

SERMON PREP GUIDE MARCH 18, 2018

READING GOD'S WORD

Ephesians 5:22–33

DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

- 1. Who does Paul address in verse 22? Who are they to submit to and who are they to submit "as to"?
- 2. What two words in verse 33 describe how often a wife should submit to her husband?
- 3. Why did Christ give Himself up for the church in verse 26? How does he elaborate on Christ's purpose further in verse 27?
- 4. How is a husband to love his wife in verse 28? Whose example should a husband follow in and why?

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

- 1. Why is submission oftentimes seen as a negative thing in our culture? How does Christ example bring beauty to submission instead of hostility?
- 2. Paul elaborates on his reasoning of submission in verse 23 ("For..."). Why is this important?
- 3. How did Christ love the church and in what ways does that translate to how the husband should care for his wife?
- 4. How has God's Word given you a fuller picture of the marriage relationship? What has challenged you most?

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

- » Out of our reverence for You, Lord, empower us to humbly submit to one another.
- » Thank You, Father, for the example of Christ and how He submitted to Your will. May we submit to Christ as our head.
- » Praise our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, for the example that He has given husbands to sacrificially love their wives.
- » Pray for the Spirit to empower husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church and for wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord.