

# SERMON STUDY



## REFLECT

1. Why do people want to get married?
2. If you are married, why do you want to get married?

## ENCOUNTER

Paul's culminating description of marriage in Ephesians 5 is that marriage is a "mystery." When we hear "mystery," we think of something confusing or mysterious. While marriage can be both confusing and mysterious, that's not what a biblical mystery is. When Paul describes marriage as a "mystery" what he means is that marriage is a picture to help us understand Jesus and the church. In the mind of God, he designed marriage to be a parable, a picture, a shadow of the great reality of Jesus Christ. Marriage is patterned after Christ and his church. Therefore purpose of marriage is that people would look *through* us to Jesus Christ. Go back and read Ephesians 5:30-32 and meditate on the purpose of marriage.

3. How is this understanding of the purpose of marriage different than the world's (and many Christians') purposes for marriage?
4. How can marriage display God to the surrounding world?
5. How can understanding the purpose of marriage challenge in the midst of difficulties?

## TRANSFORM

6. In what ways did this week's sermon confront you? How did the sermon comfort you?
7. How can a difficult marriage still show the world Christ?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### GREAT BOOKS ON MARRIAGE

*When Sinners Say "I Do"* by Dave Harvey

*The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller

*This Momentary Marriage* by John Piper

*Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas