

# THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:21-33

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What is your favorite wedding that you've attended? Why? If you're married, what was the most memorable part of your wedding ceremony? Tell your group the story.

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat reminded us of the God-given roles husbands and wives willingly play in marriage.**

### Wives, submit to your husbands (Ephesians 5:21-24):

1. **Submission is counter-cultural**
  - Look again at vs. 21. How has our world distorted the biblical understanding of submission?
2. **Scripture values women because God does**
  - Read these passages about women, and talk about how the Lord places great value on women in the Bible: Matthew 1 (The five women in Jesus' genealogy); John 4 (The Samaritan woman at the well); Acts 16 (Lydia, one of the first believers in the early church); John 8 (The woman caught in adultery); Galatians 3:28 (The unity of all in Christ).
3. **Women, if you're married, which of these facets of submission do you need to work on?**
  - Personal - submit to your own husband
  - Spiritual - submit as to the Lord
  - Pictorial - submit as a picture of the Church submitting to Christ
  - Complete - submit in everything

### Husbands, love your wives (Ephesians 5:25-33):

1. **Love is sacrificial**
  - Husbands are told to love their wives with sacrificial love. Wives, how can your husband invest in your life and your marriage relationship in a special way this week?
2. **Love is sanctifying**
  - Husbands must see their wives as someone "set apart" for special use for the Lord. Men, how are you specifically helping your wife grow to be more like Jesus right now?
3. **Self-Love**
  - Husbands should love their wives like they love themselves (vs. 28-29). Husbands, if you took care of your wife as much as you naturally take care of yourself, how do you think they would respond?

## CONCLUSION

- Read Ephesians 5:31-32 together. How do your relationships compare or contrast with Christ's relationships with the church?

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that the marriages in our church would be strong, biblical, Christ-imitating marriages.

