

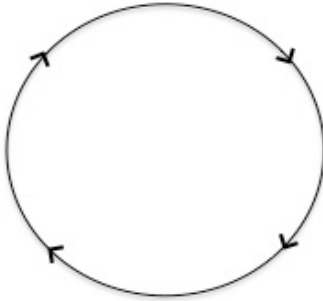
# Why MARRIAGE Matters

April 11, 2010

## Ephesians 5:21-33

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of every marriage. (v. 5:21)



2. What a wife needs most: \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5:25-30, 33)

- 2 words: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What a husband needs most: \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5:22-24, 33)

- 4 words: \_\_\_\_\_

4. The way God values \_\_\_\_\_ reveals what He thinks

about \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5:31-33)

## Digging Deeper

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1. Why do you think so many marriages end in divorce? Listen with compassion to those who have experienced divorce as adults or children.
2. Read Ephesians 5:21. Why is it essential to understand this verse first?
3. Read Ephesians 5:22-30. What is your gut reaction?
4. Put the "Crazy Cycle" in your own words. Use your imagination to give examples.
5. Put the "Energizing Cycle" in your own words. Use your imagination to give examples.
6. Read Ephesians 5:31-33. How does marriage illustrate the relationship between Christ and the church? Reread these verses and dig for your answer.
7. A 6-week challenge was given today. Are you willing to participate?
8. How can the group pray for you? Do you want growth in your marriage, healing from brokenness, God's leading to find a spouse, an appreciation of your union with Christ, or other?

## Resources

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- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Smalley
- *His Needs, Her Needs* by Willard Harley
- *Love and Respect* by Emerson Eggerichs
- *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas
- For Him: *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge
- For Him: *Tender Warrior* by Stu Weber
- For Her: *Captivating* by John and Stasi Eldredge
- For Her: *Intimate Issues* by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus
- *Sheet Music* by Kevin Lehman
- *Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections between Sexuality and Spirituality* by Rob Bell
- *Boundaries* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend
- *Changes that Heal* by Henry Cloud
- *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by John Gottman
- *The Relationship Cure* by John Gottman