

MARRIAGE ON MISSION: Understanding God's Purpose for Marriage

Session 4: Marriage on Mission: Understanding God's Purpose for Marriage

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Review

- Everything the Bible says about Christian relationships in the church applies to Christian marriages.
- We should value and work toward Christlikeness in ourselves, our spouses, and our marriages above all else.
- We should understand where we and our spouses are in terms of spiritual growth and learn to encourage continued growth.
- Our marriages should be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit and not the things of this world.

WHY SHOULD WE WANT THIS FOR OUR MARRIAGES?

²² *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* ²³ *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* ²⁴ *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ²⁶ *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷ *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.* ²⁸ *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,* ³⁰ *because we are members of his body.* ³¹ *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* ³² *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* ³³ *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

THE CONTEXT

- This section of Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus begins in chapter 4.
- The focus is on Christians living out the gospel in the church *“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*
- 5:22-33 is not about the authority structure in a marriage, but rather, how Christians who are married live out the gospel and as a result display the gospel.

God intended marriage to be:

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

How our marriages should be like the Trinity

by your _____ (John 17:21)

by your _____ (John 13:35)

In what is called Jesus's high priestly prayer, He prays this for us:

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

What Jesus told His disciples is the importance of love between Christians

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

How can our marriages be on mission this way?

1. Be a member of a _____ church.
2. Be equipped by the _____ of your church.
3. Be _____ in your church.
4. For spiritual growth that can be done with your spouse, walk _____.
5. For spiritual growth that takes place separate from each other, _____ one another.
6. Pray with and for _____.
7. Pray that your marriage be _____ with Christ.
8. Pray that God will use your marriage as a _____.
9. Increasingly see you relationships to _____ as the _____ for all other relationships.

Why Marriages on Mission last

1. The love between spouses is _____ by their relationships to Jesus.
2. The marriage is part of _____ eternal plan – not simply the plan for our lives.
3. The marriage exists for _____ and not just for the couple.
4. The purpose of the marriage is to a genuine picture of _____ - the _____ of the _____.