

Biblical Marriage

Pastor Paul Springer | Ephesians 5:22-33
April 29, 2018 | Spring Cycle: Week 3 of 10

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

How competitive are you? When you play games, sports, or anything that declares a winner, how do you react when you win?
How do you react when you lose?

Nice to Meet You!

If you or anyone else is new to the group, please introduce yourselves and share what your favorite leisure activity is.

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Has the Lord revealed anything new to you, while reading the Bible or in prayer this past week? Does this new insight inspire you to share Christ with others?

Pray for each other for strength, patience, and guidance to grow in areas of vulnerability in your relationships.

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Pray to the Lord that we would better recognize his unseen hand of protection in our lives. Pray that he would help us to become more aware of his grace and love.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

The love and respect we have for each other is central to the accurate display of the Gospel.

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

Q1. Why is it important for marriages to model Christ's love for his bride, the church?

Q2. Why do you think the Apostle Paul devotes twice as many words to husbands about loving their wives, in comparison to wives submitting to their husbands?

Q3. Please read Ephesians 5:21. What is the importance of submission for husbands and wives in marriage? Or, the importance of submission in our daily lives in how we treat others?

Q4. Men and women are all created equally in the image of God. When you look at Christ's loving example towards his church, how does that inspire you to behave differently towards your spouse, or in relationships in general?

Q5. Husbands: How has your wife encouraged you to lead? How has she stood by your side, even during the hard times?

Q6. Wives: How has your husband loved you and cared for you, even during the hard times?

Q7. Singles: Although marriage may or may not be in your future, what insight did you take from the sermon, of how Christ is refining you?

Impact Questions

Q1. How can we use the practice of submission in Biblical marriage, to submit ourselves to Christ?

Q2. Do you find it difficult to allow someone else to lead when you have conflicting ideas of your own, or, do you find it difficult to sacrifice yourself for the betterment of someone you love? Explain.

Q3. What has the sermon revealed to you about having love and respect for the role your other half has, in marriage? Or, what has it taught you about how God defines the roles of husband and wife, in comparison to our culture?

Note: Submission and sacrifice are often easier in homes where both partners have a strong relationship with Christ and where each is concerned about the happiness of the other. Oneness in marriage does not mean losing your personality in the personality of the other. Instead, it means caring for your spouse as you care for yourself, learning to anticipate his or her needs, and helping and encouraging the other person to become all he or she can be in Christ.

What now? (15 minutes)

Please pray that the Lord would resolve any misgivings or hurts you may have in regard to having a Biblical marriage, or wishing you had a Biblical marriage. Please pray, no matter whether you are married or single, that the Lord would reveal to you how you can better strengthen your brothers and sisters in Christ: they are the Bride the Lord lovingly sacrificed himself for.

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray for marriage as a whole and for marriages here at Northwest specifically. The enemy seeks to destroy the church, which includes marriage. Please also continue to pray for the ongoing ministries at Northwest, and that the Lord would continue to reveal his spiritual gifts to us. Pray that he would direct us towards a calling that not only fits the gifts and talents he has given us, but that glorifies him above all!

Sermon Notes: