**MARRIAGE**
The Book of Ephesians

Introduction

  I.  A Word to **Wives** – Ephesians 5:22-24

   A. The **Concept** of Submission – Ephesians 5:21
   B. The **Center** of Submission – Ephesians 5:22
   C. The **Context** of Submission – Ephesians 5:22, Galatians 3:28
   D. The **Criterion** of Submission – Ephesians 5:23-24, 1 Corinthians 11:3, John 10:30
   E. The **Consequences** of Submission

  II. A Word to **Husbands** – Ephesians 5:25-33

   A. Love Your Wife **Unconditionally** – Ephesians 5:25
   B. Love Your Wife **Sacrificially** – Ephesians 5:25
   C. Love Your Wife **Purposefully** – Ephesians 5:26-27
   D. Love Your Wife **Passionately** – Ephesians 5:28-29

     1.  **Nourish** Your Wife
     2.  **Cherish** Your Wife – Ephesians 5:30-33

Conclusion
Ephesians 5:18

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### Getting Started

1. When you think of the word "submission," what thoughts or feelings come to mind?

2. What is an example of submission that is positive?

### Going Deeper

1. Read Romans 10:12, Galatians 3:28, and James 2:5. How does a Christian man or woman stand in privilege and position before God and in the church?

2. Read Ephesians 5:21 and Philippians 2:5-8. In what way can two people mutually submit "to one another?" When have you seen this portrayed?

3. How does deferring to another person show that he/she is submitting to Jesus Christ as well?

4. Read John 10:30 and 1 Corinthians 11:3. How do these passages help us understand how a husband and wife are to be *one?*

5. What happens to a marriage that does not follow this format of biblical authority? When have you witnessed this in your own life? In the life of someone you know?.

## Applying the Message

1. As a married person, how would you grade your relationship with your spouse? If you are not married and would like to be, how would you rate yourself regarding your readiness to be a spouse?

2. Whether married or single, what can you do today to move forward in following God's guidelines for marriage? What is one change can you make this week that will help you be more of the person God is calling you to be in marriage?