

Biblical Foundation for Marriage

Ephesians 5:21-33

MALACHI – A call to return to God:

1. Kính Trọng (Honoring God)
2. Tôn Trọng (Honoring Your Spouse)

The Crisis of Today

Divorce Rate:

- 40% - 50% of all marriages will end up in divorce!
- This statistic is the same for Christians and non-Christians!

Why so bad?

- Lacking a foundation
- Lacking a role model

Ephesians 5:21-33

Ephesians 5:21

and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

**What does this look like
in a marriage relationship?**

Ephesians 5:21-33

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

- **Wife's role: SUBMISSION**
- The Divine Order:
 - Husband = head of wife
 - As Christ = head of the church
- **Different order BUT same worth!**
- Submission doesn't mean inferiority. It simply means living in harmony with God's principle in Eph 5:21.

Cultural Background

- Jewish culture:
the woman is treated as a “thing”, not a “person”.
- Greek culture:
the woman is to run the home and care for the children, while the man finds his pleasure elsewhere.
- Roman culture:
the woman functions as a “slave” in the household.

Ephesians 5:21-33

25 Husbands, love your wives ...

Husband's role: LOVE

Ephesians 5:21-33

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

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- Husband's role: LOVE SACRIFICIALLY

- Giving up himself for her (v.25)
- Sanctifying her (v.26)
- Making her perfect (v.27)

- Wife's Role = SUBMISSION
giving up oneself for the other
- Husband's Role = LOVE
giving up oneself for the other
- BOTH living in harmony with Eph 5:21
“and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

WHAT FOR?

The ultimate goal:
both become like Christ!

Gary Thomas:

“what if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?”

The Biblical Foundation:

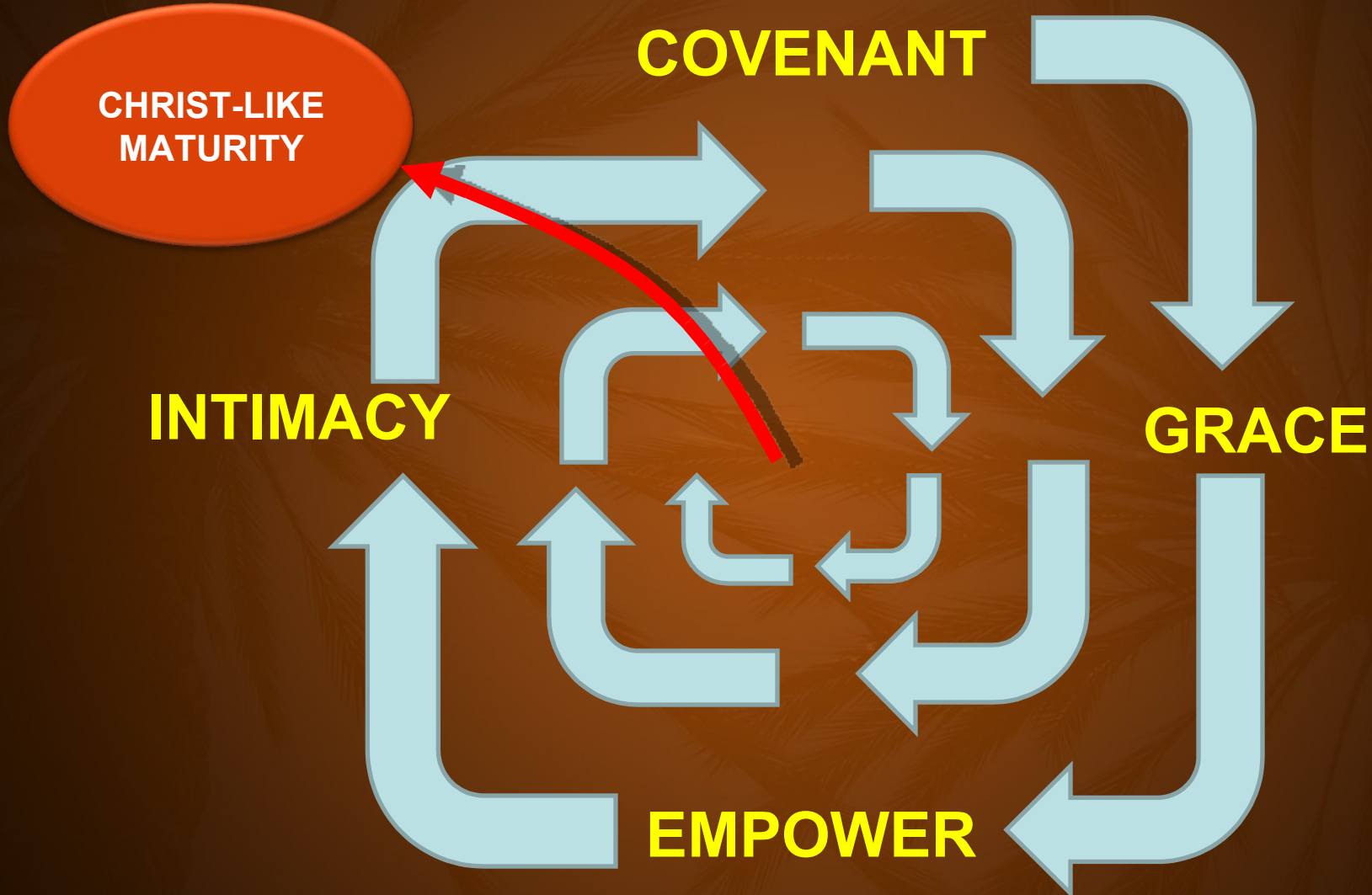
Marriage is a process
of becoming like Christ
by sacrificing for one another.

Looking for a role model

Is there an ideal marital love to learn from?

- God loving Israel
- Christ loving the Church

How God models His love



How does our marriage function?

COVENANT
or
CONTRACT?

INTIMACY
or
AVOIDANCE?

GRACE
or
GUILT?

EMPOWER
or
CONTROL?

Some Suggestions

- Engage in a support group
- Seek out a mentoring couple
- Attend marriage seminars & conferences
- See a good Christian counselor
- **RETURN TO GOD'S LOVE!**

