respond in positive ways to his leadership. It's really hard for us to lead. We really wish that you would just do it. We really do. It's really hard for us to lead. We often fail at leadership, and when you come off and tell us how badly we failed, we're never going to do it again. So try to respond positively to when we try to lead, when we try to pick the restaurant, when we try to have an idea, come alongside of us, pat us on the back, and give us some encouragement so that we can grow into the kind of leader that

Christ wants us to be. Because we are a lot like Adam, but God is making us more and more like Jesus. So respond positively to his leadership.

### 3. Respect his need for intimacy.

Respect his need for intimacy. Now guys spell intimacy a lot different than girls do. For guys it's a three-letter word. That's what intimacy is to us. So, just respect that need. We're different. The Bible talks so much about this level of intimacy. The Proverbs say drink of the fountain. In Song of Solomon, delight yourself in joy; go after it. In 1 Corinthians, it's a gift that you're supposed to give to each other. It's to be celebrated as a gift, but as a culture, we go into marriage and say it's a commodity. It's something to earn, and sell, and use, and leverage. No, God says it's a gift to give away, to serve one another through this gift of intimacy. So be respectful of his need for intimacy. That's how he is loving you in the most core way he can in that moment of intimacy. So respect that. Be generous in that way.

### 4. Value his work and his calling.

He might not get value anywhere outside the home that he is a good worker, that he is doing a good job. Maybe at the plant, he is the laughing stock, but when he comes in to your presence, respect that, honor it, value his work and his calling because believe it or not, he is doing it for you. He's doing it for his family the best he can, so value what he's doing.

### 5. Thank him in private.

When it's just you two, give him thanks. Give him words of encouragement. Appreciate what he does. "Honey, thanks for mowing the yard, it looks great!" Do just little things that are going to encourage him, and thank him in private.

### 6. Praise him in public.

Around your friends, praise him. I can't tell you how disheartening it is when I get around other couples and I'm listening to their conversations and all it is, is the wife talking about how bad the husband is, how he can't take care of the kids; he can't do anything right. You see this husband that is just shriveling up, and he's backing down. Then the wife wonders, why my husband is not like this other husband. It's because you are constantly

tearing him down, running his name in public, and it's making him shrink back to be the kind of man that God wants him to be. What he needs for you to do is to praise him in public. Remember, he's your head. Ladies, if you have a blemish on your face you don't circle it and then tell everybody about it. What do you do? You cover it up. You put makeup on it. You try to hide it. Why? Because you want it to look good, and that's what you are doing with your husband in public. You're making him look good. You're trying to tell others the good qualities that he has. Yes he's messed up, but guess what, so are you. What you get to do is you get to display, in public, this celebration, this covering of his blemishes.

So here's what we see from Paul. Paul is going to tell us that marriage is about this divine dance of love and respect. Ladies, that's the exact opposite message that culture is selling you. Here's where your value is, it's competing, it's always being faster than the boys. It's always beating at every end, you're outsmarting him, you're leading him; you're putting him to shame at everything because his shame means your glory because it's all about you. But Paul is going to say no, the gospel is not about you. Marriage is not about you. Marriage is about a divine dance where we actually point to something greater, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ and His bride. So what you get to do is not try to compete with him, but you actually get to come alongside and complete him. And as you will dance with him in love and respect, and showing your roles in proper responding, you're not just doing something but you're showing something, Jesus Christ is Lord. And the best life available is under His good Word and authority. Do you want to see what that looks like? You follow me around with my husband. Do you want to see what that looks like? You come into my home and you're going to see a wife who is respecting and submitting to her own husband. Why? Not because he's so respectable, but out of reverence for Christ, that Christ would be on display, and that we would show the nations the gospel. That's what we get to do through our marriages.