Ephesians 5:21-33

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body.

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.

Sermon Outline
- Everyone wants a stable marriage, but many struggle to have one.
- Marriage works when it is done God’s way!
- Our sin nature cannot be married to anyone successfully.
- Our sin nature is selfish and that goes against God’s desire for us to “submit to one another” in marriage.
- The best way to change your spouse is to change yourself!

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- If you are married, how and when did you meet? How long have you been married?
- If you are single, what are your relationship goals/dreams?
- In your opinion, what makes relationships challenging?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

ATTENTION: Please think through these ahead of time, so when you get to your Growth Group you will be prepared to discuss.

1. Why do you think we desire romantic relationships?
2. Why can’t our sin nature be married to anyone successfully?
3. What instructions does Ephesians 5 give to women?
4. What instructions are given to men?
5. Why are these instructions different? [What did Rev. Buttrey say comes natural for women according to their sin nature? For men?]
6. In order to have a more godly relationship, what changes do you think you need to make in yourself?
7. What spiritual role is the husband responsible for according to Ephesians 5:26-27?
8. How do you think God uses marriage to make us more like Jesus? What are some ways we fight this?
9. Do you plan to attend the Marriage Conference May 1-2nd? Why?/Why not?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group