

# Second Hand Preacher

*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time*

August 23, 2015

**Ephesians 5:21-32**

I was at a wedding recently and this was the second reading. The young couple told me they wanted to impact some friends and relatives who needed to live better lives. This passage should have at least woken them up a bit. The line that gets most people is:

“Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his Church.”

These lines are many times shocking to our 2015 minds. Women have come a long way. We see each other as equals. The woman does not need to be subordinate to her husband and he doesn't have to be the head. I agree with most of that, but I don't really think that men and women are equal. They both have their own skill sets. Their brains are different and they may have different outlooks from time to time. I do believe they are good for one another. I see them as complementary. They can complete each other and they can make each other whole.

This reading comes up a few times over the three year cycle, and I usually use the short version. This leaves the subordinate language out. It focuses on the love that needs to be shared.

“Live in love as Christ loves us. Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the Church.”

I don't choose the short version merely to avoid controversy, but to put the weight of the reading where it belongs. Marriage begins and ends with the power of self sacrifice. Not every day is going to be perfect. Some days a spouse may spend some time on the Cross. This is why man and woman have each other so they can bear the Cross of Christ together. Keep Christian marriage in our prayers; may all spouses be grounded in the love of Jesus.