

Ephesians: Marriage & Family
Why God Made Men & Women – Ephesians 5:22-32
January 9, 2022 - *Message Discussion Guide*

Scripture & Message Review

Read Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 5:1-2, James 3:9, and Colossians 3:10.

- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- How do we determine a person's value?
- What does being made in the image of God say about issues such as abortion, racism, poverty?

Read Ephesians 5:31, Genesis 2:24, and 1 Corinthians 6:16.

- What does the Bible mean when it says the two will become one flesh?
- How does "one flesh" teach us about the Trinity?
- How does "one flesh" teach us about Christ and the church (and the believer)?

Read Genesis 2:18-22, Psalm 70:5, and Psalm 121:1-2.

- Why do you think man needed a helper?
- What do you think the woman provided to the man that he didn't have?
- How is the word "helper" used in the Old Testament?

Read Genesis 3:16.

- How do you think sin has corrupted the relationship between men and women?

Read Proverbs 31:10-28.

- How does the description of a Proverbs 31 woman differ from the "traditional" role of women in our culture?

Read Ephesians 5:32.

- What does this verse mean?

Big Question

- What are all the ways marriage mirrors the gospel that are referenced in Ephesians 5:22-33?

Bonus Question

- What does 1 Corinthians 1:4-5 say about whether it is a sin to deny or change one's gender assigned at birth?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

Genesis 1:26–27 | Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. (CSB)

Genesis 5:1–2 | This is the document containing the family records of Adam. On the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God; he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind. (CSB)

James 3:9 | With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God’s likeness. (CSB)

Colossians 3:10 | and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. (CSB)

Ephesians 5:31 | For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. (CSB)

Genesis 2:24 | This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 6:16 | Don’t you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will become one flesh. (CSB)

Genesis 2:18–22 | Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.” The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. (CSB)

Psalms 70:5 | I am oppressed and needy; hurry to me, God. You are my help and my deliverer; LORD, do not delay. (CSB)

Psalms 121:1–2 | I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (CSB)

Genesis 3:16 | He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. (CSB)

Proverbs 31:10–28 | Who can find a wife of noble character? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will not lack anything good. She rewards him with good, not evil, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and portions for her female servants. She evaluates a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard with her earnings. She draws on her strength and reveals that her arms are strong. She sees that her profits are good, and her lamp never goes out at night. She extends her hands to the spinning staff, and her hands hold the spindle. Her hands reach out to the poor, and she extends her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all in her household are doubly clothed. She makes her own bed coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known at the city gates, where he sits among the elders of the land. She makes and sells linen garments; she delivers belts to the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing, and she can laugh at the time to come. Her mouth speaks wisdom, and loving instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the activities of her household and is never idle. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also praises her: (CSB)

Ephesians 5:32 | This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 1:4–5 | I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge. (CSB)