Marriage Minded

Ephesians 5:15-33

Main Point: Marriage is ultimately about the <u>gospel</u> and is designed to bring glory to God.

 God established marriage as a living picture of the ultimate <u>purpose</u> in creation – the glorious, eternal <u>union</u> between Himself and His people. (Gen. 1:27-28, 31; 2:15-24; Rev. 19:6-9)

2. The Spirit <u>empowered</u> life of the church encourages all of us to <u>prioritize</u> Christ-centered relationships. (Eph. 5:15-21)

 Marriage demonstrates the perfect <u>submission</u> and <u>love</u> of Jesus in order to sanctify His followers. (Eph. 5:22-33)



FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

- 1. How does the creation of Adam and Eve inform us about God's intended design for marriage? Gen. 1:27–31, 2:15–25
- 2. How did sin corrupt God's ideal design? Gen. 3:16
- 3. Read Rev. 19:6-9 and discuss the beauty of our ultimate destiny.
- 4. How does understanding marriage as a picture of the Gospel change your view of its purpose? How does marriage sanctify believers?
- Discuss God's miraculous power in a troubled marriage that you have experienced or witnessed. How do these stories reflect God's power to redeem and restore broken marriages?
- Why is it important for Christian marriages to thrive in the context of a church community? How does the Spirit filled conduct of a church encourage Christ-centered relationships? Eph. 5:15–21; 1 Peter 5:7–9, Prov. 13:20, 3:5–7; 1 Cor. 3:16, Phil. 4:4–6, Phil. 2:1–5
- 7. How can those who are not married still find joy and purpose in the biblical teaching on marriage? Eph. 5:15–21; 1 Cor. 7:8–9
- 8. In practical terms, how can a wife's submission reflect the Church's trust in Christ, and how can a husband's love mirror Christ's sacrifice? Matt. 22:29–30; Eph. 5:21–33.

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, <u>The Last Battle</u>