

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians

W.O. Vaught Archive

9-25-1977

Right Man and Right Woman or God Never Gives Up on Us

W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_ephesians



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "Right Man and Right Woman or God Never Gives Up on Us" (1977). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians*. 66.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_ephesians/66

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

RIGHT MAN AND RIGHT WOMAN
or
GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 61
EPHESIANS 5:22

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

EPHESIANS 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

This verse properly understood would re-establish right family relationships, would empty the divorce courts and would bring stability back to the American home. Marriage is not determined by a wedding license, by a ceremony of vows and rings and candlelight and sentimental music. Too often we think that these things constitute marriage, but things just don't work out that way. We need to be reminded again that marriage is right man and right woman coming together for life and when it happens, nothing is strong enough to destroy this sacred relationship.

EPHESIANS 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." The word "wives" should be translated "women." (Actually, there are no such words as wives or husbands in the Bible. These are English words. In the Bible these words are men and women, not husbands or wives.) "Submit" is in verse 21 and here it is repeated in verse 22. It is a present, active, participle and it means the right woman will always submit to her right man. She responds first in her soul, and then she responds in her body, and in that order. Both body and soul response is from her volition. A woman limits her volition when she enters the marriage relationship and she submits herself to the will of her husband. He protects her and her submission to the right man is the greatest protection she will ever have. When a woman is willing to submit her soul and her body to one man for the rest of her life, then she is on the right foundation for a solid and stable and happy marriage. Now if a woman says, "No, I have some reservations about this relationship. I don't know whether or not I want to surrender my soul and my body to this one man." If this is the case, then this is not true marriage, and it is not right man and right woman, and the marriage is in trouble even before it gets started. If you have any mental reservations about the marriage then delay or cancel the marriage until the reservations are resolved. If you can't surrender to the man in your soul, don't surrender to him in your body.

A Must For Marriage

This verb "submit" is from "hupostasso" and it means to submit yourself under the authority of another. It is a military word and it means you are under the command of another. The right woman under the command of the right man is God's only plan for marriage. The soul, body and volition of the right woman in the hands of the right man makes a happy successful marriage every time. This is God's formula for the highest human relationship known on this earth, and when we violate or bypass this God-designed formula, then we pay and we pay bitterly. The benefits a woman receives from this protection of the right man over her are benefits beyond description.

No In Between

It is either the right man and the right woman, or it is the wrong man and the wrong woman. There is no in between, no middle ground here. There is no Scripture in the Bible that intimates there might be more

than one right man or right woman. This verse says that women are to submit themselves "unto their own" and the word is "idios." This is the word in English which means "idiot." This word in 5th Century B.C. Greek described a man who refused to go to the political meeting in Athens and vote and take his rightful place in the affairs of government. He was called an "idios." As the centuries passed by, this word came to mean a man who stayed at home and took care of his own private affairs. Later it came to mean "One's very own." So here it means a man that is her very own and didn't belong to anybody else. This verse says, "Your very own man." The word for man here is "aner" and it means a noble man. He may not be too successful in the world, or too popular with others, but he is her very own man. In other words, she was designed for him and he was designed for her. God designed this relationship in eternity past, and in the economy of God there is one for one. Since this relationship is from the Lord, then all marriages should be done as unto the Lord. Quite obviously this verse 22 is addressed to a woman who is a believer. She has already responded to God's grace and since she knows the meaning and blessing of living under the grace of God, she has been prepared in mind and heart for this grace relationship with the right man.

Too Much At Once

Now we won't get to verse 23 tonight for I believe that is too severe a dose at one time. I don't want the ladies and girls of the group to walk out on me. I realize that this word "submit" is a little hard for some to take. We have to take this in small doses until we see the full and glorious implication of this teaching. The first expression of verse 23 says, "Because the noble man is the chief of the woman." That's hard for some to take and we will leave that for our next study.

Now Turn To Jeremiah 2

We are going to take a passage to illustrate the truth of right man and right woman, and the illustration is Israel and the Lord. Now Israel was the right nation, and the Lord was their right God. We will see some amazing pictures from this analogy. Israel was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms. Jeremiah will liken these two nations to sisters and he will give them names, the names of sisters, in fact they are names of prostitutes because they were unfaithful to God. Women who are fortunate to be married to the right man not only make the right submission to the husband in the home, but they have no trouble making submission in the church to the Pastor-teacher or to any other realm of authority. But a woman who resents authority from her right man will also resent authority in every other realm of life, even to the extent of resenting the authority of God over her life or the authority of the Pastor-teacher to teach her doctrine.

JEREMIAH 2:1 "Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying," Jeremiah was commanded by God to go and shout a message to the people of Israel. He was to speak forcefully in the ears of Jerusalem. And here is an amazing statement from God--"I remember you" and it is a kal active participle of "qakar" and it means I have always remembered you. So in this analogy God is the right man and Israel is the right woman. Israel, as the right woman, is out of line, she is rebellious, she is disobedient. Now it hadn't always been that way. Israel started out responding to God but later turned her back on him. But even though

this is true, the Lord said, "I keep on remembering you. I love you anyway." Her unfaithfulness, her apostasy didn't erase the perfect love of God for Israel. There was just one right man for Jerusalem and Israel and that right man was God. If we follow the story long enough, we will see Jerusalem and Israel go away from God and be unfaithful. But in spite of her infidelity, she will never be able to erase the love of God for her.

The Story of Hosea

In the book of Hosea we have exactly this same story. Hosea had a wife named Gomer. Once she was faithful to him, but she went away and finally fell into the lowest sin that can ever come to any woman. When she was at her lowest, God commanded Hosea to go to the slave market and buy her back and take her back into his home as his wife. It was a perfect picture of the nation. Through all these analogies, God was reminding his people that they were to submit to only one God, and in marriage, one woman is to submit to only one man.

The Devotion Of God Never In Question

There was a time when Israel gave her devotion to God. She walked out of Egypt with him and though quite often the devotion of Israel for God was something to be desired, God never once deserted Israel. Even when Moses, their leader, lost his temper and struck the rock twice when God had said to speak to the rock, God was faithful and let the water flow out of the rock so the people could drink. There was never one second in all the forty years of wandering of the people in that wilderness that God was not perfectly faithful to them. At the end of all their unfaithfulness, God said to Israel, "I love you with a perfect devotion." Now that's grace.

JEREMIAH 2:2 "Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the Lord; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown." Here is one verse in the Bible we should never forget, for in the center of it are the words, "I remembered thee. There will never be a moment in your life when this will not be true.

JEREMIAH 2:3 "Israel was holiness unto the Lord, and the firstfruits of his increase; all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the Lord." Here is a beautiful picture of how God protected Israel, his very own people.

JEREMIAH 2:4 "Hear ye the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:" Now why should Israel hear the Lord? Because he protected them with doctrine and love and made them to prosper in the land of their enemies.

JEREMIAH 2:5 "Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?" Please notice God's question concerning the one factor responsible for their unfaithfulness to him. The Hebrew of this verse is quite pathetic. It says God said to Israel, "Why did I become invisible so you couldn't see me? Why am I nothing to you?" Israel actually committed mental attitude murder with God. They reduced God to nothing in their minds. The two words here "vanity" and "vain" both come from "Hebel" and it means air or breath. You can't see air and God said that he had become that way to Israel, they couldn't see him.

JEREMIAH 2:6-7 "Neither said they, Where is the Lord that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt? And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination." These verses clearly explain that Israel was brought into the promised land by the grace of God. It was grace, pure and simple, all the way.

JEREMIAH 2:13 "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." The responsibility of God's people was to submit to him and the same is true of the right man and the right woman. But Israel failed to submit to God and went far away into idolatry. Notice the word "forsake." This is where the trouble began between the nation and God and between the right man and right woman. Everything else is a cheap substitute, everything else is a broken cistern. People can be unfaithful to each other in marriage, but this will never change the principle and will never change God. So one of the greatest statements God ever made in the protection of woman was Ephesians 5:22 when he said, "Submit yourselves unto your own husbands." Please notice there are two evils mentioned in this verse. The first evil was forsaking the right partner, and the second evil was going to the wrong partner who was a cheap substitute. The result is a "broken cistern." The result is the same every time. Why fool around with a cheap substitute and remember, no broken cistern will ever take the place of fountains of living water.

A Word To Mothers

When some mother, who is so upset because her young daughter isn't dating, wants to do something really worthwhile for her daughter, I want to make a suggestion. Let her sit down with her daughter and read to her Ephesians 5:22, and then explain to her the doctrine of right man and right woman, and explain to her young daughter Jeremiah 2 and 3 and Ezekiel 16 and 23. Then let the mother say to her daughter, "What do you want to do tonight? I'll take you anywhere you want to go." I can't think of anything we need more in this country than some parents who will take a little time to talk to their sons and daughters about things like this.

JEREMIAH 2:21 "Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?" Please notice that this verse says that God is the one who established the institution of right man and right woman. Israel was God's right woman but she had failed to stay with truth and began to run to broken cisterns instead of the well of living water.

God's Picture Of His Grace

JEREMIAH 2:25 "Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go."

"Withhold thy foot from being unshod" is a picture of the woman who leaves her right man and goes to the tent of another lover.

"And thy throat from thirst" is the picture of a woman who goes to a bar and hunts up any lover that will go with her. After all this immoral activity is over, the poor woman wakes up the next morning and says, "There is no hope for me, none." But notice what God says, "I still love you and after you will I go." Now this is the grace of God and the amazing love of God.

So the principle is clear. Ephesians 5:22 is one of the greatest verses in the Bible for the emancipation and protection of women. It is built on God's plan of right man and right woman. It has been the only plan God has had since he created the woman and brought her to her right man in the Garden of Eden.