sermon study notes

Growing Together through the Mystery of Marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Introduction:

Be filled with the Spirit... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ... (5:18, 21)

Paul takes the application of the gospel and the filling of the Spirit a stage further, into the three most basic relationships the Christian has in society: (i) marriage and home life; (ii) parents, children and family life; (iii) daily occupation and working life. He begins with marriage, the health of which is essential to the Church, the Family and to society in general. (adapted from Sinclair B. Ferguson)

Sermon Outline:

1. The Spirit-filled Wife (vs.22 - 24)

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2. The Spirit-filled Husband (vs. 25 - 30)

3. The Spirit-filled Marriage (vs. 31 - 33)

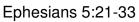
Questions for Reflection:

i. What difficulties do people have in reading this passage today? How does the context help us to understand what Paul is teaching?

ii. How does the understanding of Christ's relationship with His Church help us understand the role of husband and wife in marriage?

iii. If you are married, what do you think this passage has to teach you about how to relate to your spouse? How can you pray for yourself and your spouse in light of this teaching?

Personal Study Notes





³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself,

and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:31-33

Instructions for Christian Households

Submit to One Another (5:21)

Wives, Submit to Your Husbands (5:22-24)

Love Your Wives, Just as Christ Loved the Church (5:25-29)

And we are members of His Body (5:30-32)

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)

