



**TEXT:** Ephesians 5 : 22 - 33

**IDEA:** God created marriage to help us understand the relationship between Christ and His Church.

1. Think about why people get married.
  - a. What are common reasons why people get married?
  - b. Read verse 32. How do those reasons compare to the reason given in this verse?
  - c. What happens if we lose sight of the primary purpose of marriage?
  
2. Too often this text is read or taught only emphasizing what husbands or wives should do. What is the danger of reading it without pondering what Christ has done for us?
  
3. Read verses 25-27.
  - a. Describe what Christ already has done for us, is doing for us today, and will do for us in the future.
  - b. How do we rediscover the wonder of these things and cultivate awe at the thought of God's love?
  
4. Read verse 27 and Revelation 19:5-8.
  - a. How do we keep with this future event regularly in our thoughts?
  - b. How does thinking about it change our lives now?
  
5. What follows the family section of Ephesians 5 is teaching on spiritual warfare. Why does the enemy attack marriage? How do we guard against his attacks?



**TEXT:** Ephesians 5 : 22 – 33 (Part 2)

**IDEA:** Husbands have a God given responsibility to model Christ by loving their wives through humble leadership.

1. What happens if headship (verse 23) is separated from the commands to love throughout the passage?
2. Why are both being passive in marriage and being bossy equally dangerous to a marriage?
3. Read Ephesians 5:18-21. Why is it so important that these verses come before what we are studying this week?
4. Bryan Chappell writes, *“The exercise of biblical headship should enable a wife to know the fullness of God’s grace in her life.”* How so? What does it look like for a wife to know the fullness of God’s grace?
5. Compare Ephesians 5:25 and Mark 10:45. What are practical ways that husbands can intentionally love and serve their wives in our daily lives?
6. If you group has younger un-married men in it, consider discussing ways they can be preparing themselves now to live out this responsibility in the future.



**TEXT:** Ephesians 5 : 22 – 33 (Part 3)

**IDEA:** Wives portray the church when they joyfully respect their husband's Christ-like leadership.

1. Since marriage is primarily designed to picture Christ and the church, how is the wife's role of representing the church honorable and beautiful?
2. Read Ephesians 5:18-21. Why is it so important that these verses come before what we are studying this week?
3. See the diagram on the back. The verses addressing wives are a "chiastic" where several ideas are presented and then repeated in reverse order. How does this structure help us understand the focus of the text?
4. Read verse 33. A wife respects her husband with her heart, words, and actions. She can use her words to encourage her husband to step into his God-given role of humble, loving, sacrificial leading. How can she practically do that (what are some examples)?
5. Read Galatians 6:1. What should a wife do if her husband is not leading his family or making other sinful decisions? Why has submission so often been seen as passivity?
6. If your group has younger un-married women in it, consider discussing ways they can be preparing themselves now to live out this responsibility in the future.

## EPHESIANS 5 : 22 - 24 (chiastic)

Wives to your own husbands

as to the Lord

For the husband is the head of the wife  
even as Christ is the head of the church...

as the church submits to Christ, so also

wives in everything to their husbands

