



# MY GREATEST DAY OF FAITH

## FAITH IN LOVE

Ephesians 5:22 – 33

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Jon Field, Lead Pastor

## MESSAGE NOTES

*Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, 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. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. — Ephesians 5:24 – 28 (ESV)*

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. — Ephesians 5:31 – 32 (ESV)*

### Faith Guides for Growing Marriages:

- **Be growing in partnership**

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. — Ephesians 5:31 (ESV)*

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make **a helper** suitable for him." — Genesis 2:18 (NAS)*

### Helper: One who joins the agenda of another to accomplish the goal of another.

- **Be growing in mutual surrender**

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. — Ephesians 5:22 – 24 (ESV)*

*... saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." — Luke 22:42 (ESV)*

### Submission is giving your husband your emotions, desires, and trust.

- **Be growing as a warrior for nourishing love**

*Husbands, love your wives, 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 5:25 – 27 (ESV)*

*In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, **but nourishes and cherishes it**, just as Christ does the church, — Ephesians 5:28 – 29 (ESV)*

*... it is not unthinking obedience to His rule but rather a grateful acceptance of His care. — John Stott*

- **Be growing as beacons of honor**

*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. — Ephesians 5:33 (ESV)*



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*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.  
— Ephesians 5:23 (ESV)*

*But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. — 1 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)*

*The greatest among you shall be your servant. — Matthew 23:11 (ESV)*

**“Headship” is an office of servanthood, not entitlement**

**“Authority” is to lead by modeling spiritual maturity, not by the heavy-hand of power**

*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. — Ephesians 5:32 – 33 (ESV)*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Discussion Starter: If you had to come up with an example of how much Christ loves the church, what illustration would you use? (Christ in Ephesians uses the illustration of marriage)
- Marriages in America tend to have a relatively short shelf life and fewer people are entering the covenant promise of marriage. What are some possible reasons for those trends? In light of that, why is it so significant that Christ uses marriage as an example for how much He loves the church?
- Twenty of the twenty-four times the word “helper” is used in the Bible it is used as “God is my helper.” How does that help us understand why God would use that term in relation to a husband and wife (Genesis 2:18).
- Growing in “partnership” is all about growing in “oneness” in the marriage relationship. What does that look like in marriage and what does that look like in our relationship with Christ?
- Pastor Jon defined submission in marriage as “giving your husband your emotions, desires, and trust” and used Jesus in the Garden crying out to the Father as an example of what that looks like. How do you like that definition of “submission” and why? What does it look like in marriage and what does it look like in our walk with Christ?
- What was your biggest take away from the message this last Sunday?
- Read Ephesians 5:25 – 27. What is so powerful about Christ’s sacrificial love for the church? What does it look like for a husband to love, cherish, and nourish his wife and vice-versa?
- Honor is a powerful force in any relationship. Why is honor important mutually in our relationship with Christ? Why are honor and respect so powerful in a marriage relationship?