

Growth Group Questions – September 13, 2020

Introduction Questions:

- How are you doing?
 - [This question will always be here – it's optional, but may help bring the passage back to mind if you meet later in the week] - If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

Read: Ephesians 5:21-33

Understanding Questions:

- In Ephesians 5:21, what are we asked to do out of reverence for Christ?
- What are wives asked to do? What are husbands asked to do?
- For what reason does the author of Ephesians say Christ gave himself up for the church?
- Whom, ultimately, is the church subject to?

Application Questions:

- How does the church work to be more hospitable and caring to those with little or no status? How do we work to do away with abuses of power and authority that harm the especially vulnerable?
- In what ways have you felt subject to someone you love? What did that lead you to do for them?
- In what ways do you find the metaphor of the church as the bride of Christ helpful or unhelpful to your understanding? Why?

Additional Notes:

- In this passage, the writer compares ancient Roman society's view of the family or marriage hierarchy to the relationship between Christ and the church. The discussion of relationships within a household is introduced with an exhortation to mutual submission.
- In Ephesians 5:26, "cleansing... washing" is a reference to baptism.
- Usually Paul exhorts believers to present themselves to God or Christ. Here the focus is instead entirely on Christ's action.
- In Ephesians 5:28, the line "He who loves his wife loves himself" is an echo of Leviticus 19:18.