



Lesson Aim: To consider how the relationship between Christ and the Church can be an example for relationships between husbands and wives.



connecting

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion or devotional time.

1. **READ Ephesians 5:21-33.** How does verse 21 set the tone for this entire passage of Scripture?
2. How is our willingness to submit to others affected by our reverence for Christ (v. 21)?
3. What are some ways that the Church's submission to Christ is a helpful illustration of a wife's submission to her husband (v. 22-24)?
4. If you are a wife, how could your submission to your husband grow more like your submission to Christ? (Or if you are a single, how can you grow in your submission to Christ?)
5. Paul instructs husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. What are some ways Christ shows His love for the Church (v. 25-30)?
6. If you are a husband, how could your love for your wife grow more like Christ's love for the Church? (Or if you are a single, how can your love for others grow more like Christ's love for the Church?)
7. Why do you think Paul calls on wives to respect their husbands while he calls on husbands to love their wives (v. 33)?
8. How can you show more love or respect to your spouse? Or others in general?



growing



sewing



reaching

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

Colossians 3:18 – 19

God created marriage before the Fall, and He created marriage for intimacy between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24-25)

When Two Become One in Marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33)

- 1) It's a relationship of mutual submission. (verse 21)
- 2) The wife is asked to trust and support her husband as the spiritual leader. (verses 22-24)
- 3) The husband is asked to lead his family and cherish his wife. (verses 25-30)
- 4) It is the beginning of one new life existent in two persons. (verses 31-32)
- 5) There is a call to a lifetime of unconditional love & respect. (verse 33)

Practical Advice on Two Becoming One

For singles:

- Focus more on becoming the right person than on finding the right person.
- Ask tough questions about a potential mate's relationship with Jesus, character, sexual purity, and responsibility.

For the married:

- Knowing the facts about God's vision for marriage does not equal living it out!
- Focus on your biblical role, not your spouse's.
- If you don't celebrate your differences, you will fight over your differences.
- Expectations left unsaid will always go unmet.
- If you want your spouse to feel loved, you have to learn their language of love.

For everybody:

- Expecting a mate to meet all your needs will lead to bitter disappointment.
- How can God use my understanding of His vision for marriage to help others?