

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Who gets to define marriage? What is marriage designed for? What's required to have a good marriage? What can a healthy marriage show others? How can a broken marriage be restored? It's time to discover why marriage matters.

We all approach the topic of marriage through our own filters.

How God defined marriage, and how God designed marriage, matters.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (ESV)

Marriage Defined: A Covenant

Marriage Designed: To Cleanse and to Complement.

How Marriage Cleanses - God will use your spouse to:

- **Humble you.**
- **Mature you.**
- **Confront you.**
- **Challenge you.**
- **Purify you.**

How Marriage Complements - Understanding submission to headship.

Headship without Hardship:

- **Wives, let your husbands be the head of your marriage.**
- **Husbands, walk in a manner worthy of your calling.**
- **Husbands, never use this authority to please yourself.**
- **Husbands, always use this authority to do what's best for your wife.**
- **With this in place, decide together how to best live this out.**

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) How did you understand marriage growing up? How would you have described the purpose of marriage? What did you think it took to have a good marriage?
- 3) If married, how has God used your spouse to cleanse you and your marriage? How has God used you to cleanse them?
- 4) Read Ephesians 5:22-24. What is your understanding of headship in marriage? If married, how have you decided to live out your marriage roles as a couple?
- 5) If someone asked you how they could pray for your marriage, how would you respond?