

# The Mystery of Marriage

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Ephesians 5:22-33

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## Snapshot:

If marriage is a display of Christ and the church, husbands and wives should reflect Christ in their marriages.

I. Marriage is a picture of submission (5:22–24)

II. Marriage is a picture of sacrifices (5:25–27)

III. Marriage is a picture of solidarity (5:28–33)

## Checking in

*Anything you want to share from your time in the Word this week?  
How can the group be praying for/with you?*

## Connecting

*What challenged your thinking in this week's passage?*

## Study

### Point 1: Marriage is a picture of submission (5:22–24)

*READ:* Luke 2:51; 10:17; Romans 8:20; 13:1; 1 Peter 2:18; 5:15; Hebrews 13:17 . . . then Ephesians 5:22–24

*REFLECT:* What do you learn of submission in each of the passages listed above? By whom is authority given in each instance? What is the expectation in each instance? How does this help you understand the passage in Ephesians better? How does submission reveal faith in the Lord?

*RESPOND: [WIVES]* How can you start implementing what you have learned in your marriage?

*[ALL]* How have you seen this passage used, for good or bad? In what ways has that shaped your reading of this passage? How can being in a group with a healthy display of this passage help you understand what it means to submit to the Lord? Thinking about the call for a wife to submit to her husband, how will this affect the way you submit to the Lord?

### Point 2: Marriage is a picture of sacrifices (5:25–27)

*READ:* Ephesians 5:25–27

*REFLECT:* How has Christ loved the church? How did He give himself up for her? What was the purpose of his giving himself up? What does that mean specifically? What is the process of sanctifying the church and how does Titus 3:5 help us understand? How has the church responded to Christ's love at times and what does that mean for husbands in marriage?

*RESPOND: [HUSBANDS]* What specific ways can you start implementing this passage in your marriage?

*[ALL]* Does this passage expose any sin in how you receive or treat Christ's love for you? How are you participating in His washing you in the Word? How does knowing the reason for His sacrifice encourage you to grow closer to Him? What will that look like?

### **Point 3: Marriage is a picture of solidarity (5:28–33)**

*READ:* Mark 10:1–12; Ephesians 5:28–33

*REFLECT:* What does the Mark passage reveal about the reality of divorce (I understand there are many variables, don't get caught up in the details, but look at the big picture)? Why were certificates of divorce allowed? How does Jesus use the passage from Genesis to explain the unity of marriage? How does this passage help us understand the Ephesians passage?

*RESPOND: [HUSBANDS]* In what ways are you not loving your wife as your own body? How are you nourishing your wife? How are you cherishing her?

*[ALL]* If this mystery of marriage, the oneness of man and woman in marriage, refers to Christ and the church, how then should we see the church? How are you being nourished by Christ? How do you know you are cherished? How should that lead you to walk worthily of your calling?

### **Memorizing**

“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband” (Ephesians 5:33).

### **Preparing for next week**

**Read:** Ephesians 6:1-4

**Ask:** questions of the text

**Pray:** through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.