



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: "Imitating Christ in Marriage" - Ephesians 5:21-33

## GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

*If you are married (or widowed), share how you met, what attracted you to your spouse? What is one quality that is most needed to sustain a good marriage?*

*If single, either share something you like about your parent's marriage or a difficulty. What is one quality that is most needed to sustain a good marriage?*

## QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

## QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Agree or Disagree ... why?

"When husbands and wives take responsibility to imitate Christ in their marriage it will result in the spiritual maturity of each other".

2. In what ways does looking at the purpose of marriage merely through the lens of psychology, or romance fall short of the lens that Paul implores us to see the purpose of marriage?

3. In what way would your view of marriage change if the goal is to make one another like Jesus? What would need to change/shift for you?

## EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ephesians 5:21-33]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

What responsibility do we have to one another? (5:21)

What responsibility does the wife have to her husband before the Lord? (5:22)

What responsibility does the husband have to use his influence in a marriage? (5:23)

How is the relationship of the church to Christ an example to wives? (5:24)

How are husbands commanded to love their wives? (5:25)

What was the result of Christ's submission and sacrifice for the church? (5:26-27)

What is the result for a man's wife when he loves his wife the same way Christ loved the church? (5:28-30)

How is the bond between husband and wife greater than the bond between parent and child? (5:31)

How does the bond between Christ and the church illustrate the love of a husband for his wife? (5:32)

In sum, what are the responsibilities of the husband and wife toward each other? (5:33)

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How should both husband and wife imitate Christ in their marriage?

Why would unselfishness be an essential part of a Christian marriage?

What should a Christian wife do to care for and help her husband flourish?

What should a Christian husband do to care for and help his wife flourish?

In what way would imitating Christ in marriage lead to oneness, unity, love and respect with one another? In what way does Paul's vision of Christ and the church from Ephesians 4:15-16 inform his view of marriage?

What is one thing that requires you to take responsibility to love, honor and respect your spouse that stands apart from what he or she is or is not doing?

## APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?