



26 JUN 2022 | SP BEN KC LEE | THE SPIRIT-FILLED MARRIAGE | EPHESIANS 5:21-33

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Learn to apply the principle of mutual submission to one another;
2. Understand the roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives and that we need to be Spirit-filled in order for us to live out our roles;
3. Be reminded that God created marriage to be a living display of the loving relationship between Christ and His bride.

SERMON SUMMARY

We are all disciples of Christ, called to unconditional love and mutual submission to one another. Both singles and married couples need to apply the principle of mutual submission. This is especially true for husbands and wives. If we live our lives to please Christ first, others second and ourselves last, we will be able to build Christ-centered marriages. The Holy Spirit will enable us to live out our roles as husbands and wives – husbands are to put aside your own interest to love and cherish your wives; wives are to willingly respect your husbands.

The earthly marriage between a husband and wife is a shadow of an eternal reality of Christ being wed to the Church. The highest meaning and most ultimate purpose of marriage is to put the covenant relationship of Christ and His Church on display. God has created marriage to be a living display of the loving relationship between Christ and His bride.

SERMON RECAP

Ps Ben began the message by highlighting that marriage should be honoured by everyone. Marriage is defined as a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. He encouraged RiverLifers to build marriages that will transform families and community. Singles can also grow to be a godly potential good spouse.

Ps Ben mentioned that [Ephesians 5:21-33](#) is the longest and most detailed Bible passage on the roles and responsibilities of men and women in a marriage. The context of this key scripture on marriage is in [Ephesians 5:18-20](#). We need to continually be filled with the Spirit and power of God in order to live out an effective Christian life.



How does a Spirit-filled marriage look like? Ps Ben offered the following points:

1. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (v.21)

- Submitting to one another is the standard for all Christians, including those who are married and those who are singles.
- This is the primary command for everyone before Paul talks about marriage in the passage.
- [Colossians 3:23-24](#) calls for everyone to submit to one another as we are submitted to Christ by placing each other ahead of ourselves.
- Honouring each other is a statement about our reverence and love for Jesus because we are all made in the image of God.
- If we live to please Jesus and live by the principle of mutual submission to one another, we will have the grace, power and anointing to build strong marriages.

2. Radical love and respect for a godly marriage (v.33)

- Wives, respect your husbands (v.22-24)
 - A wife's submission to her husband is expressed as respect and honour to him.
 - [Colossians 3:18](#) calls for wives to submit to their husbands.
 - Husbands feel loved when they are respected.
 - Wives are to meet the unique emotional need of their husbands to be respected.
 - Wives are to help their husbands to conform to the image of Jesus.
 - Encourage your husbands so that they can find strength to lead the family.
- Husbands, love your wives (v.24-30)
 - A husband's submission to his wife is expressed through loving (agape) her.
 - [Colossians 3:19](#) calls for husbands to love their wives.
 - Husbands are to meet the unique emotional need of their wives by loving them, to model the unconditional love between Christ and the Church.
 - God intends for husbands to nourish, cherish and give themselves up sacrificially for their wives.
 - Husbands are to help their wives to become all that God has destined her to be.
- Marriage is about holiness. When both husband and wife are Spirit-filled, godly and holy, we will have a happy, healthy and secured marriage.
- Marriage is a private discipleship arrangement, applying God's Word to sanctify one another.

3. Marriage is God's design

- Earthly Marriage: Oneness of husband and wife (v.31)
 - [Genesis 2:24](#) elements:
 - Prioritising your spouse and children (leave);
 - Total commitment to one another (cleave);
 - Physical intimacy (become one flesh)

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- Eternal Reality: Union of Christ and His body (v.32)
 - The earthly marriage is a picture of an eternal reality.
 - The ultimate marriage is that Jesus loves the Church and the Church is His bride.
 - God created marriage to be a living display of the loving relationship between Christ and His bride.
 - [Acts 1:8](#) says that we need to be baptized by the Holy Spirit in order to transform our families.
 - Singles: Marry, but do not marry with fulfilment as your goal.
 - All: We do not deserve each other's agape but we are members of one body – members of one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Ps Ben mentioned that as disciples of Christ, we are all called to unconditional love and mutual submission to one another. How are our lives characterised by unconditional love and unconditional respect for each other?**
2. **Ps Ben highlighted that husbands are to put aside their own interest to love and cherish their wives while wives are to respect their husbands. For those who are married, how can we do our part to obey our Heavenly Father with a joyful heart? For those who are single, how can we grow to be good potential spouses and how can you spur those who are married to be spouses that actively honour the marriage covenant?**
3. **For those who are married, how do we want our marriages to be examples to the lost world of Christ's unconditional love for His Church? For everyone, how can we submit our relationships to God with an attitude of surrender?**

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**
 - For God to grant us a deeper desire for Him and wisdom to live for Him in our families and in our circles of influence.
 - For us to learn from our past regrets and to press on to what is ahead, keeping our eyes on Christ as our goal and prize
2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**
 - Praise God for the decrease in community cases in light of the recent surge.
 - Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.
3. **In the World**
 - A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
 - A swift end to the Ukraine-Russian war

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **New Pulpit Series – Rebuilding the Altar.** 2-31 July. This series seeks to lead people to rebuild the altar of God in their lives.
 - 3 July – The Altar of Awakening
 - 17 July – The Altar of Identity
 - 24 July – The Altar of Repentance
 - 31 July – The Altar of Worship
2. **How to Pray and Change Your World Seminar with David & Greta Peters, 8-9 July.** This seminar is designed to help you grow and mature in their prayer life, especially if you have desire to see how a lifestyle of prayer can change the world around you. David & Greta will teach on Intercession, Prophetic Prayer as well as The Power of Declarations and Praying Scripture. Details: Fri, 8 Jul at 8pm-10pm and Sat, 9 Jul at 9.30am - 12.30pm. Registration is required for this seminar, and you may obtain complimentary tickets via this link: rlc.sg/prayer-seminar.
3. **Joining The Family.** 30 Jul, Sat, 10.30am – 12.30pm, In-person at Faith Chapel. Sign up online at rlc.sg/jointhefam by Sun, 17 Jul. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.
4. **40.Day Prayer 2022.** 40.Day is an annual national prayer initiative by LoveSingapore. The theme for this year's prayer guide is "to live is Christ", a journey through the book of Philippians. The prayer guide is can be accessed one day at a time at this link: <http://www.lovesingapore.org.sg/40day/2022>. Prayer entries will be posted one day at a time starting from Friday, 1 July. Let us join the body of Christ in Singapore in seeking the Lord.
5. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.
6. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)

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7. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
 8. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
 9. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
 10. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
 11. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
 12. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 13. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*

14. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
15. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
16. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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