

*For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

*Ephesians 5:31-33*

*These verses are a profound teaching on marriage, rooted in the creation account where a man leaves his parents to be joined to his wife, forming a union of "one flesh". This union is described as a great mystery or profound mystery, which Paul clarifies refers to the relationship between Christ and the church. The husband is called to love his wife as he loves himself, reflecting Christ's self-sacrificial love for the church. This love is not based on the wife's perfection but on grace, mirroring how Christ nourishes and cherishes the church as His own body. Similarly, the wife is instructed to respect her husband, a reverence that reflects the church's submission to Christ.*

*The call to love and respect is not contingent on the other's worthiness but on the divine model of Christ's love and the church's response. This lifelong commitment is meant to endure "till death do us part," not falter at disagreements or hardships. Ultimately, the marriage relationship is a living illustration of the spiritual union between Christ and His people, calling both spouses to imitate Christ's sacrificial love and faithful devotion.*

*Having looked again at the importance of biblical marriage, and the greater picture that gives us, we can see now why it is so under attack in our day. In today's culture, people opt in, and out of marriage on a whim. God's ordination of a man and a woman coming together in marriage (as a picture of Christ and His bride). And yet God's commands stand true today. Husbands love your wives as you do yourself, and wives respect your husbands. God knows men and women well and He knows what works. He knows they are different and knows their core needs. Men need respect. Women need love. And when both parties are looking to the Lord and are in a right relationship with Him then the relationship between them will be right. And finally think again of what this picture before us today means for the future. Think of that day when the bride of Christ will be presented to Christ, spotless, radiant, and glorious. Each biblical marriage is a reminder of what God is doing as He prepares His counterpart for Himself!*

*Jesus wants to meet us where we are and use our marriages to reflect himself to the world. That, my friends, is the difference Jesus makes in our marriages. May our marriages shine the light of Jesus in our communities, around the church and fellow believers.*

***Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year, Rock Marriages!  
We will see you back next year on January 8th, 2026 for a brand-new series!***

**STUDY**  
COMPANION  
WEEK THIRTEEN

# Understanding

 marriages

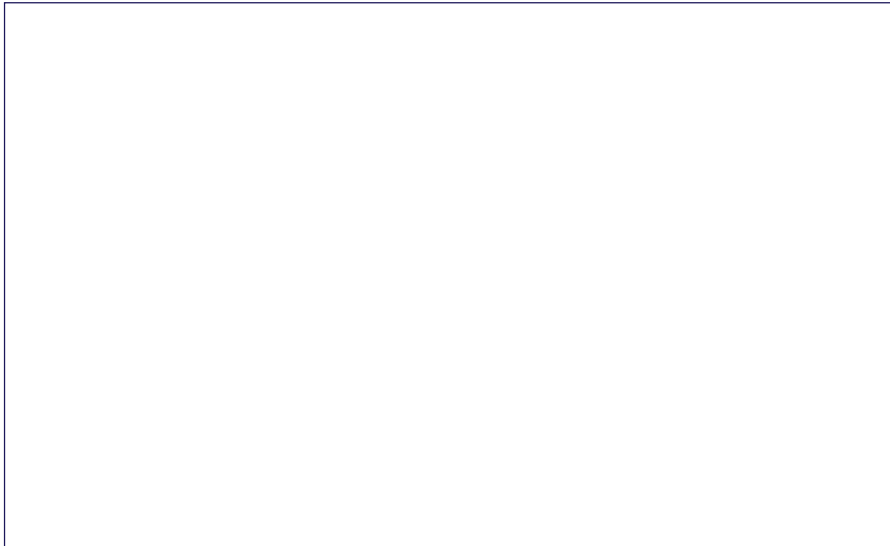
"A MISSIONAL  
MARRIAGE"

## MESSAGE NOTES & VERSES

WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE THIS WEEK TO  
APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED AS A COUPLE?



OUR PRAYERS



THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

*"And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the  
gospel to the whole creation."*

*Mark 16:15*

NOTES

