

OVERVIEW

How can I grow in my relationship with my family (parents, spouse, or children)? In Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul transitions from relationships in the church to relationships in the family. Christ is our example in the way we love and serve members of our family. The husband-and-wife relationship is a reflection Christ and the church and centered in love and respect for one another.

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: What is one of your favorite things about your spouse?

Or Where is the first place you would like to travel, if all COVID restrictions are gone?

Ohana Time! Activity – Prepare questions and interview somebody to learn more about their family, ministry, or faith.

PRAYER

Pray in groups of 2-3: Ask God for help in your relationships with your family (parents, spouse, children, or relatives) – that you may embody Christ-like love and grace.

Pray in a large group: Pray over the families in our church – that they may be grow in holiness and love.

BIBLE: READ EPHESIANS 5:21-33

1. Which verses focus on the wife? Which verses focus on the husband? Which verses focus on the marriage relationship?
2. What are some ways people are influenced in their thinking when it comes to understanding a “normal” or “healthy” relationship between husband and wife? (ex. culture, parents)
3. The word “submit” (verses 22-24) can be confusing and even offensive to some. Submission does not imply inferiority, but an expression of a complementary and harmonious relationship centered in Christ-like love and respect for one another. What kind of picture of submission does Paul illustrate to describe the husband-wife relationship?
4. Christ’s love led him to *die* for us. What would it mean for a husband to *live* with his wife with this type of love (verses 25-33)? What kind of tangible ways did Christ act out his headship?
5. What are the blessings that come out of “submitting” to one another in our relationships in the church or in your family (verse 21)?
6. What passage does Paul refer to in verse 31? What does it mean when “two” (man and woman) become “one flesh?”
7. Based on today’s passage, how would you summarize as the goal/purpose of Christian marriage?

APPLICATION

1. “The only person you can change is yourself” (especially in marriage). What is one way you can grow as a husband or as a wife to serve and to show Christ-like love to your spouse?
2. Whom do you look up to as a good role model for marriage? What questions would you ask? What advice would you heed?
3. “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family” (quote by Mother Theresa). What can you do tangibly this week to show love and appreciation to your family?