

**Sermon Title: *“A Word to Husbands and Wives”***

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33**

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**INTRODUCTION**

**I. MARRIAGE: A PICTURE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**

**A. Husbands, love & lead your wife…**

1) GRACIOUSLY: Not according to performance. (Ephesians 5:25, 29-32)

***Romans 5:8 -***

2) SACRIFICIALLY: Desiring her benefit, her good, before your own. (Ephesians 5:25)

Note: Husbands, you cannot do this in your own strength; you will fail miserably!

***Romans 5:3-5 -***

3) INTENTIONALLY: Seeking her sanctification. (Ephesians 5:26-27)

**B. Wives, love & respect your husband…**

1) REVERENTLY: Out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:22)

2) COUNTER-CULTURALLY: Embracing God’s design. (Ephesians 5:23-24, 33)

3) AFFECTIONATELY: Appreciating his uniqueness as a person. (Titus 2:3-5)

Note: The word Paul uses here for “love” is “phileo” and it speaks of a warm, tender affection.

**C. Applying this to One Area: Communication**

1) In what you SAY, let there be gracious honesty.

***Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”***

2) In how you HEAR, let there be quiet humility.

**One Last Encouragement:** Beware the danger of relational reclusiveness!

**Take Home Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. What are some bad or unhelpful ideas/thoughts about marriage popular today?
2. What do you think is the greatest challenge or hindrance to healthy marriages today?
3. How would you summarize God’s instructions to husbands? What is he supposed to be and do?
4. How would you summarize God’s instructions to wives? What is she supposed to be and do?
5. What do you find to be particularly helpful and/or challenging from Ephesians 5?
6. Are there ways you can practically encourage and promote healthy marriages?

**Good Questions for Husbands and Wives to Ask Each Other…**

1. How am I good at showing/communicating that I love you?
2. Are there things I could do differently to better communicate that I love you?
3. What is one thing that you wish I did differently in life, marriage, and/or ministry?
4. What goal(s) do you want to accomplish together and/or alone?
5. What is the best thing about being married to me?
6. What is hard/difficult about being married to me?
7. Where do you need help spiritually and/or physically?
8. Are there areas where I can/should grow spiritually?
9. What can I do to better help/serve you?
10. Is there anything I forgot to ask?