



## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### Ephesians 5:21-33

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### **MUTUAL SUBMISSION**

- How does vs. 21 preview the whole topic of husbands and wives?
- What does it mean to “submit to the Lord” (vs. 22)?

### **THE CHRISTIAN LANDSCAPE** **FOUR RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

#### **THE NON-RELIGIOUS PERSON**

- What does marriage look like for those without any guidance from God?
- How has our culture’s definition of marriage changed over the years?
- With God out of the picture, what functions as the foundation of the non-religious marriage?

#### **THE NOMINALLY-RELIGIOUS PERSON**

- Why are the divorce statistics for believers and non-believers basically the same?
- Why is it dangerous to hold on to God, but to hold Him at arms length?
- Why does Jesus call the nominal Christian “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:16)?

#### **THE ACTIVELY-RELIGIOUS PERSON**

- How can a person be religiously active on the outside, but still neglect their inner life?
- Which part of faith, outside or inside, will most nurture a person’s relationships and, more specifically, their marriage?

- How does the spiritually healthy inner life feed the activity of the outer life?
- How can activity, even religious activity, compete with and even damage marriage and other relationships?

### **THE DISCIPLE OF JESUS**

- The term “Christian” is only used 3 times in the New Testament. The term “disciple” is used 295 times.
- If “Christian” is a name, what is disciple?
- In a marriage a “disciple” of Jesus will (finish these sentences) ...
  - ... be willing to sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ... always forgive because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ... practice servant leadership because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ... respect their partner by \_\_\_\_\_.

### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- How do you know when you are living as a “follower” of Jesus rather than a “fan” of Jesus?
- Knowing that the primary reference point in marriage is Jesus, what should a husband or wife do first to strengthen their relationship?
- What is the difference between spiritual and authoritarian leadership?
- Describe the difference between showing respect and showing resentful deference?
- How does Jesus’ leadership teach you how to lead? How does his submission to the Father teach you how to follow?
- Close by asking God to once again make Jesus the reference point of every relationship.