

“LIVING AS WIVES & HUSBANDS: PRACTICAL MATTERS”
EPHESIANS 5:22-33
NOVEMBER 16, 2008

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Pastor Charlie said that marriage is perhaps the most sacred of human relationships and that we should have a sense of awe about it. Do you agree with this statement? How would you justify your answer biblically?
2. Besides physical and emotional intimacy, marriage is sacred because it's intended to reflect something of the being of God. Read Genesis 1:27-31, 2:18-25, and 5:1-2. What exactly is marriage supposed to proclaim about God? How does it do so? How should your answers affect your own marriage?
3. How does bearing children reflect the being of God? Why should this give us such a sense of awe about marriage?
4. Another reason why marriage is so sacred is because it's designed by God to embody and proclaim the great mystery of the relationship between Christ and the church. Read Ephesians 5:22-33. What precisely is marriage supposed to embody and proclaim about Christ and the church? How should your answer affect your own marriage?
5. Since marriage is so sacred, we must kill everything in us that degrades or demeans it, for instance, lust, promiscuity, adultery, divorce, or cold-heartedness toward our spouse (see Hebrews 13:4). Is there anything in your life of which you must repent if you're to obey God in this? What's your plan for doing so?
6. If you're struggling with guilt and shame over your sin, take some time and carefully meditate on the following passages: Isaiah 1:18, Hebrews 10:19-22, and 1 John 1:8-9. If you're willing to repent of your sins, be free in Christ from your guilt and shame!
7. If you're living in a less than ideal marriage, read Colossians 3:1-4 and ask the Lord to help you lift your eyes up, trust him, obey him, and intercede for your spouse. And remember, your hope is not in this world.
8. How is a husband supposed to steward the authority God has given him in the family? What does your answer imply about the wife's response?