

MESSAGE NOTES

Note big ideas, supporting passages, and important takeaways related to spiritual formation:

SERMON WRAP-UP QUESTIONS

Immediately following the sermon, answer these questions:

What did you learn from this sermon relating to the theme of spiritual formation?

What are several practical steps you could take to grow spiritually based on what you heard from the sermon?

Disciples of Jesus are in union with Christ which is to be evident in our marriages.

Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

- Read Ephesians 5:18-21. As Timothy Keller points out in his book The Meaning of Marriage, we often fail to recognize this section as an introduction to what follows. What do we learn about the Spirit-filled life of humble submission to others in this section? In what ways is mutual submission supposed to govern all relationships? Why is this an important introduction to what follows in 5:22-33?
- Look back at Ephesians 1:13-14. In what ways does this passage declare our union with Christ through the Spirit. In what ways does our union with Christ help us understand our relationship with Christ (the church as bride and Christ as bridegroom) and our view of marriage between husband and wife?
- Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Is this passage about marriage (the marriage between husband and wife), the church (the relationship between believers and Christ), or both? Explain your answer.
- Discuss Paul's instruction to wives and husbands. Submission is a tricky word to explain to someone in today's culture. This term implies a voluntary decision applied within marriage. What does that mean, not mean, and what does it look like practically played out in marriage? What does "as to the Lord" mean in v. 22 and what does it mean in the context of vv. 22-24?
- Note that the husband is to love his wife, expressing Christlike sacrificial love (vv. 25-30). What does that mean and look like? In what ways do the instructions given to wives and husbands help the marriage relationship thrive? Why is it dangerous to advocate submission without sacrificial service? What might that lead to a relationship?