

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: BETTER MARRIAGE

**Colossians 3:12-21, ESV** – <sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. <sup>18</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup>Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we were reminded that marriage works when wives submit to their husbands and husbands gently love their wives. Why do you think this is true?

2 What does it mean for people to do things “as is fitting in the Lord”? Is this a duty or a right? Explain.

3 How can losing touch with your spouse cause you to also lose touch with God?

## DIGGING DEEPER

A **Ephesians 5:21-33, ESV** – <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

4 What does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband? What is it not?

5 In verse 24, Paul compares the submission of the wife to her husband with the submission of the church to Christ. God has clearly designed an authority structure in His creation. Why do you think He did this?

6 What does it mean for a husband to love his wife as Christ loved the Church? How does Christ love the Church?

7 Read 1 Peter 3:7. What does it mean that wives are “heirs with you”? Why is this important to remember in the husband-wife relationship?

8

It is often said that real love is not a feeling, it is a decision. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

## TAKING IT HOME

As you consider these principles for a better marriage, what stands out to you? What are you doing well? What can you improve upon? What next steps do you need to take in your life to follow God's will in being the best husband or wife you can be. Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you walk out these principles in your marriage.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Proverbs 12:4; 21:9; 31:10-12, 28-29

1 Corinthians 11:3

Titus 2:2-4

1 Peter 3:1-7