

The Covenantal Life
Week 5 - The One Flesh Reality
Ephesians 5:22-33

- The physical sign of sexual union is an outward sign of the invisible reality that God really has joined the two together as one
 - Our individualism hinders us from fully understanding this - our default function is as individuals
 - The reality is that marriage *literally* unites what was formerly two people together as one
- This is why it is **sinful** and not merely unwise to be unequally yoked - 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
 - The intentional union of the holy with the profane is detestable
 - For a Christian to become one flesh with an unbeliever is akin to a form of idolatry
- The one flesh reality is the basis for all requirements in marriage
 - True physically and outwardly - conjugal rights - 1 Cor. 7:4
 - Legal authority - spouses have a legitimate “right” to one another physically
 - To habitually and selfishly deny one’s spouse is to physically deny the one flesh reality, failing to live up to it
 - Sexual union is the sign of the covenant - regular reminder of the ongoing one flesh reality
 - Explicit explanation for marital duties given by Paul is the literal existence of one flesh
 - The command is to live in accord with reality as it is
 - Refusal to do this is deeply damaging
 - Wives are the body, and they obey their head
 - Operate under husband’s authority and direction, continually and consistently
 - A body that does not respond to its head is unnatural
 - The husband is the head, called to nourish, cherish, and love his body
 - Understanding the true power and authority of headship demands this responsibility be taken utterly seriously
 - A head that abuses its body is likewise unnatural
- A marriage is not a physical body, but it is like one, much more than we tend to understand
 - A marriage in which the covenant law is not obeyed, the one flesh reality not evident, is one that is obviously sick and in need of desperate attention
 - The law of the covenant is rooted in the nature of what it is
 - Simply aligning oneself according to reality; “You are...so do”
- Ultimately the one flesh union presents a picture of Christ and the church
 - This is the perfect reality that everything about marriage points to