



EXTRAORDINARY MARRIAGE BIBLE STUDY

- *The leader's job is to ask the questions and make sure everyone gets a chance to discuss. The goal is to make this a dialogue, not a monologue.*
- *Please remember to be sensitive and respectful toward your spouse when sharing anything about your marriage relationship.*
- *Take turns reading the following scripture sections out loud. In this session we look at Christ as our husband and we, the church, as His bride.*

Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name...

Hosea 2:16-23 'And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.'...And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

We are the bride of Christ and He is our husband. Men, have you ever thought about this - does it seem strange to think of yourself as a bride?

Why do you think God used that description? What does being a Bride of Christ mean?

How is our covenant with God similar to the marriage covenant we make with our spouse?

If Christ is our husband how should we, the bride, respond to Him?

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

As brothers and sisters in Christ how are we to treat one another?

Is submission to one another optional?

Submission has many negative connotations in our culture. Submission and humility are often not seen as character qualities in our culture but seen as weakness.

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

What are some ways that Christians live in submission and humility to others?

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

(Bible Exposition)

In the Greek the word, “submit” doesn’t actually appear. It is an extension from the previous verse (21). It would read, “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” The command in verse 21 still applies to men and women regarding mutual submission. Verses 22–24 simply explain how wives are to submit to their husbands: with the same kind of respect and devotion they owe to Christ.

Men, how easily do you submit to Christ? Do you submit to Him “in everything?”

For many, submission can be a difficult thing. Why is that?

When I desire control over my own life, I’m really saying to God; “I don’t trust You. I don’t believe You will take care of me. I don’t believe You have my best interests at heart.”

When I desire control over my own marriage what am I saying to God?

How do control and submission differ?

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

The greatest act of submission would be to give your life for someone, and that’s exactly what Christ did for the church. Discuss the many different ways Christ loved the church. What would loving your wife as Christ loved the church look like in its application?

The husband has a God-ordained role of leadership and authority in the home. His submission to his wife is a different kind of submission—not submission to her as an authority figure, but a loving willingness to sacrifice for her, be a servant to her, and to desire what’s best for her.

If you’re a church leader or need help with your marriage go to: Marriage911GodsWay.com

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

Matthew 20:25 *But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

How does godly leadership differ from the leadership of the Gentiles that Jesus is referring to?

How are godly leadership and servanthood connected?

The goal of the husband is not to demand his own will be done but to love his wife.

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

Ephesians 5:32 *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

How does this model of marriage reflect Christ and the church? How does this model change the way you think of being a bride to Christ?

(Ask someone to read the following passage out loud)

33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

What would the response of the world be if Christians were to actually do this verse?

How would our churches look different if the marriages in the church were to follow this model?

Take a few moments to pray for the marriages in your group and in your church.

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