

## **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.**

**Marriage Defined: A Covenant**

**Marriage Designed: To Cleanse and to Complement.**

**Ephesians 5:22-33 [ESV]**

Matthew 19:4 [ESV]

1 Corinthians 7:28, 33-34 [ESV]

- 1. We are called to MUTUAL love and respect.**
- 2. Men are fueled by RESPECT and women by LOVE.**
- 3. Both are POWERFUL to produce CHANGE.**

## Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Mutual Submission: Ephesians 5:21 mentions "be subject to one another in reverence to Christ." How does this concept of mutual submission contribute to a unified marriage?
- 3) Ephesians 5:25 compares Christ's love for the church to his sacrificial act. How can spouses demonstrate sacrificial love for one another in daily life?
- 4) Just as Christ cares for the church, Ephesians 5:29 emphasizes cherishing one's spouse. How can spouses create an environment that fosters growth and well-being for each other?
- 5) It's easy to get caught in the crazy, chaotic cycle of reacting to our spouse in an unhealthy way as a result of feeling like they're acting toward us in an unloving or unrespectful way. It becomes a mess of unintended misunderstandings. What are some practical ways you've found that help you and your spouse exit that type of cycle?
- 6) Showing love and respect isn't always easy. What specific way could you and/or your marriage use prayer? Pray for our marriages to be strengthened as each individual commits to a deeper relationship with Jesus.