

Sunday 10 November
Sermon
Ephesians 5.21-32

Possible small group questions:

1. Why is it important that we see the Bible's description of married life as a direct result of the Holy Spirit present and working powerfully in the church?
2. What part of this passage/message do you find most challenging to accept? Can you articulate why?
3. What is attractive to you in this passage? And why?
4. This passage calls husbands to a very costly form of love. Discuss what that kind of love might look like in practice, within the daily life of a marriage.
 - Leaders note: it is helpful to hear from both men and women if possible...
5. How would you describe what "submission" means, as the term is used in this passage?
 - Leaders note: try to remind people that submission is first and foremost a heart attitude, a heart commitment to living alongside a husband and making a shared life with him (rather than dominating the marriage or living independently), and not (primarily) about who gets the last say or how decisions are made.
6. Do you think Gary Thomas is right to say that marriage is designed to make us holy rather than to make us happy? Discuss.
7. Eph 5.28-29 argues that a husband caring for a wife is also benefitting himself since their lives are so intimately intertwined. Discuss how this works, using practical examples. Do you think it applies to the wife as well (i.e. that her welfare is tied to the welfare of her husband)?
8. What is the importance - for marriage - of the recurring reference to Christ and the church in this passage?
 - Leaders note: look at the last couple of slides in my sermon.