



RETHINK MARRIAGE (2)

EPHESIANS 5:21-33

Overview

Marriage is best when we put the other first. In fact, this idea of submission is the foundation of all Christian relationships. Explore Paul's "blueprint of marriage," and discover how it models the relationship between Jesus and His church.

Discussion Questions

Read **Ephesians 5:21-33**.

1. When Paul uses the word "submit," what comes to mind? What did Paul mean, and what does the word mean today? Read **Philippians 2:1-4** for more insight into putting other's interests first. Specifically, Paul encourages us to think of others "as better than yourselves." Is this your tendency? How would doing so make Christian fellowship a better place?
2. Describe Jesus' submission to the Father? Check **Luke 22:42** and **Philippians 2:7**. Was submission weakness on His part, or strength?
3. Wives. Paul jumps right in by saying wives, submit to your husbands (I'm glad Paul said it and not me!). But really, it literally means that wives are to respect the God-given place of husbands in the marriage. How does not doing so impact a marriage? Men, how do you feel when your wife does not respect you? When she does not trust you? When she does not believe you? How does it feel when your wife respects your role, trusts and supports you? This does not mean inequality. Check **Galatians 3:28**. Ladies, in what ways can you show support for your husbands? Be practical.
4. Husbands. Paul's instructions are to the point: "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church." Describe, in as many details as possible, how Jesus loved the church. In v, 25, Paul says that Jesus loved the church, among other ways, by giving up his life for her. In what ways, men, can you sacrifice for your wives? Jesus is our example in this. Check **Mark 10:45**; **1 John 3:16**.
5. Beautiful. How does God see you these days? As you were, as you are, or as you will be? How do you see your wife? Is she beautiful in your eyes? Check out verses 26-27 to see how Jesus sees us, His bride. Paul refers to this concept of marriage as a "great mystery" v. 32. Why? What does marriage model?

Application: Wives, write down three ways you will respect and support your husband this week. Husbands, write down three ways you will sacrifice for your wife this week.