

## Sermon: The Ideal Marriage - It Takes Three!

Text: [Ephesians 5:21-33 ESV](#)

Gary L. Wackler

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**Introduction:** It is impossible to have the ideal marriage unless you are a Christian. As you might imagine, having an ideal marriage is not always easy. There are many expectations placed on those entering into marriage. Let me share with you about what the Bible says.

A good marriage requires we obey God's will and expectations. He requires:

**I.** \_\_\_\_\_

A humble person will see his partner for what he or she can become with his/her help, but that takes:

**II.** \_\_\_\_\_

The most effective tool in pursuit of the ideal marriage is:

**III.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** It is extremely important not only to us, but also to the world, that we have ideal marriages. Without a "working" human model, God's love is indeed difficult to communicate. The words: "I love you" grow meaningless without demonstrative proof (or at least evidence).

**A Dwelling Place for God** - (Henri Nouwen, *Seeds of Hope*, pp. 72-73)

[1 Corinthians 13:3-8a ESV](#) 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8a Love never ends.

## Ephesians 5:21-33 ESV

21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

### Wives and Husbands

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 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.[a] 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### Footnotes:

[a] Ephesians 5:27 Or holy and blameless