

I. YELLOWSTONES RESTORED ORDER

- A. For nearly 70 years, wolves were absent from Yellowstone. Without them, the elk population grew unchecked and overgrazed the land, causing trees and vegetation to disappear, beaver populations to decline, riverbanks to erode, and the entire ecosystem to fall out of balance.
- B. When wolves were reintroduced in 1995, everything began to change. Their presence altered the elk's behavior, allowing vegetation to recover, beavers to return, wetlands to expand, wildlife to flourish, and even the rivers to become more stable. Restoring one key element of God's created order brought renewal to the entire ecosystem.
 - 1. God designed creation to flourish under His order. When His order is rejected, chaos follows. But when His order is restored, life, peace, and fruitfulness begin to return.

II. GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER

- A. God's order is the expression of His holy character. Everything He creates, commands, and redeems reflects His wisdom, righteousness, and purpose. Nothing in God's plan is random, creation, history, the cross, our lives, our families, and our marriages all unfold according to His sovereign design.
- B. Sin brings disorder because it rejects God's order, but through the gospel, Christ restores us to God's design so that we may flourish under His righteous rule.

III. WHERE WE SEE GOD'S ORDER

A. CREATION AND THE UNIVERSE

- 1. Scientists generally agree that the universe displays remarkable order, precision, and design. Earth orbits the Sun at an average distance of about 93 million miles, allowing temperatures that support liquid water and life on earth.
- 2. If Earth were significantly closer to, or farther from the Sun, its climate would be dramatically affected causing potential chaos to the normal rhythms of the earth.

3. Scientists also recognize that the Moon plays a vital role by stabilizing Earth's axial tilt, keeping the climate consistent, and producing the ocean tides that sustain many ecosystems.

a) *He established the earth on its foundations; it will never be moved. -Ps 104:5*

b) *Who has placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. -Jer 5:22*

B. THERE IS AN ORDER IN APPROACHING HIM

1. Scripture reveals that there is a God-ordained order for approaching Him and dwelling in His presence. While Jesus forever changed how man can now approach God the underlying principles remain the same-God is holy, and He has an order to be in His Presence and He alone determines how people may approach Him.

a) *LORD said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; -Lev 16:2*

IV. THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO DOING THINGS OUTSIDE GODS ORDER

- A. There is a sobering example in the scriptures of what happens when man moves out of God's order. The story is found in 2 Samuel 6:6-7

1. *"And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God."*

- B. God had already instructed Israel that the Ark was to be carried by the Levites, carried with poles, and It was never to be touched.

- C. David ignored God's instructions and transported the Ark on a cart, imitating the Philistines instead of obeying God's Word. The main lesson of this story is that God's work must be done God's way.

V. GOD'S AUTHORITY FLOWS THROUGH HIS ORDER

- A. God has set an ordained order and authority in creation, church, marriage, families, governments, and the workplace.
- B. Man has authority over nature, husbands have authority over their wives, parents have authority over their children, governors have authority over those they govern, employers have authority over their employees, and spiritual leaders have authority over those they lead spiritually.
- C. God's purpose in order and authority structures exist not to suppress people, but to reflect God and His nature, promote human blessing, restrain evil, and display the gospel.
- D. In this next section of the letter of Ephesians we see God's order and authority structures in marriages, parenting, children and the workplace.

VI. EPHESIANS 5:22-33

1. ***²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might ^[a] sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³***

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

VII. SUMMARY OF THESE VERSES

- A. In our study today, Paul continues describing the evidence of a Spirit-filled life that he introduced in verse 18 when he commanded believers, "Do not be drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit." *Beginning in these passages, he shows us what life under the Spirit's control looks like in our closest relationships.*
- B. Paul addressed six groups that are called to be under the control of the Holy Spirit : wives and husbands (5:22-33), children and parents (6:1-4), and slaves and masters (6:5-9).

VIII. VRS 22-24

- 1. ***²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.***
- B. Paul starts out by addressing the wife's role in marriage. He is not saying that all women are to be subject to all men, (only their husbands) nor was he saying that women are inferior to men.
 - 1. "The Greek term for submission has military origins, emphasizing being under the authority of another. The word does not connote a forced submission; instead it is a voluntary submission to a proper authority
 - a) Submission to authority is not about inferiority but order.
 - b) A wife's submission to her husband is rooted in the wife's relationship to the Lord, and flows from that submission first.

C. EQUAL IN WORTH NOT IN AUTHORITY

1. Everyone in the Kingdom has equality of worth, but not equality of authority and role.
 - a) **EXAMPLE-Christ submits to the Father in role, yet is equal in deity, the wife voluntarily submits within God's created order while remaining equal in value.**

IX. **VRS 25-27**

1. ***²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***

a) *Paul didn't say rule your wives, but love them*

- B. These verses make it clear that the husband bears the greater responsibility in the marriage. The authority God entrusts to him is never for privilege or self-interest, but for sacrificial leadership. With that greater responsibility comes greater accountability before God.

1. Husbands, the spiritual condition of our wives, is the fruit of our leadership. *Men complain about their wives and I say you're complaining about your leadership.*

- C. Paul summarized the wife's duty as submission and the husband's duty as love. The word he used for "love" (agapate) means seeking the highest good for another person. Husbands are to love their wives in the same way that Christ loved the church

X. **VRS 28-29**

1. ***²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.***

- B. Because God has made husband and wife one flesh, a husband should never think of his wife as separate from himself, but should care for her with the same concern he has for his own health and well-being.

XI. VRS 32-33

- 1. ***³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.***

- B. These verses are Paul's climactic teaching on marriage. The "mystery" is not marriage itself because marriage has existed since creation. The mystery is that God always intended marriage to foreshadow the relationship between Christ and His Church, a truth that was hidden in the Old Testament and fully revealed in the New Testament.

XII. AN UPSIDEDOWN KINGDOM

- A. Authority in the kingdom works differently than authority in the world. In the world, the people with the greatest authority are the ones that are served, but in the kingdom, the ones with the greatest authority are the ones that do the serving.
 - 1. ***"For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves." – Luke 22:27***

