



WEEK 3

Growth Group Opener:

Was there a marriage that you idolized growing up? Were they people you knew in real life, or a couple on tv? Why did you look up to them?

Read: Ephesians 5:1-32 (read in multiple translations for fuller understanding)

How does Paul's description on how to live the Christian life in v1-20 set believers up to fulfill the instructions that follow in how to live in a Christian household?

How do you see the command in verse 21 play out throughout the rest of the passage?

In the context of v22, what has to happen first before a Godly relationship is even possible with a husband? In what ways could a vibrant relationship with the Lord be reflected in a woman's relationship with her husband?

Read: Romans 5:6-11; Skim John 18-19

What was the condition we were in when Christ died for us? In John 18-19, we see the experiences Jesus freely submitted to on the way to the cross on behalf of all believers for all time. If husbands are to love their wives like Christ loves the church, in that context, what kind of sacrificial love would that entail?



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How would it change your marriage, or a potential future marriage, if both spouses loved each other from the context of the previous two questions?

How could a marriage like what is described help advance God's kingdom?

What can we learn about God from this passage?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Connection step:

If you are married, make time to sit down with your spouse and each ask what you can do to make the other feel more loved. Ask how you can serve them on daily basis to make their day better. If there are apologies that need to be made, make them sincerely. Make a genuine effort going forward to honor your spouse in these ways.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the gift of marriage. Thank you for the sanctification that can come through marriage. Lord, use each of our marriages to make us better people, to make us holy, and to make us look more like you. May we serve and lay down our life for our spouse, just as Jesus did for us. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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