



In Christ, Marriages Can Testify of the Gospel



Key truths:

1. Marriage reflects the relationship between Christ and the church.

2. The wife submits to her husband as the Church does to Jesus, and Jesus to God.

3. The husband loves the wife sacrificially as Jesus did for the Church, his Bride.

NOTE: Kids may think this does not relate to them because they are not married yet. But, one day he may become a husband and she may become a wife, so it is important to know what the Bible says about this role!



Discussion Starters:

1. Compare verse 2 to verse 25 and verse 21 to 22. How is the call for every Christian similar to the call for wives/husbands? How is it different?

For Youth: Re-read verses 25-32. What is Paul trying to say by comparing marriage to the relationship Christ has with his Church?

2. What does a husband loving his wife as himself mean? Give examples.

3. What does a wife submitting to ("yielding to") her wife as to the Lord mean? Give examples.

For Youth: How did Christ love the church? What does this mean for husbands who must love their wives in the same way?

For Youth: What do you understand Paul to mean, when he says wives should submit to their husbands? What do you think about this?

God cares deeply about our relationships and gives them deeper meaning - to help us better understand his authority, his love and his grace-filled sacrifice for us.

4. The comparison between husband/wife and Christ/church in this passage isn't one of master/servant, but of lover/beloved. The focus here isn't power, but unity (v.31). How can this understanding change the way we approach this passage?

5. God's commands to husbands and wives is not conditional (for example: love your wife IF she submits or respect your husband IF he loves and sacrifices). Has God ever asked you to show love or respect to someone who didn't deserve it or wouldn't return it?

