

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:23-30 ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church ³⁰for we are members of his body.

ICEBREAKER

What is the most memorable supper you've ever had? What made it so memorable?

THEME

Marriage, God's way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As we continue our series on "Marriage, God's Way," we learned God's ultimate reason for his design. So far we have learned that one purpose for marriage is companionship. We've also learned that the foundational purpose of marriage is friendship. It's not a business arrangement, it's enjoying each other's company. It is friendship garnished with romance.

Last week we learned that it's a one of a kind companionship and its purpose is to complete one another. We also learned earlier that according to Ephesians 5:32 marriage is a model of Christ and the church. This week we took it a step higher. God created marriage to prepare us for the marriage supper of the lamb. Marriage is a deep oneness that comes through a mutual journey to a common horizon. The common horizon is the marriage supper of the lamb, the eternal marriage to Christ. As we focused on marriage preparing us for the marriage supper we saw that God uses our spouse to help prepare us. As spouses we are to be vehicles of redemption.

1. *When you hear the term 'vehicles of redemption', what images come to your mind?*

2. *In marriage, what are some ways spouses can be vehicles of redemption for one another?*

God created our spouse to partner with the Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus. We can think of our spouse as “Celestial sandpaper.” to sand off the rough edges of our life that are unlike Christ. The important thing to remember is that we do it in a loving way and not in a harsh way. When we remove dirt from a wound, we must be sensitive and gentle. We need the Spirit’s enabling to develop a safe, secure place where we can admit our faults. We need the Spirit’s enabling so that when we point out faults we don’t crush the other person.

3. *As you think about being “Celestial sandpaper” what are some bad motivations for pointing out faults in your spouse?*

4. *Spend some time discussing how you can point out faults without crushing the other person. How do you create a safe, secure place?*

PRAYER