

Love and Marriage  
Matthew 5:27-32

Review:

1. The collapse of marriage has had disastrous effects on our society
2. Romanticism has encouraged us to make idols out of our husbands and wives
3. Jesus calls us to reject lust, which is focused on the self, and embrace love, which is focused on the beloved

Go Further: Read Ephesians 5:17-33

1. In verse 17, what does Paul want his readers to understand?
2. In verse 18, how does Paul describe drinking too much wine? With Whom does he want us to be filled instead?
3. When we are filled with the Spirit of God, how does verse 19 say we will speak to one another?
4. How does the Spirit affect the way we communicate with the Lord?
5. For what does verse 20 say that being filled with the Spirit will make us thankful?
6. How does verse 21 say that all Christians should relate to one another?
7. How does verse 22 say wives should submit to their husbands?
8. What reason does Paul give for this behavior in verse 23?
9. What comparison does Paul make in verse 24 between wives and the Church?
10. How does Paul say husbands should submit (v. 21) to their wives in verse 25?
11. What comparison does Paul draw in verse 25 between husbands and Christ?
12. What did Christ do for the Church?
13. Why does verse 26 say Christ gave Himself for the Church?
14. Why does verse 27 say Christ wants to bless the Church?
15. In verse 28, what comparison does Paul draw between a man's wife and his own body?
16. In verse 31, how does the quote from Genesis 2:24 explain the comparison in verse 28?
17. How does Paul describe the relationship between Christ and the Church in verse 30? How is this similar to the relationship between a husband and a wife?
18. What does Paul instruct husbands to do in verse 33? What does he instruct wives to do?

Apply:

1. Given Paul's challenge to us in verse 19, what steps can you take to incorporate Scripture into your daily conversation? How might this kind of speech change our relationships?
2. Is it really possible to give thanks always for all things? For what things is it easy for you to give thanks? How can a thankful perspective change our relationships?
3. How easy is it for you to submit to other people? Why is this kind of behavior a particularly clear demonstration of the Spirit of Christ within you?
4. Given Christ's desire for the Church's holiness and given the way Jesus cares for the Church as His body, in what ways can husbands seek to meet their wives' needs and help them be the best they can be?
5. According to Paul in verse 33, a husband's greatest need is for respect and a wife's greatest need is to be cherished. Have you found this to be true in your own relationships? How does respect or love build you up? How can you build up your husband or wife with respect and love?