

GABC WED Night Small Group Discussion Guide

June 6, 2018

Ephesians 5:21-33

1. Do you think our culture has a strong view of marriage?
2. How does the biblical teaching on marriage look different than the world we live in?
3. How important are strong families to the strength of a nation/churches?
4. Look at chapter 5 verses 21-24.
 - a. Here we see that wives are called to submit to their own husbands.
 - i. Why is it important to note that Paul says to their own husbands and not women submit to men?
 - b. What does it mean for the husband to be head over the wife as Christ is over the church?
 - i. Is Christ responsible for the church's well being?
 - ii. Does the church answer to Christ?
 - iii. Who leads the church?
 - c. If you think about a man who has the same heart for his wife as Christ has for the church do you think that this man's wife would have a hard time following his leadership?
5. Look at verses 25-30. Here we see the responsibility of the husband toward his wife.
 - a. Paul commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
 - i. How did Jesus love the church?
 1. He gave himself up for her.
 - a. With this in mind what role does the husband play in the home? Is the marriage about the husband and what he wants or about the wife and her well being.
 - b. Think about what Jesus says in Mark 10:45 even the Son of man did not come to be served but to serve.
 - i. Husbands are called to serve their wives.
 - b. We are also told that Christ's love led to the sanctification of the church.
 - i. We can see then that the husband's love should lead to a deeper walk with God for his wife.
 1. How can husbands help their wives grow in grace?

- c. Verses 28 and 29 tell us that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
 - i. Husbands should treat their wives the way they would want to be treated.
 - ii. They are also called to nourish their wives.
 - 1. As husbands nourish their wives spiritually they grow and help the husband grow as well.
 - 2. “Happy wife, happy life”
- 6. Look at verses 31-32. Here we see that this view of marriage comes from the creation account in Genesis 2:24 and also from the gospel itself in that Paul says that marriage is actually a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church.
 - a. How does this answer the question that many in society have about our view of marriage?
- 7. Verse 33 gives a summary statement of this whole section.
 - a. Love your wife as yourself
 - b. See that you respect your husband.
 - c. How do these two attitudes lead to a healthy marriage relationship?
 - d. How do each of these attitudes lead to mutual submission?
- 8. In Matthew 10:10-11 Jesus’ disciples say that it would better to not be married to which Jesus responds with that’s only possible for those to which it has been given.
 - a. Have you ever considered singleness as a gift?
 - i. Why do we feel such pressure to marry?
 - ii. How can we as churches support those who are single in their gift?