

I. Introduction

- A. I read an article suggesting it's good thing Jack died at end of "Titanic"
1. Not exactly, but it argued Jack and Rose had no chance as couple
 - a. Jack was impulsive, impetuous, reckless and just a bit selfish
 - 1) Those made him a fun boyfriend and great movie character
 - 2) But those are not the traits that make for a successful marriage
 - b. Rose had commitment issues (she was engaged when met Jack)
 2. The theme song insisted, "My love will go on." It wasn't very likely
- B. Too many marriages end up like the Titanic today—huge disasters
1. There are many reasons, and I'm not going to pretend to know all
 - a. One is a misunderstanding love; love is primarily as "feeling"
 - b. Our love songs have always taught us that love is emotion/feeling
 - 1) Barry Manilow sang, "*Trying to Get the Feeling Again*"
(*I looked high, low, everywhere I possibly can but there's no trying...*)
 - 2) Elton John's *Lion King*, "*Can't You Feel the Love Tonight*"
 - 3) Michel Jackson sang about "*The Way You Make Me Feel*"
 - 4) Kanye West, "*Feel the Love*" (Not sure what Kanye is saying)
 - c. We had Elvis' "*I Can't Help Falling in Love with You*" in wedding
 - 1) It was sung by an *a cappella* male quartet (no instruments)
 - 2) Can't help falling in love? Could you help falling out of love
 - 3) We're back looking under furniture, trying to find the feeling
 2. **Factoid:** Divorce rate for arranged marriages is 4% (compare— 40%)
 - a. Why such a difference? There are a lot of different reasons actually
 - 1) In many arranged marriages there's a lot of family involvement
 - 2) There are different expectations and different societal pressures
 - b. **Big Difference:** Commitment and partnership come before love
 - 1) Couples do fall in love, but they first commit to the marriage
 - 2) There is a decision and commitment, and then love follows.
 - c. Maybe the song is Tina Turner, "*What's Love Got to Do with It?*"

II. A Profound Mystery

- A. **Review:** We continued series with *God @ Home* looking at **Ephesians 5**
1. **First**, the context of submission must be seen as **MUTUAL (5:21)**
 - a. We are to submit to one another because we submit to Christ
 - b. Paul does say that wives are to submit to their husbands (**5:22**)
 - 1) Verb “*submit*” doesn’t appear here; it is supplied from v. 21
 - 2) Wives are told to submit in sense of “*submit to one another*”
 2. **Second**, this “*mutual submission*” comes from the Holy Spirit (**18**)
 - a. That command is modified by series of participles (**19-20**)
 - b. This isn’t talking about who makes decisions or gets to be boss
 - 1) How many husbands have used this verse to impose their will?
 - 2) If you need a verse to enforce your authority, you have none!
 - c. We show the fruit of the Spirit in life as we submit to one another
 3. **Third**, power and power struggles are the result of Fall (**Gen 3:16**)
 - a. Eve desired the close relationship of Eden, but she’d be ruled
 - b. This is descriptive, not proscriptive; God is not commanding
 - 1) God said man would earn living by sweat; what about AC?
 - 2) God said there’d be pain in childbirth; what about an epidural?
 - c. God said husbands would rule wives... in world broken by sin
 4. What about a marriage where there’s no power struggle... or power?
- B. **Review Over:** What does he say about husbands? As it turns out, plenty
1. **First**, Husbands are **COMMANDED** to love their wives (**5:25**)
 - a. When I was a kid, I didn’t really like okra; now I just detest it
 - 1) When I complained, Dad said, “*You’ll eat it and you’ll like it*”
 - 2) I ate it, but didn’t like it. You can’t command feelings, right?
 - b. Paul commands husbands to love as sure as “be filled with Spirit”
 - c. Many breakups are prefaced with, “*I just don’t love you anymore*”
 - 1) Sounds like country song... several (*self-driving truck left me*)
 - 2) If you told Paul. “*I don’t love her,*” he’d say, “*OK, so repent*”
 - 3) Love is not emotion (can’t command) but commitment (can)

2. **Second**, Paul doesn't just say "*jump*." He also tells us how high!
 - a. Husbands are to sacrifice for wives like Christ did the church (**25b**)
 - 1) The cross is at the center of our marriages just as it is our faith
 - 2) We are to be crucified WITH Christ and FOR one another
 - b. Husbands are to meet wife's needs like Christ does church (**26-27**)
 - 1) Jesus didn't just die for us; He washes and makes us radiant
 - 2) Jesus makes sure that each of us has what we need to be holy
 - 3) The husband is to love his wife so that she has what she needs
 3. **Third**, Paul applies obscure text from Jesus to marriage (**5:28-29**)
 - a. That's "*love your neighbor as yourself*," right? Except it's a wife
 - 1) "Love your neighbor as yourself" is admittedly much easier
 - 2) You're not around them as much; you can always move, right?
 - b. God's goal for us in marriage is to love the other as much as self
 - c. Paul quotes the text first heard after first wedding (**5:31**)
 - 1) Jesus refers to text in Matt 19 stress how long marriage lasts
 - 2) Paul uses it here to stress how marriage is to be lived
- C. I've always thought it interesting how Paul ends discussion (**5:32-33**)
1. We have no trouble seeing marriage as being a profound mystery
 - a. I've been married 42 years; it's a mystery I'm not any better at it
 - b. A melding together of two people into one relationship? Mystery
 - c. But then again, it has always been a great mystery (**Prov 30:18-19**)
 2. But why does Paul say, "*I am talking about Christ and the church*?"
 - a. Because he's not; his topic is marriage and family relationships
 - b. Christ and the church as his exhibit A, but his topic is marriage
 - c. Here's what he's saying, "*Are you confused by marriage at times*?"
 - 1) Well, are you ever confused by atonement and reconciliation?
 - 2) If marriage is like Christ and church, it IS a profound mystery!
 3. So... who has it harder? It is harder to submit or to love sacrificially?
 - a. You've missed Paul's point if you don't get that this is same thing
 - b. There cannot be power-struggle or power if the two become one

III. Conclusion

- A. Maybe the biggest mystery is how this beautiful text became a club
 - 1. How many men have pointed to this as their power proof-text
 - “The Bible says *I’m the head of the house and what I say goes!*”
 - a. How many women feel guilty for having and speaks their mind?
 - b. How many argument are settled “*Paul say you gotta submit to me*”
 - c. It’s just as right for her to say, “*Paul also says you can drop dead!*”
 - 2. This text isn’t about who gets to be boss or gets to have their way!
 - a. It’s not about winning; it’s about dying and submitting to one other
 - b. When husband and wife fight over who gets to win, they both lose!
 - c. But if pride is swallowed and someone gives in, then Satan loses
 - 3. This isn’t about being boss; it’s about being crucified with Christ
 - a. Wives submit to their husbands because Jesus submitted to cross
 - b. Husbands love wives like the crucified Christ loved us at cross
- B. There’s an illustration of our text in O Henry’s story “*Gift of the Magi*”
 - 1. Jim and Della Young were poor people with two valuable things
 - a. An expensive watch Jim inherited; Della long, luxurious hair
 - b. Each wanted to buy Christmas present– watch fob and hair combs
 - 1) Della sold her long hair to wigmaker and bought the watch fob
 - “*I sold it for you. The hairs of my head could be counted, but no one could ever count my love for you.*”
 - 2) She then discovered he’d sold his watch to buy her hair combs
 - c. On Christmas, each of them sat with a gift that neither could use
 - d. But they actually had a gift that was more precious than anything
 - 2. O. Henry ends the story comparing their gift of love to gift of Magi
 - And here I have told you the story of two children who were not wise. Each sold the most valuable thing he owned in order to buy a gift for the other. But let me speak a last word to the wise of these days: Of all who give gifts, these two were the most wise. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the most wise. Everywhere they are the wise ones. They are the magi.*
 - a. We have to forget about the power-struggle that began after Eden
 - b. Christ is the head of the church and we are the body of Christ