

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 25, 2015

Passage: Ephesians 5:22-33

Memory Passage: Ephesians 5:31-32

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** FYI: The Greek word behind “submit” (*υποτασσω*) originally expressed the idea, “to arrange or rank under,” and here is found (most likely) in the middle active voice. It carries the meaning of voluntary submission, so a more vivid translation might be “submit yourselves.”

(b) To whom, and in what manner, are wives to submit to their husbands (v. 22)?

(c) Does this submission include other husbands? All men? How do you know?

(d) For what reason must a wife voluntarily submit to her husband (vs. 22-23)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33, 1 Cor. 11:3, Col. 1:18, & Eph. 1:22-23.** Explain what you learn in these passages about Christ’s role in relation to the church?

(b) Does a wife’s submission mean she gives up her desires, her will, her ability to think for herself? Explain your answer.

(c) In what ways is the church submitted to Christ? How are these instructive for understanding a wife’s submission (v. 24)?

(d) What is the extent of a wife’s submission to her husband (v. 24)? Are there any exceptions? If so, what are they?

(e) What is the husband’s role in his wife’s submission? What requirements must be met before a wife is required to submit?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** What does “sanctify” mean, and how does Christ’s act of “giving himself up” accomplish this?

(b) Explain Paul’s use of the word picture “by the washing of water with the word” for the process of sanctification.

(c) To what will this sanctification lead for the church (v. 27) and why is this important?

(d) Write a paragraph, using your own words, explaining how “Christ loved the church” according to this passage.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** In what ways does Christ nourish and cherish the church?

(b) How is a man to nourish & cherish his own body, and how does this enable him to love his wife in the same way?

(c) How do verses 25-30 form the foundation for the creation command found in v. 31 (since v. 31 begins with “therefore”)?

(d) How does the profound mystery of marriage referring “to Christ and the church” affect your understanding of divorce (Mark 10:1-12)? How does it affect your understanding of and participation in your own marriage?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** How does Paul’s summary statement (v. 33) comport with vs. 22-32? Explain the differences.

(b) What are the greatest challenges you face in submitting to your husband or loving your wife, and how does this passage motivate you to be more Christ-like in your marriage in these particular areas?

(c) Start a conversation with your spouse about your answers in (b). Ask forgiveness where necessary, and together set out a course for taking positive action in the area of conforming your marriage to this passage of Scripture.

(d) How would you put flesh on these verses for a young couple who is contemplating marriage? What experiences would you share from your own marriage that would both positively and negatively illustrate these truths for their edification?

DATE: October 25, 2015

PASSAGE: Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives & Husbands—Christ & the Church