Sermon Manuscript Vincent Lee (119)

**Be Imitators of Christ & the Church**  Speaker #2

Ephesians 5:22-33 (Cyclical Deductive)

**Introduction**

1. Arouse Interest: Good morning friends and relatives of Timothy and Soo Jean. We thank God for bringing these two young people together in holy matrimony. Timothy revealed to me that it all started in July 2007 when they were still undergoing theological training. He told me that ever since they committed to their relationship, they have read books like “Choosing God’s Best”, “Sacred Marriage” and wholeheartedly seeking to have a God-pleasing marriage. This is indeed a commendable spirit and we thank God that Eph 5:22-33 is chosen for exhortation today.
2. Need: Timothy and Soo Jean, as you are aware that as leaders of the church, God has called you to a very special position to glorify Him in and through your marriage. Therefore, one very important thing you must always remember in your marriage life is that,
3. MI: God brought you two together to show the world this wonderful relationship we have with Christ.
4. Introducing Text: Because Christ loves us so dearly and even sacrificed His life to set us free from the condemnation of our sins and gave us eternal life, we should also freely love and submit to one another for His sake. In exhorting the wives and husbands to their roles and priorities in Eph 5:22-33, Apostle Paul commands them to imitate their relationship after the relationship of Christ and the Church. Now, we are very familiar with the two commands - “Wives submit to your husbands” “Husbands love your wives”. However, in Paul’s days, the wives have never doubted that they must submit to their husbands’ authority and every demand. This is because the whole community expected them to do so, they have no option and their failure to submit may result in severe beating or even divorce by their husbands. But that is exactly what Paul is speaking against.
5. Preview: Today, we shall first look at how Soo Jean should submit to Timothy, followed by how Timothy should love Soo Jean, and finally, how they should relate to each other.

(For Soo Jean, the command is that....)

1. **You must submit to Timothy like the Church submits to Christ (5:22-24).**

[restate] There are three things for you to remember: the first thing is that,

* 1. **The mandate for your submission** is the will of the Lord (5:22).

Your submission is “as to the Lord” in verse 22 means submitting to the will of the Lord. In other words, when you submit to Timothy, you indicate that you are being obedient to God. You will be seen not just as an obedient wife but also an obedient child of God. The second thing to remember is that,

* 1. **The motivation of your submission** to Timothy is because he is given a heavy responsibility by God to provide and protect you (5:23).

Verse 23 tells us that Timothy is your head just like Christ is the head and Savior of the church. That means Timothy is responsible to God for the supply of all your needs - Physical, spiritual and all. He must do all he can and make wise decisions to protect your interest. If he fails in any of his responsibilities, he is answerable to God. That is a tough job but is God-given. It is not an option. The third thing you need to remember is that,

* 1. **The model of your submission** has to be that of church’s submission to Christ in everything (5:24).

Verse 24 says that the church submit everything to Christ. Therefore, you must do the same. This is because Timothy needs your submission to succeed in his roles and responsibilities given by God. So Soo Jean, you must give Timothy full cooperation. That is also the will of God.

* 1. **Application**: Soo Jean, you must remember that your submission to Timothy is not determined by cultural or other any other factor but the heavy responsibilities God has given him to take care of your well being. [ILL] when our President steps into the room, we all stand up to show respect to him although there may be things he has not done well enough or we do not agree with him. Your submission is a God-centered submission. Timothy may not be able to carry out his responsibilities perfectly but you must still submit and encourage him. You must help him instead of going against him or belittle him. For example: if he forgot your birthday or too busy to help you in the household chore, remember the 3-Ms and do not start a cold war with him and make things difficult for him.

(Submitting to Timothy in everything is a right thing to do because the command to Timothy is that ….)

1. **You must love Soo Jean like Christ loves His Church (5:25-31).**

[restate] Timothy, you have studied four years of theology and I am sure you know very well how Christ loved His church as described in this passage. You know that to give **sacrificial love** to Soo Jean (v.25) means that you must be willing to put aside all your own interest to show love to her. To give **purifying love** to Soo Jean (vv. 26-27) means that you must live a holy life and help her in her spiritual growth. To give her **caring love** (vv. 28-29) means that you must love her just as you love yourself. To give her the **unbreakable love** (vv. 30-31) means that you will never change your mind about loving her or leaving her no matter what happens. You are not to rule over her with an iron fist but to love, cherish and honor her. In other words, you are to empower her and cause her to be fully developed in the potential God has given her. The word “Cleave” literally means to be glued together – sharing an unbreakable bond as long as you live. Never give her up but give yourself up for her.

**Application**: However, Timothy, as you progress in your marriage and church ministry, your love for Soo Jean will be tested. In times of disappointment and frustration, you must remember that Soo Jean is precious to you and recognize her contributions to your marriage. Experience tells us that many husbands fail in loving their wives when they do not recognize how much their wives have contributed to their lives.

[ILL] When Bill Clinton won the presidential elections, he was elated. He and his wife Hillary decided to sneak off to celebrate. On their way, they stopped to put gasoline in their car. Bill could not help noticing the way Hillary was talking with the gas pump attendant. As they drove off, Bill said to Hillary, “I could not help noticing the way you were talking with the attendant – like you were old friends.” “Of course,” Hillary replied, “we knew each other a long time ago. We were in high school together. In fact, we dated for a while, and he even asked me to marry him.” Bill swelled with pride. “Aren’t you glad that you turned him down, and married the president of the United States instead?” “If I had married him,” Hillary replied, “he would have been the president and you, the gas pump attendant.”

It is important for you to remember that by recognizing Soo Jean’s contributions will help you better appreciate her and her submission to you will yield success only when you love her like Christ loves His church. Therefore, the second thing you must remember is that she needs your Christ-like love to succeed in her submission.

Well, we know now Soo Jean must submit and Timothy must love. But the question is who should do their part first?

(Must Timothy love Soo Jean first before Soo Jean submits to him? No! The command of the Lord is that…)

1. **Both of you must show loving attitude and spirit of submission (5:32-33).**

Both of you are equal in the Lord, and are called to play an important function no others can do for you. Both need each other to work in harmony in order to succeed. [ILL]Just like a pair of scissors. The two blades are joined to form a whole. And you operate not with your own strength but the strength from God. All you need to do is remember what you have committed to the Lord and submit to His working in your lives. And you must continue to rely on God’s strength and wisdom as you live your lives together.

**Conclusion**

1. As you can see, Timothy and Soo Jean, if you imitate Christ and the church in your relationship, you will have a strong, healthy and happy marriage and, a good testimony to the world. [MI restated]
2. Therefore, Soo Jean must submit to Timothy, Timothy must love Soo Jean, and both must do it together in harmony. [MI summarized]

This is pleasing unto God and a blessing to the church and your family.

Let’s pray.

Exegetical Outline (2) **Godly Marriage Relationship**  Vincent Lee (119)

Ephesians 5:22-33 Speaker #2

**(**Wedding Sermon**)**

Prologue: In addressing unity in the church of Ephesus, the Apostle Paul provides practical instruction for Christian living in Ephesians 4-6. In the first part of chapter 4 i.e. 4:1-16, Paul exhorts the Ephesian Christians to unite in the body of Christ and grow up together in Christ-likeness, and in 4:17 – 5:20, he commands the Christians to live in the Spirit as opposed to the sinful and depraved lifestyle of the world. Before he exhorts them to the practice of relative duties, particularly as they live as husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants; he gives them the foundational principle to submit themselves one to another in the fear of God (5:21), that is, by yielding and mutually condescending to each other with love and kindness, making the fear of God the rule and measure of their submission one to another. In exhorting the wives and husbands to their roles and priorities in 5:22-33, Paul commands them to model their relationship after the relationship of Christ and the Church.

Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way in which Christian wives and husbands are to relate to each other is by imitating the relationship between Christ and the Church.

1. (5:22-24) The way in which Christian wives should submit to their husbands is by imitating the Church’s submission to Christ.
   1. (5:22) The way in which Christian wives should submit to their husbands is by submitting as to the Lord.
   2. (5:23) The motivation for Christian wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord is because they are responsible for their well being so that Christ is honored.
   3. (5:24) The way in which Christian wives should submit to their husbands is by submitting everything like the church’s submission to Christ.
2. (5:25-31) The way in which Christian husbands should love their wives is by imitating Christ’s love for the Church.
   1. (5:25) The way in which Christian husbands should love their wives is by loving them with sacrificial love like Christ loves the church.
   2. (5:26-27) The way in which Christian husbands should love their wives is by loving them with purifying love like Christ loves the church.
   3. (5:28-29) The way in which Christian husbands should loves their wives is by loving them with caring love like Christ loves the church.
   4. (5:30-31) The way in which Christian husbands should love their wives is by loving them with unbreakable love like Christ loves the church.
3. (5:32-33) The way in which Christian wives and husbands should relate to each other is by showing loving attitude and submissive spirit just as Christ and the church.

Sources:

1. Snodgrass, Klyne, *Ephesians, The New NIV Application Commentary*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
2. Foulkes, Francis, *Ephesians, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, IVP, 1989.
3. NIV Bible Library Expositor’s Commentary, 1989.
4. Albert Barnes’ Notes on the New Testament.

Homiletical Outline Vincent Lee (119)

**Be Imitators of Christ & the Church** Speaker #2

Ephesians 5:22-33 (Cyclical Deductive)

**Introduction**

1. Arouse Interest: [The story of a husband’s failure in recognizing the contribution of his wife in their marriage]
2. Need: There are many broken down marriages these days. How should Christian couples do it differently?
3. MI: Christian couples should relate to each other by imitating the sacred relationship between Christ and the church.
4. Background: Before he exhorts them to the practice of relative duties, particularly as they live as husbands and wives, Apostle Paul exhorts the Christians in Ephesus to imitate God (5:1) and gives them the foundational principle to submit themselves one to another in the fear of God (5:21), making the fear of God the rule and measure of their submission one to another. In exhorting the wives and husbands to their roles and priorities in 5:22-33, Paul commands them to imitate their relationship after the relationship of Christ and the Church.
5. Preview: We shall first look at how Christian wives should submit to their husbands, followed by how Christian husbands should love their wives, and finally, how they should relate to each other.

(For the wives, the command is that....)

1. **You must submit to your husbands just as the Church submits to Christ (5:22-24).**
   1. The mandate for your submission is the will of the Lord (5:22).
   2. The motivation for your submission is that husbands are made responsible to provide and protect their wives by God (5:23).
   3. The model for your Submission has to be that of church’s submission to Christ in everything (5:24).
   4. Application: Wives submit to their husbands because of the heavy responsibilities God has given them to take care of the well being of their wives. [ILL: Salute the uniform not the man]

(It is good and beneficial for wives to submit to their husband because the command to the husbands is that ….)

1. **You must love your wives just as Christ loves the Church (5:25-31).**
   1. Your love should be sacrificial just as Christ loves the church. (5:25)
   2. Your love should be purifying just as Christ loves the church. (5:26-27)
   3. Your love should be caring just as Christ loves the church. (5:28-29)
   4. Your love should be unbreakable just as Christ loves the church. (5:30-31)
   5. Application: Husbands are chosen to give their all even their lives for their wives [ILL: Choosing a son-in-law]

(Must the husbands love their wives first before the wives submit? No! The command is that…)

1. **Both husbands and wives must show loving attitude and spirit of submission (5:32-33).**

[ILL: A pair of scissors; Husband and wife singing duet]

**Conclusion**

1. Christian couples should imitate the way Christ and the church relate to each other [MI restated]
2. Wives must submit to their husbands just as the church submits to Christ, husbands must love their wives just as Christ loves the church, and they must do it in harmony. [MI summarized]
3. To have a strong, healthy and happy marriage, and be a good testimony to the world, Christian marriage must characterize the sacred relationship of Christ and the church.