

a new way to **LIVE**

MARRIAGE–PART 2, Ephesians 5:21–33 May 5, 2019

CONNECT

1. Talk about a time (outside of marriage) when you submitted and it brought about good in your life. Think about good teachers, parents, pastors or commanding officers.

CELEBRATE

2. Summarize what you've learned about God's design for marriage from Ephesians 5 and the last two messages. What questions has this sparked for you?
3. Read Ephesians 5:24. How does the Church submit to Christ? What does it mean to submit to a Savior who went to the cross for us, even before we could ask? How does this inform the way wives are to submit to their husbands in everything? How does it inform the way husbands should be living in order to create a healthy environment for their wives to submit?
4. Read Ephesians 5:25. How does Christ love the Church? List three ways that Christ demonstrates His love for us. How do each of these inform the way that husbands should love their wives?
5. If you are married, take time to ask your spouse a question related to this passage:
 - a. Husband, what is one way that you feel respected by me? What is something I say or do that communicates disrespect to you that we can work through?
 - b. Wife, what is one way that you feel loved by me? What is something I say or do that communicates a lack of sacrificial love that we can work through?
6. God's picture of marriage includes a picture of Christ sanctifying the Church (Ephesians 5:26–27). How has God been cleansing you through His Word this past week? How have you seen marriage bring about a deeper level of holiness in a couple? How have you seen devoted singleness bring about a deeper level of holiness as someone waits for the Bridegroom's return?
7. Read Hebrews 13:4–6. What does it look like for married people and single people to keep the marriage bed pure? How does the Lord help if you have sinned already? How can He help you avoid sinning in these ways?
8. If you are married, does the way you talk about your spouse honor Jesus? Based on the way you talk about your spouse, what would an onlooker conclude about what the relationship between Christ and His Church looks like?
9. Why is it impossible to live this kind of marriage without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Take time to pray together for your marriage. Also, if you've never submitted to Christ and received His Spirit, will you take this chance to do so?

CONTRIBUTE

10. As you talk about Jesus and His bride (the Church) in your spheres of influence, how do non-Christians observe you submitting to and honoring Jesus as your Head? What do they observe you doing to sacrificially love and cherish Jesus' bride?
11. How can this passage help you speak the truth winsomely to someone who claims to know Jesus but is not living in line with the Bible's teachings on marriage?