

# The Simple Gospel

*How do we live it?*

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 9, 2025

**Thread:** The goal of marriage is “One flesh.”

**Who should marry?**

**What is the goal of marriage? “One flesh.”**

*“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” Ephesians 5:21-24 ESV*

**A man and a woman aiming to submit one to another. Defer to the other as they revere Jesus.**

Both husband and wife pursue Christ.

Man and a woman who are equals, but:

*“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...” Ephesians 5:25 ESV*

**Husbands, lead the way in serving.**

**Sounds like a lot of sacrifice.**

*“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” Ephesians 5:28 ESV*

**How does a man take care of his own body?**

**Sounds like a lot of responsibility being shouldered.**

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”*

**Ephesians 5:31-32 ESV**

**Our marriages reflect the divine relationship God has with His people.**

*“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33 ESV*

**Sounds like both husbands and wives are to be intentional about what the other needs.**

**I’m single and want a God honoring marriage. What now?**

- Follow Jesus with all your heart.
- Ask God to bring the person you can love and respect.
- Don’t settle for anyone who isn’t pursuing Jesus.
- Trust God with your future.
- Enjoy your life today! Jesus is enough! All of the kingdom is yours.

**My marriage is not awesome. What now?**

- Ask God for His heart and vision for your marriage.
- Ask God for the grace and clarity to determine your reality.
- For many of us our marriages are good but could be better if we pursued the GOAL of One flesh with intention. That would include words like SUBMISSION, SERVING, SACRIFICE, SHOULDERING RESPONSIBILITY, LOVE and RESPECT.

For some of us our next steps look more like reconciliation, restoration and rebuilding. We are here to help.

**Challenge:**

- Does your marriage need attention?
- What needs to change in your thinking to get God’s heart for you?
- Will you trust God for how you find yourself today whether single or married?

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [Dougbrittonbooks.com/resource](http://Dougbrittonbooks.com/resource).*