

Sunday School

Marriage Series #2: Context of Marriage—Maturity is a community project

Opening Check-in: How did it go with Marriage Meeting? Any questions on process that arose for you as you tried it out?

Recap: Last week, we talked about the purpose of marriage, how it is essential to the purpose God gave humanity: to have dominion, to work and keep creation, and to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

- Purpose of Humanity
- Requires Marriage
- Marriage: leave, cleave, one flesh (whole life union)

[BIG IDEA] *Marriage needs a strong church community around it to inhabit God's design.*

Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-21 | Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.... **15** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

I. Gospel Identity: Family (5:1)

[Quick Discussion] How common is it in the church that married people seek help? And that community members seek to help? Why might this be difficult in our day and age?

II. Gospel Activity: Imitation of Christ (5:2)

[Quick Discussion] What might it look like for the church to “walk in love” alongside the marriages in the church? Practically?

III. Gospel Maturity: wisdom (5:15-17); submission to God (5:18); worship (5:19-20); submission to one another (5:21)

[DISCUSSION]

1. Why do you think marriages need the church?
2. What would it look like here at City Church if we took one another’s holiness and health seriously, including our marriages?

Extension Activity: Before your marriage meeting this week, do a marriage inventory and discuss it at your meeting and then, during the “business” section, plan and schedule a time to debrief what you learned with a trusted couple from the church.

- Marriage Assessment: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/themarriageassessment/>
- Discussion Guide: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/perfect-10-marriage-assessment-guide/>