**Philip Williamson**

**WEDDING SERMON FOR TIM AND HANNAH ROGERS**

**Intro**:

 I came to know Tim through tramping and music, seeing him do parkour, juggling instruments and in long conversations through mountain ranges.. Hannah, you’ll have a job and a half getting him to stay still! Though from what I hear you’re a bit of an active bean yourself. I’m stoked to be able to congratulate you both! ..haha it’s quite ironic that I’m speaking to you about Marriage today when I’m not married, but God is the expert on Marriage, so let me encourage you from God’s Word:

**Honour Christ in your marriage by trusting Him for security.**

Hey Tim and Hannah,

You and Hannah have started an exciting new life full of endless possibilities, and the cool thing is, you get to do it with God! Psalm 127 has a neat insight to go with this:

**Psalm 127**

**"A song of ascents. Of Solomon.**

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

**Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.**

**In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat -- for he grants sleep to those he loves.**

 **(**Ps. 127:1-2 NIV**)**

In one sense, this psalm is saying “Don’t worry! God will build your family and give you security”. But it’s more than that. God doesn’t want you to sit back and watch from the side-lines, He’s inviting you to cat-leap with him, precision-leap with Him, join with Him in the work He has for you. God will make your work worthwhile, keep you safe in Him and accomplish His purposes. We can see this because in the psalm the city watchman is only going to be effective if God is watching the city. The house-builders are only going to be effective if God is building it. The people still have to do the work, but the success of that work depends on God.

It’s a bit like a kid trying to build a shed using his his dad’s hammer. The little guy can barely use the hammer, nails either bend or go flying (ping!), but when his dad is holding the hammer as well as the boy, he can knock up a shed, no worries! So as you forge ahead in your new life, lift your hammer with God, and He’ll make sure you’re effective with Him.

**How?**

The second half of this Psalm says:

 **Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.**

**Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.**

**Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.**

**They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate."**

**(**Ps. 127:3-5 NIV**)**

Not only will God make your family and work effective for Him, working with God means that the security of your Family is in His hands. Back in the day sons were the warriors and lawyers who could defend the family. So this Psalm is saying that God provides you with what you need for the security of your family.

A rough analogy might be like when we hired that heavy as mountain radio for our Whirinaki trip (maps: BG38 and BG39)? – our security was provided for! Tho we still had to set up that ridiculously long antenna and call in. haha I can still remember setting that thing up in the torrential rain outside the final hut with all those pig-rootings outside.. but it worked in the end – we got through, they knew where we were and the change in our plans.

So, because it’s God who provides all this for your family and security, then you don’t need to worry ☺ I know it can be a bit stressful figuring out like where you’re going to live, what job you’ll get and all that. But don’t worry, God will make sure you’re effective and He’ll give you what you need to stay secure in Him.

**Honour Christ in your marriage through Spirit-filled love and submission (Eph 5:22-33).**

Tim and Hannah, it’s so good that God has brought you two together, and now you’ve married you have a PILE of brilliant awesome AS privileges! You have privileges as believers in Christ: you’re part of the Church, and you’ve been blessed with every Spiritual blessing in Christ (1:3)!

You’ve been Forgiven, redeemed (1:7), sealed with the Holy Spirit (1:13-14). You’ve been brought from death to life by God’s grace (2:1-10), you have peace with Christ (2:11-22) and as **part of the Church** you’re being built into the place God lives by His Spirit(2:22), you’re part of God’s people and heirs of the promise in Christ Jesus (3:6) and being shown as God’s wisdom to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places (3:10), and heaps more!

So the cool thing is, you get to reflect ***all*** ***this*** in your married life by reflecting Christ and the Church! Hows that? Well.. You know the old cliché “*make God the first person in your marriage*” a. You get to do that by living out your awesome privilege in Christ the Ephesians way – Paul calls it “**being filled with the Holy Spirit**”. According to Ephesians 5 you know you’re filled with the Holy Spirit when you sing ya heart out to God ‘cause you’re grateful AS (5:18-20), and when you’re "**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ**" (Eph. 5:21 ESV).

 "**Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

 **Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**"

(Eph. 5:21-27 NIV).

 Hannah, for you, living out your awesome salvation is being filled with the Spirit, which means you get to reflect the awesome Salvation you have in Christ by submitting to Tim as you submit to Christ, because you love him and God. This is because what Tim does should be / is to lead you to greater holiness in honour of God (and who says he can’t take your input in that decision / action?)

Tim, for you, living out your awesome Salvation is being filled with the Spirit, means that you submit to Hannah in love. This involves giving your **all** to help her be Holy, by helping her live out God’s Word. This is what Christ is doing with the Church – making her holy, and this is what God wants for your marriage – for you to be filled with the Spirit by singing ya heart out in praise to (and of) God and submitting to Hannah by serving her in love, because Jesus is making the Church holy.

Jesus is the best example of this. Jesus was in fully in charge, He taught, He led. Yet Jesus served them like a servant (submission) – washing their feet, and did everything for their holiness and benefit.

 This might seem like a tall order, but remember that God’s grace to us is the give of His Holy Spirit who enables us to live His way. And God Himself is with us, working to make us Holy.

>> I know of a couple who got married, and the wife was a night person but her husband was a morning person. So in the end she became a morning person. Another thing they mentioned was that the husband adjusted his taste-buds to suit her cooking, and she adjusted her cooking to suit his eating preferences.

>> story of Tim leading the tramp through the long day on Tongariro…

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical deductive form)

**EI**: The way to honour Christ in a Spirit-filled marriage is through trust in God and loving submission to Him and each other**.**

**Introduction**

**Interest**: I came to know Tim through tramping and music, seeing him do parkour, juggling instruments and in long conversations through mountain ranges. I’m stoked to be able to congratulate Hannah and Tim!

**Text: Psalm 127**

1. **The origin of the blessings of effectiveness, security and family are from the LORD (Psalm 127)**
	1. Work in line with God because effectiveness and security come from Him.
		1. Analogy: In a parkour Jam, don’t just sit on the sidelines, get stuck in.
		2. Illustration: a kid trying to build a shed in the backyard can only do it with his dad’s help.
	2. Work in line with God because security and family come from Him.
		1. Analogy: Mountain radios provide security, but you have to make the call.
2. **The way to honour Christ in your marriage is to be Spirit-filled in love and submission (Ephesians 5:22-33)**
	1. Live in holiness because of our Awesome salvation! (Eph 4)
	2. Living in holiness includes being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)
	3. The result of being filled with the Holy Spirit is singing in gratitude to God and submitting to one another in love. (Eph 5:18-21
		1. The way wives submit in love, is to their husbands as to the Lord.
			1. Application: One way wives can submit to their husbands is through allegiance and dependence.
		2. The way husbands submit in love is by sacrificially loving their wives as Christ loved the Church.
			1. Illustration: Jesus washing the disciple’s feet
			2. Illustration: wives and husbands giving up preferences for each other.
			3. Encouragement: Tim is a caring leader (tramping illustration).

**Conclusion**

 **(MI/CPS):**

**Main Point:** The way to honour Christ in a Spirit-filled marriage is through trust in God and loving submission to Him and each other**.**

**Exhortation/Application / Encouragement**

Honour Christ in your marriage, go hard for God, congratulations and God bless.

**WEDDING SERMON EXEGETICAL OUTLINE**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way to honour Christ in a Spirit-filled marriage is through trust in God and loving submission to Him and each other.

# I. The way to honour Christ in your marriage is to trust Him for security and family (Psalm 127).

# II. The way to honour Christ in your marriage is through love and submission (Ephesians 5:22-33)

**EXEGETICAL OUTLINE (EPHESIANS 5:21-33)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): One result of being filled with the spirit is submission to one another in love by married couples because this reflects Christ’s relationship with the Church.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# I. The result of being Spirit-filled is that wives submit to their husbands as to the Lord because the husband is head of the wife just as Christ is head of the Church. (5:22-24)

# II. The result of being Spirit-filled is that husbands are to love and care for their wives because Christ loved and sanctified the Church to present her as a holy bride for himself. (5:25-31)

(**III.** Conclusion reiterating the above points 5:32-33)

**EXEGETICAL OUTLINE (PSALM 127)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The origin of the blessings of security and family are from the LORD.

# I. The origin of the security of one’s family and city are dependent on the LORD rather than worry and work[[2]](#footnote-2) (Ps 127:3-5)

# II. The sons of a family are God’s gift for the legal and military defence of the family.

Honouring God

Psalm 127 & Ephesians 5:18-33

Topic: Marriage

Subject: How do I honour God with my marriage?

Complement: through trust in God and loving submission to Him and each other.

Purpose: The listeners will be encouraged and honour God with their marriage

Meditation: Ephesians 5:18-33

Reading: Psalm 127

Song: Thank you for the cross

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# Study Questions (Psalm 127)[[3]](#footnote-3)

#### How does the first half of the psalm relate to the second half? Why suddenly mention sons / children?

#### What is meant by ‘building the house’ (v1)?

#### What does it mean to speak with ones enemies at the gate?

#### How does this psalm fit into the rest of the psalter?

# Context and structure:

Psalm 127 is divided into two parts:

#### 127:1-2 The building of the city and the success of labour are dependent on the LORD.

#### 127:3-5 The LORD not only builds cities, He also builds families, and many sons defend the family well at the gate.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This passage expresses trust in the LORD and the fact that blessing comes from Him, and precludes the need for worry. This fits into the theme of the godly man who prospers that begins in psalm 1 and recurs throughout the Psalter.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# It is uncertain when this Psalm was written, though it is part of the psalms of Ascents. This psalm is “of Solomon” (127:1). Reading this Psalm with Solomon in mind recalls his initial success in building buildings and family, yet He ended in spiritual adultery, with a divided Kingdom and a family line that only carried on by the grace of God (1Kgs 9-11).[[4]](#footnote-4)

In addition to this, post-exilic readers in particular would have taken courage from this psalm in that the LORD is the one who would give them sons and guard the city of Jerusalem. They would not be preserved by their own might. [[5]](#footnote-5)

**EXEGETICAL OUTLINE (PSALM 127)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The origin of the blessings of security and family are from the LORD.

# I. The origin of the security of one’s family and city are dependent on the LORD rather than worry and work[[6]](#footnote-6) (Ps 127:3-5)

# II. The sons of a family are God’s gift for the legal and military defence of the family.

**EPHESIANS 5:21-33**

# Study Questions

#### How does this passage fit into Ephesians?

# Context and structure:

The first two chapters of Ephesians are primarily theological in nature as Paul assures the Gentile Church that they are God’s people along with Israel, predestined for sanctification, and to be used by God to show His wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. The second half of the epistle is practical outworking of the theology laid out in chapters 1-2.

Ephesians 4:1-5:20 give general injunctions to the Church as a whole, culminating in 5:20 which declares one of the results of being filled with the Spirit as “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ”. This exhortation is then expanded in light of various relationships: husbands and wives, children and parents, slaves and masters.

# Why is this passage in the Bible?

This passage is in the Bible both as an illustration of Christ and the Church and as an exhortation to live out the submission, leadership and love God desires for marriage so that it honours Him and as an appropriate response to the Salvation we have in Jesus.

# Commentary consulted:

# O'Brien, P. T. (1999). *The Letter to the Ephesians (pillar New Testament Commentary) by O'brien, Peter T. Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company*. USA: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

1. “because” gives context and reason to “submission to one another in love”. “because” is not intended to relate to “reason”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “house”(127:1) can refer to family and/or buildings. Longman II and Garland, 912-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Please note that the answers to these questions are given in and through the following sections. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Derek. Kidner, *Psalms 73-150: a Commentary On Books Iii-v of the Psalms* (USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975), 440-41. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, *Psalms (expositor's Bible Commentary, The)*, Revised ed. (Nashville: Zondervan, 2008), 912-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “house”(127:1) can refer to family and/or buildings. Longman II and Garland, 912-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)