

Our Closest Relationships

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Ephesians 5:22-33

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Over the last two weeks we have talked about relationships. We first talked about unity and relationships within the church and then we talked about our relationships with people outside the church. This week we are looking at our closest relationships; both our relationship with Christ and with our spouse. In the second half of Chapter 5 of Ephesians Paul gives instruction for how husbands should relate to their wives and how wives should relate to their husbands. To better explain himself Paul parallels the discussion with Christ's relationship to the church. We will see that in closest relationships there is both sacrifice and commitment.

1 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 (NET)

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord,

²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as also Christ is the head of the church—he himself being the savior of the body.

²⁴ But as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her

²⁶ to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word,

²⁷ so that he may present the church to himself as glorious—not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.

²⁸ In the same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

²⁹ For no one has ever hated his own body but he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ also does the church,

³⁰ for we are members of his body.

³¹ ***For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.***

³² This mystery is great—but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless, each one of you must also love his own wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

2 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. What are other examples of submission in Scripture?

2. Value is not based on leadership but on what we are willing to give up for something or someone. How should we value our spouse?

3. When we do something for our spouse, who are the two primary benefactors?

4. In this passage, is Paul's main point to talk about the relationship between husbands and wives or between Christ and the Church?

5. What requirements does Christ have for the church that makes it worthy of being His bride?

6. In light of question 5, what should we demand of our spouse for them to be honored?

7. As the Church, what should we be willing to do for Christ?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
