

Series on marriage and the family – sermon 4 - 18/04/10 (am)

The Head & the Body

**Ephesians 5:23-24 ; Colossians
1:15-20**

***Theme:** The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.*

*Wives are to submit to their
husbands.*

Reason 1 - drawn from creation.
The Created Order (Eph. 5:23a).

Reason 2 - drawn from redemption.
Jesus is head of the Church (Eph.
5:23b).

The Lord Jesus Christ is Head of the Church

We will look at the relationship of Christ to the Church before looking at the relationship between husband and wife in light of it.

Three aspects to the relationship are highlighted here:

1. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body. *Cf.* 1 Cor. 12:27-30; Col. 1:18.

2. The Church is the Body of Jesus Christ. The Church is **not independent** of Christ. She submits to Christ. If she acts independently of her Head it leads to sin and trouble.

3. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the Church.

In two senses:

- He died for her;
- He preserves and sustains her,
cf. 1 Tim. 4:10.

In context the second sense is emphasised for two reasons:

1. Only the second sense may be applied to the husband and wife relationship.
2. *Cf.* 5:28-29. A husband nourishes and looks after his own body and he is to similarly look after and nourish, love, his wife.

Principles for Marriage based on the Head/Body, Husband/Wife Relationship

- 1. The husband and wife are one body in God's eyes with the husband as head.**
- 2. As head of the wife, the husband is vitally interested in her welfare.**

3. The wife is not to act independently of her husband.

Cf. the situation in Eden, Genesis 3.

Husbands and wives should communicate, think together, discuss, help each other decide.

4. A wife is to submit to her husband as the church submits to Jesus.

What if a Christian wife is married
to a difficult man?

*Your husband will give account to
the Lord for his behaviour.*

*You will honour the Lord by
submitting. He will give you, His
child, grace to obey.*

What if a Christian wife is married to a man who is not a Christian?

Submit to him in the Biblical fashion.

Be encouraged by 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

Conclusion – the Key to a Good Marriage

*Head and body moving in harmony,
fulfilling the God-given roles they
have been given.*