|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Head and Heart of Marriage**  *Promise: husband and wife mirror Christ’s relationship with the church* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Isaiah 29:11-29; Ps 14; Ephesians 5:22-33; Mark 7:1-13 (14th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 16), 8/25/24)  *This mystery is a profound, and I am saying that if refers to Christ and the Church* – v. 32  **Lead In –** Scripture, the Word of God, is counterintuitive. It runs against the grain and is at odds with the wisdom of the world. It also runs against the grain, and it is at odds with our flesh, that is, our sinful nature. It is vitally important for us to realize this. Part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to create and spark faith in us so that we recognize and trust God’s Word. Our lives have been shaped and formed by the voices and wisdom of the world. They form the default position of what we value and believe unless we have had the opportunity to be shaped by something different. As Christians we are to be shaped by the voice of God. But unless we hear His Word, become familiar with it, and listen to it constantly we will remain shaped by the world.   1. **Today’s Second Reading Is A Case In Point**    1. The contrast with this age is very stark…    2. Surprisingly these are liberating words for women… 2. **Concerning Wives, the Word is Submission**    1. As onto the Lord, and each of us to one another…    2. Accepting the roles assigned to us, and headship…    3. Eve was specifically fashioned by God to be… 3. **Now A Lengthier Section Concerning Husbands**    1. Charge to love, not rule, their wives, sacrificially…    2. Christ’s example and connection with baptism…    3. The core of Adam’s body is the heart…   **Final Word –** As Lutherans we do not number marriage as a sacrament. But we do recognize it as an institution commanded by God and also blessed by Him. And as a vocation, a faithful marriage gives witness to God’s love and mercy. When the husband and wife serve as father and mother, they have the tremendous responsibility of representing God to their children. Perhaps a good way to think of the marital relationship when understanding the husband as the head, is to think of the wife as the heart. Both head and heart are indispensable. Both are vitally important in the *one flesh* union. There is no living *one flesh* organism without the full contribution of the head to the heart, and the heart to the head.  **Ge 2:15** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.  **Ge 2:18** Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (cf. 1Co 11:8-9)  **1Co 11:3** But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.  **1Co 11:8-9** For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.  **Woman from Man:** *The woman was made of a rib of the side of Adam, not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal to him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved by him.* (Matthew Henry) | **Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV**  *Wives and Husbands*  22Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.  25Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30because we are members of his body. 31“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.  **Ge 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.  **1Pe 3:7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.  **Ti 2:4-5** [Older women are to] so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.  **Ro 6:3-5** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.  **Ge 2:22-25** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. |