House Rules #1 Gospel Marriage Ephesians 5:31-32

Preface: Praise God for QSBC Student Ministry! (50+ Srs.)

 Powerful trip to North Africa (NAME Leaders)

* Brethren in Difficult circumstances!
* Standing Firm --- Many coming to Jesus
* QSBC as Antioch --- Sending and Supporting

**Intro**: ***House Rules*** in May and June… Household Code in Ephesians

 When Jesus is Lord at Home: Jesus changes that part too!

**t/s** – Much time and emotional energy bemoaning the loss of *Traditional Family Values*. Honestly, I do not like that word, ***Traditional***, that is a word for pundits and politicians; implies valid because of grandpa. We are interested in **biblical** family patterns. What does the Bible say about our relationships at home?

**Ephesians 5:15 – 6:4**

When Paul wrote to gentile believers in 1st C. ***Nuts***! (counter-cultural)

Today, more and more, counter-cultural, even offensive. These are distinctively ***Christian*** family values.

**T/S** – This morning we will Just get started. Lay out all the parts.

 **ILL** – When Mimi and Pearl bake… Lay out all ingredients.

**Ephesians 5: 15 – 6:4**

t/s – A practical discussion of family relationships; and a deeply Theological Core. Our Focus Today --- ***Theological Core***

**Ephesians 5: 31-32**

**Christian Marriage Echoes the Gospel.**

“***Mystery***” = A Truth once hidden, now revealed in Christ (6 X Eph.)

 *Mega-Mystery* = Great significance and Greatly Profound.

Marriage should picture the relationship between Christ and His Redeemed people, the Church. **Vs. 31** is a quote from **Genesis 2.** Thus, from the beginning, this is part of God’s design for marriage, To ***Echo the Gospel of Jesus***.

**ILL** – Tim & Kathy Keller published “The Meaning of Marriage” (2011)

 ***This is the secret --- that the gospel of Jesus and marriage explain one another. When God invented marriage, He already had the saving work of Jesus in mind.***

Here is a Reality of profound significance: Christian Marriage is a type, a symbol of the relationship between Jesus and His Church.

**The Purpose of Marriage is to Echo the Gospel of Jesus.**

(Let that soak in… )

Our Fundamental Distortion, Deception, Disorientation:

 ***The Purpose of Marriage is to make me Happy.***

 Narrative = Find the right person… ***And Live happily ever after***

What do I need to do to get this person to make me happy?!

How Do we need to Treat Each other so as to Reflect the Gospel, the Relationship of Christ and His Church?

Instead of Using the Gospel to advance your marriage. Use your marriage to Advance the Gospel. Instead of Using Jesus to help your Marriage, Use your Marriage to Exalt Jesus.

**Christian Marriage Echoes the Gospel.**

Don’t press the metaphor too far. In many ways I am not like Jesus, my wife is not like the church… Bottom line: Our marriage should make the Gospel more understandable, more believable.

**The Purpose of Marriage is to Echo the Gospel of Jesus.**

This is the Theological Core, Base Assumption, of NT; and almost totally lost to American Evangelicals Today.

***Now, If you are easily offended, stop listening.***

Marriage is a Mess in our Culture; and **it is our Fault**.

 Problem is not Hollywood, not the Supreme Court, not

cultural elites or celebrities. The problem is Us.

We **Complain** about those who are ***Rejecting*** Marriage.

We **Condemn** those who have ***Redefined*** Marriage.

We Should **Confess** that we have ***Reduced*** Marriage --- long ago stepped away from biblical marriage values… Echo the Gospel.

We pout and protest all the ways that the Culture has distorted marriage; but tolerate our own basic distortion….rebellion --- ***My marriage is established to Make me happy***!

If we ever want to exercise influence in the public debate about marriage, we must begin to reveal this secret. **Our marriages are echoing the Gospel**. Self-Sacrifice, glad submission, Love & Respect.

The Key to moral influence is to be more critical of ourselves than we are of others. Here the Word of the Lord.

**Matthew 7: 1-5**