

## Ephesians 5 - The Beautiful Community

### **Warm-Up Question:**

What are some of the things you find most beautiful about a Christian community? What about the people, the interactions or impact do you find most beautiful?

**READ: Ephesians 5:25-30**

### **I. THE BEAUTY of GRACE**

- ▶ How would you define “grace”? How would you define God’s grace toward us?
- ▶ Read 2 Cor. 5:21 & give the 2 ways God gives us what we don’t deserve. Read Eph. 2:4-9 & point out other ways God gives us what we don’t deserve.
- ▶ How should God’s grace toward you: (Think of truths you just discussed)
  - 1) Make it safe to not have it all together?
  - 2) Undercut any inner feeling of superiority?
  - 3) Create ability to be honest about your failure and weakness?
  - 4) Give ability to forgive and love those who are hard to forgive and love?

### **II. THE BEAUTY of FAMILY**

- ▶ Read John 13:34-35 and Romans 12:10-18. Describe from these passages and others you know some characteristics of the Church family.
- ▶ Share any big or small ways you have personally experienced the beauty of the family of God. Encourage others around you (in your LG, your family or friends) with how they have helped you experience the beauty of God’s family.

### **III. THE BEAUTY of MISSION**

- ▶ The mission of SRC is to “bring the healing love of Jesus to broken people and broken places.” Share some ways you see SRC doing this? Encourage someone else you’re with in how you’ve seen them play a part of this mission?
- ▶ What are some other ways you’d like to see SRC bring redemptive beauty to broken people or in Citrus County? What part can you or your LG play in that?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

The church is beautiful because the lens through which Christ regards her is his cross--the focal point of blood, righteousness, forgiveness, union, justification, regeneration, and grace. His cross makes her beautiful. His perfection makes her beautiful. It is his sacrificial, substitutionary, sinless blood that washes her garments as white as snow. The cross of Christ makes her beautiful not only inwardly by justification but also outwardly through sanctification. From giving second birth to final glory, the righteousness of Christ creates a beautiful church.

- Dustin Bengé

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