

Ephesians 5:21-33 | Husband & Wife

Getting Going (15 mins)

1. Settling in & Opening Prayer
2. What do you think is the best age to get married? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper (40 mins)

1. Review:
 - a. What were you thankful for this past week? Did you thank God?
 - b. Do you think you lived by the Spirit this past week? Why or why not?
2. The word “submit” means to willingly place yourself under the authority of another. After reading the text, list some of the ways, in our current culture, where proper submission makes things work better.
3. Why do you think submission is hard for so many? Is it hard for you? Why or why not?
4. Read **1 Peter 3:1-7** and **Colossians 3:18-19**. What do these verses contribute to the biblical understanding of the relationship between a husband & wife?
5. Our text for this week requires a husband to love his wife with no out-clause for when a wife is hard to love. How does he do this?
6. The text also requires a wife to respect her husband with no out-clause for when he isn't acting respectably. How does she do this?
7. The underlying assumption to all this loving and respecting is a true love & respect (submission) for Christ. How does that understanding affect marriage relationships?

Practical Preparation (10 mins)

1. How do you need to apply this message in your own life this week?

Parting Prayer (15 mins)

1. If you are married, pray for your spouse. If you are not married, pray for a marriage that is important to you (family or friends).
2. Will you commit to continuing these prayers all week?

Optional Extra Question – Do you prefer dogs or cats (or neither) and why?