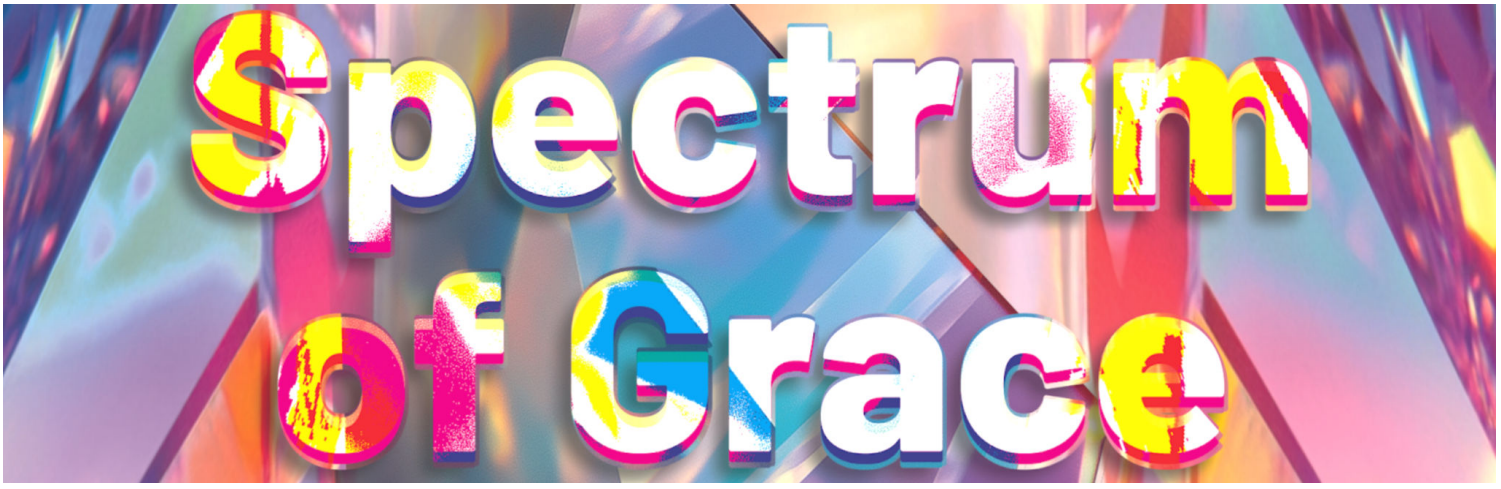


Connect

Can you share a time when you felt really happy simply because a friend or family member was excited about something they loved?

Verses - Ephesians 5:22-33 (NKJV)

Read aloud:

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.[a] 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to v.21, what attitude are all believers commanded to have toward each other, and what is the specific reason given for this behavior? How is this the "head" verse for the Household Code?

2. In vv.22-24, Paul tells wives to submit to their husbands. What spiritual relationship does Paul use as a pattern for this, and what specific title is given to both the husband and to Christ? Based on Genesis and later in the New Testament, what can the wife be compared to?

3. Based on vv.25-29, what is the standard given for how a husband must love his wife? According to the text, what specific action did Christ take for the church that husbands are told to imitate?

4. Looking at vv.31-33, Paul quotes the Old Testament about a man and woman becoming one flesh. Even though he is giving instructions for human marriage, what is this great mystery actually about?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Jesse warned us about Simon the magician who wanted the power of the Holy Spirit for his own selfish gain. According to the message, the real purpose of the Holy Spirit is to build up the church and help reconcile people to God. Why is it dangerous to seek spiritual power or leadership just to make ourselves look good?

Discuss 2:
The message ended by saying that our ultimate mission in all relationships is to help people get closer to God. When a marriage or a close friendship is going through a difficult time, how does focusing on forgiveness and spiritual reconciliation help to heal the relationship?

Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing specific prayer requests.