

# EPHESIANS

5:18, 21-33

## RADICALLY HAPPY MARRIAGE

Marriage is a mess these days and it is on the decline worldwide. Just consider these sad observations: Only about 25% of couples living together are actually married. Over 40% of younger generations view marriage as pretty much obsolete. 50% of first-time marriages fall to divorce, while 60% of second marriages, and 73% of third marriages end in divorce. Between 50%-65% of married people admit to having cheated on their spouse. Sadly, that infidelity rate is on the rise. The historical understanding of marriage as being a permanent union between a man and a woman has changed to include all the LGBTQ+ distinctions and polyamory definitions, with more variations being added constantly. Social scientists are even forecasting marriages occurring between humans and AI. You can't help but wonder, "What is happening here?" The answer: Today's marital weirdness is exactly the same sort of stuff that took place back in Jesus' time. Marriage in the ancient world was just as messy and broken then, as it is now. Thankfully, God (Who gave us the model of marriage in the first place!) has also given us the truth we need to transform a really horrible marriage into a *radically happy marriage*. Let's see how He says to do that ...

### DIRECTIONS FOR BOTH

1. (v. 21)
2. (v. 21)
3. (v. 18)
4. (vv. 31-32)

### DIRECTIONS FOR HER

1. (vv. 22-24)
2. (v. 33)

### DIRECTIONS FOR HIM

1. (v. 25) Love her ...
2. (v. 26-27) Love her ...
3. (v. 28-30) Love her ...

### GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

To \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

To Be \_\_\_\_\_ Together.

To Give \_\_\_\_\_ To The Hurting.

### FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

#### FOR BOTH:

How do you mutually submit to each other in a marriage, especially when you might not agree upon a particular issue? What does it mean that Jesus is the "Boss" in your marriage and not either of you? How do you work together to discern what the Boss (Jesus) wants? Why is it so important that your marriage be Spirit-filled (Eph. 5:18)? How does the Lord want your marriage to be a ministry?

#### FOR HER:

How does the world think/assume the Bible defines "submit"? What is the correct view of Biblical submission? What are some of the best ways a wife can show respect to and for her husband?

#### FOR HIM:

Jesus is our example of what sacrificing for someone you love looks like. With Him as our Mentor, what are some significant sacrifices a loving husband should be making for his wife? What are some specific ways a husband can love his wife spiritually? What does it look like for a husband to love his wife with sensitivity?

#### MARITAL PURPOSE:

How will a marriage that follows the Biblical guidelines bring **honor** to God? How can you remember that it is God's principles, not the world's perversions, that will result in a **happy** marriage? When a Christian couple is exhibiting a marriage built on the marital teachings of Scripture, how can they bring hope to the hurting marriages around them?