



Life Group Work Sheet

Ephesians 5:25-33

May 25, 2014

Getting to Know Each Other

1. How would you define love? Is it an action or a verb?

Into the Text

2. **Read Eph. 5:25-28.** Here Paul tells us that the standard for a husband's love for his wife is Christ's love for the church. What does the self-sacrificial of Christ look like in a marriage?

- a. How does this love play a part in the spiritual growth of both husband and wife?
- b. Women, how would you like/expect a man to help you in your spiritual growth through marriage? (If you are married, how is your husband helping you grow?)
- c. Men, how do you (plan to) help your wife and children grow spiritually as the leader of the household? (For those who are married, what does it look like in your current context?)

3. **Read Eph. 5:29-33.** Consider your own context. What do Paul's commands for wives to submit and for husbands to love look like in your own context? In your own marriage?

4. How can a husband show unconditional, self-sacrificial love to his wife in the following situations?

- a. A relationship between husband and wife has become distant due to not spending enough time together.
- b. A family is struggling to make ends meet financially. The husband is offered a promotion that will allow his family to live comfortably, but it will mean a significant decrease in the amount of time he is able to spend with his family.
- c. A husband and wife are both passive and hesitate in making decisions.
- d. A wife is verbally abusive and emotionally distant from her husband, at no apparent fault of the husband.

5. Up to this point, our discussion has focused on the love shown between a husband and wife. How do these relationships point to Jesus and the church? Is this true of all marriages?

- a. **Read Ezekiel 16:1-14.** How is this passage similar to Paul's passage here in Ephesians?
- b. Considering that God has always considered his people his bride, what does that tell us about the importance of marriage?

'Til Death Do Us Part

One of the most powerful pictures of the love between Christ and his church is found in good, healthy marriages. Sometime this week, head over to a computer and head to this website: <http://www.vimeo.com/38033654> (or head over to vimeo.com and search for "Ian and Larissa"). Watch this video and reflect on how this video portrays Christ in their marriage, answering the following questions:

1. How do Ian and Larissa show self-sacrificial love to one another?
2. If you are married, how does this video encourage you in your own marriage?
3. How does marriage portray the love of Christ for his church to the world? If you're married, how does *your* marriage do this?