



This past Sunday Pastor John preached a message that looked at how the church (i.e., us) is meant to be Jesus' bride. In this week's lesson we'll be looking at this parallel and considering further what being Jesus' bride means and how we, as the church, can become the kind of bride Jesus deserves.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

Let's also keep praying for the refugees and for our summer trips to Berlin. Let's pray specifically for fundraising, as teams only have a month left to raise support!

EPHESIANS 5:21-33

We will be studying a passage in which Paul parallels the relationship between a husband and a wife and Christ and the church. Although there is a lot we could discuss regarding marriage according to this text, let's keep this discussion focused on the relationship between Christ and the church. (See attached for a printout of the passage)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What did Christ do for the church? What was the purpose of this?
- What is the church meant to be?
- What does Paul's teaching on the relationship between husbands and wives tell us about our relationship with Christ?

Application Question: In what ways can we submit ourselves to Christ in order to become the bride he died for us to be—one that is holy and blameless?

Break up into groups of 3-4 to share and pray with each other about how we can become the church Christ desires us to be.

EPHESIANS 5:21-33 **21** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— **30** for we are members of his body. **31** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” **32** This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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