



Owe Nothing to Your Marriage

Jonathan Banning · Ephesians 5:22–33 · Series: **Owe Nothing**

INTRODUCTION

- Paul tells us that we as Christians are supposed to be the kind of people who owe nothing to anyone.
- I want to encourage you to live your life in such a way that you can confidently say, in my marriage, I owe nothing to my spouse because I have given them what is rightfully theirs.

1 Marriage Is About What I Owe God and My Spouse

- Marriage doesn't belong to us at all. My marriage actually belongs to God.
- When I get married, I'm not just agreeing to a partnership with somebody else. I'm agreeing and making a covenant with God that me and this other person are going to do this thing God's way.
- Marriage is also about what I owe my spouse. It's not about what they owe me, it's about what I owe them.
- You're making real promises that actually mean something and don't just sound nice during the ceremony.

2 A Wife Owes Her Husband Submission

Ephesians 5:22–24

- Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church.
- A wife owes her husband submission.
- This is not about an activity. This is about an attitude. Where a woman is willing to say, I recognize that my husband is the head of this house.
- In what way in my daily life do I demonstrate that I am subject to my husband?

3 A Wife Owes Her Husband Respect

Ephesians 5:33

- A wife must see to it that she respects her husband.
- There should be a sort of weight, a sort of respect, a sort of reverence in how she reacts to him.
- Don't you think that should have some influence on how a wife speaks to her husband?
- This is not something that a husband earns. It is only something that you as a wife can freely choose to give.

4 A Husband Owes His Wife Leadership

Genesis 3:16; 1 Kings 11:3–4

- A husband owes his wife his leadership. He must be willing to take up the helm and be the leader in his home.
- The temptation to abdicate that position is exceedingly common.
- You cannot shrink from it. You cannot pass the responsibility on to somebody else.
- In what way am I taking ownership for the spiritual direction of my home?

5 A Husband Owes His Wife Love That Involves Intense Sacrifice

Ephesians 5:25–27

- This is a kind of love that involves intense sacrifice.
- Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her so that he might sanctify her.
- Christ cleanses his church through his teaching, but not only through his teaching, through his example of sacrifice.
- You want to make your wife a better Christian? Don't just teach her, die for her.

6 Love Your Wives as Your Own Bodies

Ephesians 5:28–29

- So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own body. He who loves his own wife loves himself.
- Husbands, treat your wives like they are an extension of your own body. Because they are.
- I should respond to my wife's stress, her anxiety, her fear, her grief, her struggles, her pain, as if I were feeling the exact same things myself.
- Do I nourish and cherish my wife like she is an extension of my own flesh?

THE CHALLENGE

Do not aim low. Do not just try to get through and survive. We should be excellent at marriage. Make sure that you owe nothing in your marriage, except to love one another even more deeply than you already do.

MY NOTES
