



This month, we're dedicating our time to exploring Biblical love. On Sunday, we focused on the marriage relationship, which requires submission, sacrifice, and communication—exactly what Paul teaches in Ephesians 5:21-33. This passage can sometimes make people uncomfortable because of its discussion on submission, but when we view it through the lens of Christ's love, we see that submission isn't about power, it's about serving one another with humility and love. Since our church is composed of people in various stages of life and relationships, some questions may resonate more than others. As you discuss, please be mindful and sensitive to each person's experiences.

1. The sermon started with a viral story about Otou Katayama who acted extremely childish in his marriage. What are some childish things you've seen couples do in their relationship that leaves you shaking your head?
2. Read Ephesians 5:21. Paul commands married couples to submit to each other out of reverence for Christ. The word *submit* can get a bad reputation in marriage. How can married couples show a profound respect for each other?
3. To fully understand the marriage relationship we need to look back to creation. Read Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:20-25. Focusing on these two verses, what do we learn about the way God created mankind in His image and the role of marriage?
4. In Acts we learned about the couple Priscilla and Aquila. Read Acts 18:1-3 and 18-19. What lessons can we draw from this married couple about supporting each other in the gifting God has given to husbands and wives?
5. Scripture provides us some cautionary tales of marriage. David and Michal's marriage is one that lacked spiritual unity. Read 1 Samuel 19:10-17 and 2 Samuel 6:16-23. What can we learn from this couple about having a healthy marriage?
6. Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Paul teaches married couples how to interact with each other in a Godly way. As a group, pull out several examples of what a healthy marriage looks like and discuss how you could move in that relational direction.
7. For those who are married, come up with a list of several ways you can love and respect your spouse this week. Examples can range from praying for each other, reading Scripture together, or planning a date.
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for strength to invite a friend to meet Jesus.