

Singleness & Marriage

The Ministry of Marriage

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Ephesians 5:21-33

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Introduction: Did you know that you will be single for eternity? That's not a word of prophetic doom! (Despite what they might tell you in the culture today.) That's a promise of eternal bliss. Jesus says: "In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage." Someday we'll all be single! So how does that promise and the coming bliss shape life today? What does it tell us about the meaning of singleness and marriage today? And how should it shape the commitments we make to one another as members of one another in the new family of Jesus today?

Review: How did you pursue the place the Lord has assigned to you with love, this week?

Read: Ephesians 5:21-33

Prayer: Loving Father God, you have put us into your family. Show us more about what this means as we study this passage together. Amen

Discussion:

1. Paul starts this section with a statement that applies to all of the recipients of his letter. Why do you think he did this?
2. What does it mean to submit to one another? (or be subject to one another -NRSV)
Why is this important in the body of Christ, the church?
3. What is the connection between love and respect? Which of these do you desire more?
Which is easier for you to show?
4. What love and respect do you show to yourself? How can you show this consideration to others?
5. What is getting in your way that keeps you from choosing love and respect in your interactions with others? By what power is this kind of love possible?

Application: Ask God for help in choosing love in difficult interactions.

Prayer: Holy God, Thank you for your great love for us. Continue to teach us as we live out the truths we have learned this week. Amen.