**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr September 11, 2022**

**Your Marriage Matters**

Ephesians 5:22-33

**Key Truth:** For the Christian the Bible is the only authority that should shape your marriage.

**Some Truths About Marriage:**

1. Marriage is a relationship designed by God. Genesis 2:21-24

2. Marriage is the most important relationship in the

 family.

 A. The family is the foundation of society.

 B. Marriage is the foundation of the family.

3. Marriage is between a male and a female.

4. Marriage is to be permanent. Matthew 19:1-8

**Practical Applications For A Wife and Husband:**

1. For our marriage to work we need to be filled with

 The Holy Spirit and to lovingly submit to one another.

2. God call’s a wife to voluntarily submit to her husband.

 A. Submission doesn’t mean inferiority.

 B. Submission doesn’t mean to obey.

 1. For a man, submission looks like trust and respect.

 Ephesians 5:33, 1 Peter 3:1-3

3. God call’s a man to love his wife by dying for her.

 A. Love doesn’t mean just physical intimacy.

 B. Love doesn’t mean to obey.

 1. For a wife it is to nourish, cherish, and honor her.

 1 Peter 3:7

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Allow God’s Word to be the only authority when it comes to your marriage. After your relationship with Jesus Christ, make your marriage the most important relationship on earth.

**Connection Group Study Questions:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Before you got married, or if you are currently single, what is the biggest expectation you had/have about marriage?

If you are married and were counseling a young couple for marriage, what would you tell them is the biggest surprise you’ve experienced in marriage thus far?

Read Ephesians 5:22-33: What are some of the key differences between Paul’s instructions to spouses in Ephesians 5?

Paul’s description of marriage in this passage centers around the idea of mutual submission. What are some of the biggest obstacles to biblical submission that exist in our marriages today?

Read Genesis 2:18-25: The first relationship between created beings was the marriage relationship between Adam and Eve, which we read about. Why do you think God referred to Eve as a “helper” in verse 18? What does this tell us about the purpose of marriage in God’s kingdom?

Read Genesis 3:1-15: What impact did the entrance of sin into the garden have on Adam and Eve’s relationship?

Read Ephesians 4:15-21: Why is being filled with the Holy Spirit a necessary ingredient for a Christian marriage?

Paul compared marriage to the relationship between Christ and His Church. How are these relationships similar? How does the relationship between Jesus and His church help you understand the goal of marriage?