



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

### **May 25, 2025**

#### **Refresh**

Read Ephesians 5:25-27 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

#### **Discuss**

How has your understanding of the word "love" been shaped by our culture, and how does Paul's use of agape love challenge that understanding? Why is it important to distinguish between eros, phileo, and agape when talking about love in marriage?

Paul calls husbands to love their wives "as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." What does this sacrificial love look like in the everyday life of a husband (or believer in general)? What are specific ways someone might "give themselves up" in the context of marriage, parenting, or friendships?

Why do you think Paul does not remind husbands of their headship in his direct exhortation to them, but rather emphasizes love? How does this shape how we should think about biblical leadership in the home?

Pastor Mark emphasized that "wives should focus on their section, and husbands on theirs." Why is this approach crucial in a Christian marriage? What problems arise when spouses focus on each other's roles instead of their own?

Pastor Mark highlighted that sacrifice leads to beauty and depth in relationship. Have you experienced this reality in your own relationships? If so, how has sacrificial love deepened trust and intimacy?

Verses 26–27 speak of Christ's goal to sanctify and cleanse His bride. While these are uniquely Christ's works, what can we learn from His intentions that apply to how we care for and build up our spouse and even others in the body of Christ? How can we contribute to the spiritual flourishing of our spouse or fellow believers?