

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

As connect groups start back up for the second semester, we come to a chapter in Ephesians that is so powerful because it reflects on what Christ's love is for the church and that His sacrifice is one that we should remember in everything that we do. The focal point of this section of scripture is that puts a focus on marriage and what the roles of a husband and wife are. This also relates to how we should act when it comes to our relationship with Jesus Christ.

READ Ephesians 5: 22-33

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. **24** Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. **28** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. **30** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. **31** "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." **32** This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. How does Jesus cleanse and sanctify us on a daily basis?
2. What does this passage tell us about Christ's love for us?
3. What is God doing in your life that shows that he is nourishing and cherishing you?
4. How can you better submit yourself under the authority of Christ in your everyday actions?
5. How can you better submit to the authorities of everyday life in a way that reflects Christ?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- For an application, think about how you can live out these verses daily. Whether you are already married, engaged, thinking about it, or still single, there is still a valuable application that we can take away in these verses. First and foremost, it is recognizing that the love that Christ has for us is unconditional and never going away. That is the love that a husband should have for his wife. And it reciprocates in knowing that Christ has an unconditional love for us, that we get to show that love back to Him in the way that we submit to His authority in everything that we do. This week, think about how you can better show that love to Christ. Does it mean that you open your bible one more time a week? Or that you commit to praying on a more consistent basis? Or that you make that choice to start serving somewhere so that you can show others what the love of Christ looks like? Whatever it is, really look at how you are redeeming the time with Christ in how you are actively in relationship with Him.