

# May 31 Discussion Questions

## “Unconditional Respect”

### Ephesians 5:18-24, 32-33

#### **Review**

The Command: **Surrender** all you are to Jesus (v. 18)

The Caution: Beware of **Deception** and **Distraction** (v. 15-17)

**WHAT - Submit** to your husband

*“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands... and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”* Eph. 5:24, 33b

- Place yourself under your husband’s authority with **Unconditional** respect, **Responding** to his direction and **Supporting** his decisions

**WHY -** Because God **Appointed** him for you (and you for him)

*“Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... As Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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.”*

Ephesians 5:21-22,26-27

- “What if God designed marriage to make us **Holy** more than to make us **Happy**?” Gary Thomas, *Sacred Marriage*

**HOW -** By Trusting in Jesus and **Experiencing** His overflowing love

*“Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking... singing... giving thanks... submitting to one another...”* Ephesians

5:18-21

#### **Connect**

1. Share a person whom you enjoyed submitting to or struggled submitting to. Why do you think this was the case?
2. Why is it a joy for Christians to submit to Jesus?

**Read Ephesians 5:18-24, 32-33**

## **Discuss**

3. How would you define submission biblically?
4. This passage flows out of the command in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled with the Spirit. Why does the Spirit's filling lead to submission? What victory is to be had in submission?
5. Considering God's relationship with the Church, why should wives submit to their husbands? What benefit is there in giving up personal desires for a spouse?
6. Women, what kind of man would you joyfully submit to? What kind of man is difficult to submit to?
7. Share an example from your marriage of what submission looks like fleshed out. Was it easy or hard to submit? What fruit came from your decision?
8. Why do men crave respect from their wives? Wives, what are some practical ways you can respect your husband?

## **Apply**

9. To those who are single, divorced, or widowed, whether you desire marriage or not, how does this study challenge you to grow in your relationships with others?
10. Husbands, what is a small or big thing you can change to increase your wife's joyful submission to you?
11. Wives, what is a small or big way you can demonstrate your respect for your husband this week?
12. Why does a dying world need the example of a godly marriage? Does this convict or challenge you to grow your marriage? What is something you can agree on together to grow your marriage?

## **Pray**

13. **Weekly Prayer Focus from Prayer Team**

**Personal:** Pray we would show honor to each other, especially in our marriages, out of our respect to Christ. *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Ephesians 5:21

**Ministry:** Pray for our church leaders as they continue to make plans for our church family to meet together in person not only on Sunday mornings but also during the week for Youth Ministry, Community Groups and leadership meetings.