

“Ephesians –Beyond Co-Existence”

Ephesians 5:22-33

May 11-12, 2013

BELONGING TO A SMALL GROUP IS A GREAT WAY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY. IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN A GROUP OR GET MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SUE
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Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families or individuals.

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For Starters

1. What are the different answers one could expect to hear to the question ‘why did you get married’ (exclude because I love them)?
2. What about this week’s message gives you hope? Anything giving you heartburn?

Digging In

1. Do a quick overview of Ephesians 1-5:21 and note the key truths and principles that help us walk in a worthy manner in marriage.
2. Some of us are married to a person who is not yet a Christ-follower. How does 1 Peter 3:1-9 help us honor Christ in our marriage and further His mission?
3. What is God asking of husbands and wives and why? How are they similar? How are they different? What about this teaching is conditional, and requires the Spirit’s help?
4. How does sin complicate marriage? What are the patterns that we fall into in marriage as husband and wife that keeps us from experiencing God’s goodness?
5. Marriages further Christ’s mission by pointing to Christ in the way we do marriage and love each other. Read through the passage again and note all the things we know about Jesus in the text and how he has led and loved us.
6. Look closely at Ephesians 5:31 which is a quotation of Genesis 2:24. Note the progressive ongoing call for those who are married. Think through examples of marriage struggles that relate back to the foundational principles of leaving, being united and becoming one flesh.

Bringing it home

1. So how does someone who is not married further the mission of God? Why does Paul call singleness a gift (1 Corinthians 7:7)?
2. Whether you are married or not sin makes relationships harder. What sin(s) is the Holy Spirit asking you to deal with? As you confess it, ask God to help you put on that which honors Christ and builds strong marriages.
3. Men, are your wives growing to be more like Jesus because of your servant leadership or in spite of it?
4. Wives, how do you know if you are or are not giving your man respect?

Digging Deeper: If you are married, take an hour this week and ask the following questions. How can I better serve you and how can we better serve Christ’s mission? Use Ephesians 5:21-32 as a guide to pray for your marriage—pray through it one verse at a time.