



## Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Ephesians 5:22-33 – January 15, 2023

### Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

Real Relationships – Les and Leslie Parrott – <https://bit.ly/3GiB5BN>

*The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!*

### **KNOW:**

- How was your concept of marriage shaped as you grew up? What opinions and ideas did you learn about marriage from the people you were around as a child and even early into adulthood?
- Was your parents' marriage a good marriage? What are your memories?
- What are the pressures a marriage is subject to?
- Is there a couple in your life now or previously that model strong Biblical marriage to you? Describe them to your group.
- What are the pros and cons of being married?
- In today's culture the individual has a central position, my feelings, thoughts, world perspective and actions are the only thing that matters. Is there any other option? (Ephesians 5:21; Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:3).



## GROW:

- Submitting is not a natural response, but those who have submitted to Christ and call him Lord- meaning, He exercises absolute ownership rights- have experienced “the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”. (Romans 12:2). Is this a model to imitate in our relationships, particularly marriage?
- Consider the culture in Ephesus where a goddess influenced their actions. What was their concept of this goddess? Consider Acts 19:27. The wisdom of God is reflected in Ephesians 5:22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord”.
- Satan likes to distort the sacred things of God and either make them less than what God intended or sometimes more important than God intended. In what ways has he made marriage less than what God intended in our culture today? Can you see any ways – maybe especially in the church or in the south – that we have made the goal and idea of marriage *more* than what God intended? Think back to Brandon’s message on singleness and look back at 1 Corinthians 7:6-7.
- If someone were to ask you about the purpose of marriage, what would you say? Discuss this with your group and see if you can come up with a simple, clear, Biblical statement on God’s purpose for marriage so that you would be ready to have an encouraging discussion with someone if that opportunity arises. Consider Justin’s message and consult these verses for help: Genesis 2:18, 24; Ephesians 5:23-30.



## SHOW:

- Do your actions as a wife or husband reflect the values of your culture or the wisdom of God?
- Whatever your marital status, how could you allow God to use you to glorify Him and elevate a Biblical view of marriage and encourage others?
- Marriage is hard. When we encounter hard times, we can think things like, “I married the wrong person” or “I think this marriage has run its course and it’s over.” What is a Biblical perspective on the hard times in marriage? Consider 1 Peter 4:8, John 16:33, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 4:2-3, Romans 5:3-4.