



The Mystery of Marriage

Ephesians 5:21–33 reveals one of the most profound truths in the New Testament: marriage is not merely a human institution but a living picture of the gospel. Paul uses marriage as an illustration of Christ’s sacrificial love for His church, showing how the covenant love of God shapes all Christian relationships. While the passage speaks directly to husbands and wives, its deeper message applies to all believers, married or single, calling us to embody Christlike, self-giving love. In a world where relationships often operate on personal benefit, Paul paints a vision of a community transformed by the character of Christ. This passage invites us to rethink love, sacrifice, and belonging through the lens of the gospel.

- What married couple do you look up to the most? Why?
- Read Ephesians 5:21–33. Paul says marriage is a “profound mystery” pointing to Christ and the church. What stands out to you about how marriage illustrates the gospel?
- How does the passage redefine love and submission when understood through Christ’s self-giving example?
- The word “love” in this passage is *agape*, an action-based covenant love. How is this different from cultural depictions of love today?
- Where might God be inviting you to show self-giving love within your marriage, friendships, family, or the church community?
- How does this passage encourage you to view the church as a spiritual family marked by covenant love?
- What personal sacrifice or act of service is the Spirit prompting you to lean into, whether at home, church, or in a meaningful relationship?

Praying together

Pray that God will form in us the self-giving, covenant love of Christ, whether in marriage, friendship, or the life of the church. Ask the Spirit to reveal where He is calling you to sacrifice, serve, and love in a way that reflects Jesus’ love for His people.

