

June 12-13, 2021

Title: The Church in the World, Pt. 6: "The Church and Marriage" – Ephesians 5:22-33

Big Idea: Marriage exists to model the love between Christ and the Church.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read Ephesians 5:22-33. What unanswered questions do you have?

1. Human relationships exist to model what the Trinity is like.

Read Ephesians 5:31-32 again. What does this passage suggest about the ultimate purpose of marriage? How was this a mystery before Jesus came?

Read Genesis 2:18-24. What are some of your observations from this passage?

Does this passage leave any room for homosexual marriage within God's design for marriage? Why or why not?

Why was it not good for the man to be alone? What is it that makes something not good? How does Genesis 1:26 help you answer?

What does it mean to be created in the image of God when it comes to our need for relationships?

2. The Trinity loves each other.

Read John 17:24, Hebrews 1:3 and John 5:19-20. What do these verses suggest about the Father's love for His Son?

Read John 13:31, John 14:31 and John 5:19. What do these verses suggest about the Son's love for His Father?

Read John 16:13-14 and Romans 5:5. What do these verses suggest about the Spirit's love for the Father and the Son?

Based on all of the above, how would you describe their different roles in loving each other? Who takes the lead? Who follows? What can we learn from them?

3. We are called to image the love of the Trinity.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-3 and Ephesians 5:23. What do think it means to be the “head” of someone? What does it mean for God to be the head of Christ? The husband to be the head of his wife? Christ to be the head of humanity and the church?

Headship means authority and responsibility to initiate love and set the example. Submission means receiving their love and following their example.

Read Ephesians 5:25-27. How does Christ initiate and set the example for us?

Read Ephesians 5:25. What is a husband’s headship of His wife supposed to be like? What does this practically look like?

Read Ephesians 5:22-24. What is a wife’s submission to her husband supposed to be like?

How should a wife respond when her husband is not loving like Christ and not setting a good example? How about when she disagrees with him on important decisions? How does the concept of submission “as to the Lord” help you answer?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. How does this description of Jesus’ love help us know how to lead and how to follow?

Read Ephesians 5:21. We are always called to submit to Jesus and follow His example no matter what. And we are always called to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. How does the general command of “submit to one another” help you understand better the role of a wife’s submission in marriage?

At the end of the day, do headship and submission look any different on the outside, or do they both just look like following the example of Jesus? What is the primary difference between them?

Read John 13:1-15. How does Jesus’ example of washing the disciples’ feet help us know how to live toward one another in all the relationships of our lives? How does it help you to know that Jesus even washed Judas’ feet on the night he betrayed him?

Oneness & Witness Takeaway:

Let’s be the church – in our marriages, in our families, in our friendships, in every relationship in our lives, married or single – receiving the love of Jesus and following His example to one another, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.