

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 5:25-33 Paul continues his teaching on submitted relationships by commanding husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and presenting 5 qualities of that love.

Husbands must love their wives with:

- I. A sacrificial love (v. 25).
- II. A purifying love (vs. 26-27).
- III. An intimate love (v. 28).
- IV. A nourishing and cherishing love (vs. 29-30).
- V. A permanent love (v. 31).

Summary (vs. 32-33)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 13, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 5:22-33

Memory Passage: Ephesians 5:28-33 (Review 1:1-5:27)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** This week we will focus on vs. 25-33a. In what way did Christ “give Himself up” for the church?
- (b) What does “sanctify” mean, and how does Christ’s act of giving Himself up accomplish this?
- (c) Explain Paul’s use of the word picture “by the washing of water with the word” for the process of sanctification.
- (d) To what will this sanctification lead for the church (v. 27), and why is this important?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** In what ways does Christ nourish and cherish the church?
- (b) How do the words “in the same way” that begin v. 28 affect your understanding of these verses?
- (c) How is a husband to nourish & cherish his own body, and how does this enable him to love his wife in the same way?
- (d) Explain the phrase, “He who loves his wife loves himself.”

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** How do vs. 25-30 form the foundation for the creation command in v. 31 (cf. “therefore”)?
- (b) Explain the “profound mystery” that marriage “refers to Christ and the church.”
- (c) How does this divine mystery affect your understanding of divorce (Mark 10:1-12)? How does it affect your participation in your own marriage?
- (d) What does it mean to “leave,” “cleave,” and “become one flesh?”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33 & 1 Pet. 3:7.** What does Peter mean when he says wives are “the weaker vessel?”
- (b) For wives: Do you agree or disagree that you are the “weaker vessel” in your marriage? Explain your answer.
- (c) For husbands: According to this passage, what affect does understanding this truth have on the way you treat your wife?
- (d) What does it mean to have one’s “prayers . . . hindered” and how does this underscore the importance of husbands obeying 1 Peter 5:7?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** We have examined how Christ loved, nourished, and cherished the church. Now write a paragraph or two explaining how husbands are to love their wives in the same way (commanded twice, in vs. 25, 28). Include all of the ways mentioned and explain how a husband can accomplish each one (e.g. sacrificing, sanctifying, cleansing & purifying with the word, nourishing, cherishing, etc.).
- (b) For the husband: What are the greatest challenges you face in loving your wife as this passage teaches? How has your study this week equipped you to be a better, more consistent lover of your wife, and what concrete plans have you put in place to better accomplish this important task?
- (c) For the wife: What are your greatest difficulties in allowing your husband to love you in this way? In what concrete ways will you encourage your husband as he attempts to love you more like Christ loves the church?
- (d) Start a conversation with your spouse about your answers in (b) & (c). Ask forgiveness where necessary, and together set out a course for taking positive action in the area of conforming your marriage to this passage of Scripture.

DATE: August 13, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives & Husbands—Christ & the Church Part II