

Loving the Bride

Eph. 5.21-33

Focus: to call the church to “be the bride” by submitting to Christ’s headship and embracing His love for us.

RESOURCES:

Here is a link to a helpful short bible study by R.C. Sproul, Jr. on the meaning of the church as the bride of Christ:

<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/high-fidelity/>

2016 Annual Priority:

To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement’s goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.

Discussion:

- Look up the following verses and discuss what you learn about God's people as His bride: Hos. 2.16-20; Is. 54.4-10; 62.5; Jer. 2.2; 2; Ezek. 16.1-14; Cor. 11.2; Rev. 19.6-10; 21.1-5, 9; 22.17.
- Read Eph. 5.21-24 and discuss how the imagery of a bride's submission to her husband reflects the church's submission to Christ. How ought this shape you more? How can you keep this more in mind when you are tempted to disobedience?
- Read Eph. 5.25-29 and discuss how the imagery of a husband's love for his bride reflects Christ's love for the church. How ought this shape you? How can you keep this great love in mind?
- What does it mean to you, in your own words, for you to be part of the church as the bride of Christ? Which of these two traits, submission or love, is one you most need to reflect on further?

