Ephesians
Sermon 11
Ephesians 5:21-33

Sermon Study Guide Questions
November 17, 2019

Review:

Last week, we covered Ephesians 5:1-21. The scripture addressed the importance of reflecting the ways of Christ with our words and with our lives. The apostle Paul presented the idea that we should be **"children of light"** rather than **"children of darkness."** When we, as followers of Christ, allow His light to shine through our lives, we dispel the darkness in our lives and bring the light of Christ to our lives and to the world.

In Ephesians 5, Paul talks about how being a follower of Christ should affect every area of our lives, that is, should bring light to our lives and to every place we go. He specifically addresses marriage, family, and the workplace. This morning, we will focus on marriage.

Note: There is something that is vitally needed if we are going to see the light of Christ in our life.
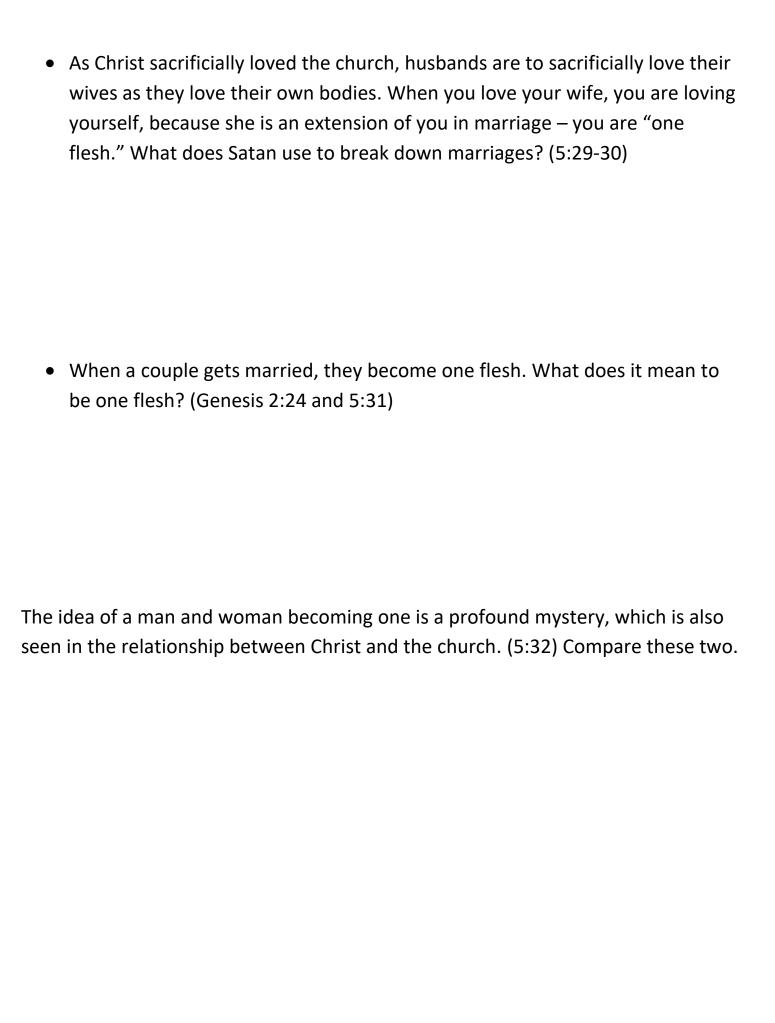
Read Ephesians 5:18 – 20

- Why can we not change by following a self-works program? Who is needed to bring about changes in our lives and what are the results that come from being open to Him in our lives?

- We know that the Holy Spirit lives in the life of the believer. What happens to us when we ignore Him and do it our way? (4:30)

- Christians can either give Him control or not give Him control. When He is given control, the Holy Spirit can help us live according to God's Word and be the person God wants us to be. How much control have you given to the Holy Spirit? What is holding you back from giving Him complete control?

Let us look at the attitude of submission concerning the marriage relationship.

Read Ephesians 5:21 – 25

- What does the word submit mean? Why do we often focus on the negative part of the word submit? How can it be used in the positive?

- Explain the attitude of submission and how it should be part of every person's life, even to those in leadership positions?

Let's see how submission relates to the marriage relationship, starting with the wife. Read Ephesians 5:22 -33.

- How does Paul start out using verse 21 specifically to wives?

- How and why does Paul address husbands the way he does?

- Do husbands have the right to lord their leadership position over their wives?

- This does not mention that husbands are to remind their wives of their leadership role and demand submission. What way is required for husbands to treat their wives?

- What is the basis for wives submitting to their husbands?

- Christ's love led Him to die for us – what would it mean for a husband to live with his wife with that type of love?

- How is the husband to provide a covering and protection for his wife and the family? (5:25-27)

- As the church submits to Christ and recognizes that Christ is its Head, how can wives submit to their husbands and recognize that their husbands are their heads?

What is the husband's role in marriage?

Is the husband a leader, decision maker, and boss? What does the scripture say about his role and have we gotten this wrong for a long time?

- As Christ loves the church, how does the husband love his wife and family? (5:25)

- How did Christ demonstrate His love for the church? (5:25-27)

- As Christ sacrificially loved the church, husbands are to sacrificially love their wives as they love their own bodies. When you love your wife, you are loving yourself, because she is an extension of you in marriage – you are "one flesh." What does Satan use to break down marriages? (5:29-30)

- When a couple gets married, they become one flesh. What does it mean to be one flesh? (Genesis 2:24 and 5:31)

The idea of a man and woman becoming one is a profound mystery, which is also seen in the relationship between Christ and the church. (5:32) Compare these two.

- The husband is to love his wife as he loves himself and the wife is to respect her husband. If you are single or married - seek out healthy married relationship and learn from them! Make a list of what makes healthy married couples and work continually toward this. Which of these will help to guard your heart and mind?

Note: When a woman is unconditionally loved, it will bring out the best in her…and help her to **respect her husband.**

When a man is unconditionally respected, it will bring out the best in him…and help him to **love his wife.** And both parties get want they want, and more importantly, what they need.

This is a mystery that requires faith to experience. **Do things God's way and you can have a marriage that's beautiful.**

Notes:

CrossRoads of Arlington

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For information or questions, contact Gene-o Parenica

geneo1958@gmail.com 817-501-0212