House Rules #5 “Strong Helper” Ephesians 5: 21-24

**READ Ephesians 5: 22-24**

**ILL** – I proposed to Julie when we were 19 years old. Trip to ND.

Swedish Uncle Robert… Hans…

Table conversation --- farming, church, weather, people.

I could kind of understand, but not really… shallow;

Lacked nuance, perspective… No Context/Background.

**t/s** – Reading these verses without context; same level of understand.

Immediate Context of Ephesians

* Theological Foundation of the Book (May)

Larger biblical context concerning Gender and Marriage.

Last Sunday --- Suppositions of Paul… Gender, marriage,

***Bible*** ***Family Truth Seldom Popular, Always Good***

**Genesis 2: 18 - Read**

Tell Story of Creation – Gen. 1-2… Good… Very Good!

**Read Genesis 2:18 Again** ---

***Helper*** = Used for God Himself… make up what is lacking

(military help… reinforcements)

***Suitable*** = like opposite… two pieces of puzzle that fit.

Neither exactly alike, nor randomly different

Bible Roles = ***Servant Leader*** and ***Strong Help*** (Keller)

**Read Again Ephesians 5: 22-24**

**ILL –** Imagine Pipe leaking under your foundation…

Fixing the leak is not difficult; getting to it is the challenge!

***Teaching Buried under set in layers of Misunderstanding and Misuse***

***Many Overplay this Teaching*** --- make Paul say **More** than he Does.

1. Does not say women should be subject to men.

Vs. 22 – wives… to your ***own*** husband.

1. Does not say men are superior to women.

“Ordered Equality” of Genesis 2

1. Does not say husbands should ***compel*** Submission.
2. Says nothing at all about cultural gender responsibilities.

* **A general principle** with ***no concrete behaviors***…

Who does the dishes? Working outside Home?

Writes Poetry; Plans Birthday Parties; … ***Figure it out***!

**ILL** – “Submit” = standing at front door with apron & slippers

***Others Underplay this Teaching*** --- make Paul say **Less** than he does.

*Culturally Conditioned* and **no longer relevant**… No authority.

**ILL** – Ligon Duncan, Pastor First Presbyterian of Jackson

“*Submit? You’ve Got to Be Kidding*!”

“***Mutual Submission***” == A Way to Water Down

Vs. 22 – Detail… No verb for Submit…. Vs. 21 – carries.

1. Grammar of sentence requires assumption of the verb
2. Vs. 24; and, Col. 3; 1 Peter 3; Titus 2

**Point** – Mutual Submission as a way to diminish or disregard the plain meaning of Paul is a twisting of the text… **Read vs. 22**

**T/S** – Handle Accurately = Not More than Paul says; but not Less…

**Read Ephesians 5: 22-24** for the Third Time.

“*In Everything*” = Not total unquestioning obedience

A disposition to yield, to support

**Husband is Head** --- Leader role in marriage and family.

**Vs. 24** - …*being Savior of Body* = Nature of Headship (Servant)

limits of the metaphor --- Not All Like

***God-given role and responsibility to Lead Family***.

(clear and basic truth of Bible)

t/s – Do you believe that?

**Wife should Submit** = Be His Strong Helper (Gen. 2:18)

***Submit*** is a Jesus word. Jesus submitted to the Father’s Will.

* The Essential Equality of the Father and Son
* Voluntary Submission of the Son to the Father.

**Phil. 2: 5-11**

Ligon Duncan says…

***Acknowledge*** – *Yes, Lord, you have established an order for our family. You have Called my husband to lead.*

***Follow*** – *Yes, Lord, I will embrace and support his leadership*.

***Respect*** – *I will respect my husband --- the fact that You will hold him accountable for his leadership.*

**Read Ephesians 5: 22-24** (Fourth Time)

**Most Common Objection** – ***BUT What if my Husband will not Lead***?!

* Bad Leader; Passive Leader; Mis-guided Leader… ***TOUGH!***

1. ***Responsibilities not Rights***! (next week; you don’t know wife)
2. ***Treat Him Like the Leader he is Called to Be.***

(treating him like a misbehaving child will not help)

(Your Criticism will undermine His Confidence to Lead)

1. ***For His Purpose; Under His Lordship; In His Power…***

VS. 22 – ***As to the Lord*** = Ultimate Motive (not husband)

**The Gospel**--- “… profound reliance on the grace o f God!”