

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

The Church: The Gospel Made Visible

Marriage 101 – Eph. 5:21-33

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*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. This passage begins with the command to “submit” and Paul gives three examples of submission (wives in verse 22, 23; children in 6:1; and servants in 6:5-9). This is the Greek term “hupotasso” which according to the NASB New Testament Greek Lexicon takes on these meanings:
 - a. to arrange under, to subordinate
 - b. to subject, put in subjection
 - c. to subject one's self, obey
 - d. to submit to one's control
 - e. to yield to one's admonition or advice
 - f. to obey, be subject

How do you feel about the concept of submission? From your observations, how does the world in general view this concept of “submission”?

2. Submission is a general principle for life. What would happen in society and in the home if submission was completely absent? How does this help you to view submission more positively?
3. What does it mean that “the husband is the head of the wife” in verse 23? Describe how this headship is supposed to function from the verses which describe Christ’s relationship with the church?
4. Ephesians 5:22-25 states the two rules for a happy marriage; one for the husband, one for the wife. Many marriages get in trouble when these rules are broken, and when they are broken they begin to compound. How can husbands and wives avoid these landmines in their relationships?
5. A husband’s love for his wife is to be like Christ’s love for his people. How do these verses describe Jesus’ love for the church? What has Jesus done and what does he do to show his love for his people?
6. Read Ephesians 5: 31-32 and compare with Ephesians 2:11-18. How then does a marriage relationship paint a picture of the gospel message?

7. In verse 32 Paul mentions a “profound mystery.” What is this mystery? Is marriage a metaphor of Christ’s love for the church or is Christ’s love for the church a metaphor for marriage?

8. In the summary statement of verse 33 Paul concludes that a woman must respect her husband and a husband must love his wife. Why are these two things so important? In what way does this make for a strong marriage?

9. Read Proverbs 11:2; Proverbs 14:12 and Proverbs 16:18-20
 - a.) How does this passage relate Pastor John’s sermon about submission?
 - b.) Why do we find it so hard to submit to authority?
 - c.) Why would a proud spirit make it hard to submit to authority?

10. How would a humble spirit make it easier to submit to authority and benefit your marriage for both a husband and wife?

11. Pastor John issued several challenges to the men in the church when he said that they ought to be “pastors” for their wives. Please discuss this statement and what it might involve; for the husbands in the group, please share any areas of improvement. For the wives in the group, how might you help your husband?

12. Pastor John mentioned that husbands should have a longer list of sacrifices in the marriage relationship as husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Please provide some examples of sacrificial love in your marriage relationship, or examples you would like to carry out!

13. Read Ephesians 5:33 – “Love breathes life into a Woman” where “Respect breathes life into a Man”. Please discuss these two statements – out of curiosity and purely for experimentation purposes, ask your non-Christian friends what they think about these two statements? It may be a good segue into sharing the gospel!