

Ephesians: God's Grace for Us We Are Loved

1. Christian marriage calls us out of self-centeredness to serve one another in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-11; John 14:26b

Invite the Holy Spirit to make Jesus' words real to you as you take a portion of the Bible and read it, write it, say it, sing it, pray it. This will be God's recipe (R,W,S,S,P) for internalizing God's heart and value for those around you.

2. Christian marriage calls us to mirror the sacrificial love and respectful submission seen in the relationship of Christ and the Church. *Ephesians 5:22-30; Mark 10:44-45*

3. Christian marriage calls us to put on display the mystery of our oneness with Christ. *Ephesians 5:31-33*

He left: You are the pearl of great price he sold it all for. (Matthew 13:45,46)

He cleaved: Making us a people of His presence (imparting to us His power, purity, patience, perspective, peace, pleasure) "Christ in you the hope of glory Colossians 1:27"

To become one flesh: He calls us to partnership in His purposes with the promise of permanence (Matthew. 28:18-20)

Recommended Books & Resources:

- The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller (also listen to 9 sermons by Keller on marriage at: <http://www.gospelinlife.com/marriage>).
- The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work by John Gottman.
- From This Day Forward by Craig & Amy Groeschel (also watch free sermons: www.life.church/watch/from-this-day-forward/).
- Married for Good by Paul Stevens
- Keep Your Love On! by Danny Silk
- The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman;

- Young Marrieds meets every other Sunday at 6:30-8pm in the NCCTK Worship Center for those in their first five years of marriage, visit our website for the schedule.
- Call the church to line up Pre-Engagement, Pre-Marital or Marriage counseling.
- Watch for Monthly Marriage Strengthening Nights with Kurt & Gwen Langstraat (Sundays).

Next Week's Reading Guide:

Ephesians 5:20-21
Ephesians 6:1
Ephesians 6:2-3
Ephesians 6:4
Ephesians 6:5-6
Ephesians 6:7-8
Ephesians 6:9

Discussion Questions:

1. How does being filled with the Spirit help free us up to serve the needs of others?
2. What are your love languages? [acts of service, affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, physical touch]. What are your spouse's or those closest in your life's love languages?
3. What are some assumptions about roles within marriage (from yourself or in the culture) that aren't actually in the bible?
4. How can meditating on the love and respect between Christ and the church strengthen a marriage and impact others?
5. How can we display the mystery of our oneness with Christ to the world around us (whether we are married or single)?