

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 5/19/2024

Life in the Light – Ephesians 5:21-33

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- **Eph 4:15-16** There are two pieces – the head and the body.
 - We are one body.
 - Jesus has chosen to attach Himself to us: perfection to a broken, fallen Church.
- **Oneness** – the uniting of two to make one
 - In the first century oneness wasn't a way of life; the culture was about "manyness"
 - The same is true today!
- **Eph 5:8** we get comfortable in darkness; light is offensive.
 - It's time to live a little uncomfortable (as Children of Light)
- **Eph 5:21** As you're learning to be one body, submit to each other
 - Not because they are worthy, but because Jesus is; He is the one who brings us together as one.
 - Submission – yield control to another
- **The call to place others higher than ourselves applies to everyone.**
- **Eph 5:22-24** No different from verse 21. Submit to one another. Wives, this includes you.
 - The Greek doesn't even say submit.
 - Just like the head and body are two pieces that need joined, husband and wife are two pieces that need joined.
 - Wives – take the role of the body
 - Husbands, take the role of the head (this does NOT mean control or authority)
- This message is for everyone whether or not you are married. The marriage covenant is our example of Christ and the Church.
- **The call to place others higher than ourselves applies to marriages to.**
 - Not because our spouse deserves it but because Jesus does.
 - We don't deserve submission to receive it.
- **Eph 5:25-27** When we love our wives this way, we remind them of how Jesus loved His Church and us.
 - The call on a husband is to lay down his life like Jesus did.
 - "gave himself up" – how do I put my desires and agendas aside for the sake of my wife and my family.
- **As part of the Church, husbands submit to others in the body AND in marriage, love their wife as Christ loved the Church as the head**
 - Not to over her with power and authority, but two becoming one.
- **Eph 5:28** If you don't love her as yourself, you're not one.
- **Eph 5:29-31** The call of the marital relationship is oneness
 - You're moving to isolation or oneness
 - When you move toward oneness, trust will grow tremendously
 - The call of the church is oneness of Christ.
 - The Church is the bride.
- **As the husband loves the wife as Christ loves the Church (His body) the marriage becomes a reminder of the deep, sacrificial love of Jesus.**
 - The call of the husband is to lay down his life for his wife.
- **Husbands are called to submit and sacrifice.**

- **We gain clarity about Christ and the Church when we live out oneness in our marriages.**
- **Everyday Disciples do whatever it takes to make unity between Christ and the Church a reality...even submitting to one another.**
- **Everyday Disciple WIVES embrace the struggle of submission, knowing the one they truly submit to is Christ.**
- **Everyday Disciple HUSBANDS strive to sacrificially love their wives and embrace the weight of their unique role to live as a servant leader.**
 - Jesus is our example: He gave up His role as head to be servant (wash feet)

Car Conversation:

- **What can we accomplish together that is much more difficult apart?**
- **What can we accomplish connected to Jesus that can't happen without Him?**

The Bottom Line:

Oneness in marriage provides a unique opportunity to understand unity with Jesus. Don't miss it!