



Work of Marriage Small Group Questions Ephesians 5:21-33 October 19

Community

- If you did not have to sleep, how would you spend the extra eight hours?
- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- What is one thing you would do differently this week as a result of this message?

Core: Read Ephesians 5:21-33

1. How do you define "submission?" Do you think that is what Paul has in mind as he writes about the marriage relationship and the relationship between Jesus and His church?
2. What does the idea of "mutual submission" mean? Is it possible for believers to submit to one another? How can we apply this principle in our families, workplaces and church?
3. Lance talked about having reverence for Christ as fearing Jesus, should we "fear" Jesus? What does that look like?

4. Why is the concept of submitting to others difficult for us to grasp. Is Paul's command for wives to submit to husbands easier or more difficult for us to grasp? How would you answer these objections?
5. The husband is said to be the "head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church." What do you think "headship" means in the husband/wife relationship? How does the parallel between Christ and the church help you understand this? How does it complicate things for you?
6. What limits to this submission are present in the passage?
7. A husband is to love their wife like Jesus loves the church. Describe this love. Compare and contrast this love to the submission a wife is to demonstrate to her husband.
8. According to verses 25-27 what should some of the goals of marriage be for husbands? What should they be pursuing for their wives and family? How often is this a focus for families; Or a focus for dating and relationships?
9. Are Paul's instructions to husbands and wives interchangeable? Why or why not?
10. Should we read these verses (& the Bible in general) looking first for ourselves, others, or Jesus? Why? Who is the main point or focus of the Bible? How does this help us interpret and understand the Bible correctly?

11. How does Paul's teaching about the relationship between Christ and the church shape the way that husbands and wives are to relate?

12. What do we learn about Christ and the church from this passage?

Pray to Close