

# The Mystery of Marriage

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, May 2, 2021; Steve Thiel

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**Theme:** The mystery of marriage is that it is ultimately about Christ and the church. As men and women, our roles and responsibilities as husbands and wives are divinely given to provide the clearest picture of the gospel possible, for our good and for God's eternal glory!

## **I. Marriage is a Picture of the Gospel – Read Ephesians 5:22-33**

- A. As you think about our current culture, what are all the different ways that people might define and describe love in the context of marriage? How would you define and describe it?
- B. As you read through these verses, list the different times that Paul relates the relationship between a man and a wife in the context of marriage to the relationship between Christ and the church.
- C. Paul quotes Genesis 2:24 in verse 31 and says that the coming together of a man and a woman in the context of marriage is a mystery. Why do you think he describe it as a mystery?

## **II. Relationship of Christ and the Church – Read Ephesians 5:22-33**

- A. List all the different ways in which Christ initiates with the church. As you think specifically about Christ's love for the church, how would you describe that love? Compare and contrast that description of love with your earlier thoughts about our culture's definition of love.
- B. What do you think Paul means in verse 25 when he says that Christ "gave Himself up" for the church? What actions, attitudes, and efforts are all included in that short phrase?
- C. What are all the different ways in which the church responds to Christ? Now, obviously, we're not born naturally submitting to Christ. Therefore, what has to happen for an initial response to Christ? And what does the on-going process of submitting to Christ look like on a daily basis?

## **III. Relationship of Husbands and Wives – Read Ephesians 5:22-33**

- A. It's critical that we see our relationships as husbands and wives in the context of Christ and the church. The reason it's so critical is that it gives us biblical definition for words like "love" and "submit". Compare and contrast the bible's definition of submission with the world's definition.
- B. As you think about the husband's role in a marriage, what are all the different ways in which he is called to practically lay down his life for his wife and kids? How does that responsibility impact his actions, attitudes, and language in the home? What should his orientation be when he's coming home from work? How are the words "initiate" and "engage" helpful to that orientation?
- C. As you think about the wife's role in a marriage, what are all the different ways in which she is called to practically submit to and follow her husband? How does that responsibility impact her actions, attitudes, and language in the home?
- D. List the different marriages in which you've seen a husband's Christ-like love for his wife and a wife's godly submission to her husband. How would you describe those marriages? How would you like to participate in cultivating and encouraging more marriages like that?