

Our Spouse is a Sinner
Ephesians 5:21-32
Sunday a.m. 5/28/2017

Ephesians 5:1-18 is an introduction to our responsibility to:

- ✚ The Church – **5:19-21**
- ✚ Marriage – **5:22-32**
- ✚ The Home – **6:1-4**
- ✚ The Work Place – **6:5-9**
- ✚ Spiritual Warfare – **6:10-20**

- ✚ We must be imitators of God – **5:1**
- ✚ We must walk in love – **5:2**
- ✚ We must be morally responsible – **5:3-14**
- ✚ We must be filled with the Spirit – **5:15-18**

■ **A Key to Marriage Ephesians 5:21**

⊛ **Your spouse is a one another**

- ❖ My wife married a sinner
- ❖ You see me on Sunday, but I am selfish, self-centered, stubborn, disconnected and at times, not focused on Beth
- ❖ Now, I find myself a little hard of hearing, which is another issue
- ❖ Our spouse, if they are believers, fall into the same category that other Christians fall into

⊛ **Why should we be surprised when our spouse has the same struggles as a person at work, the cashier at the store, the person that was rude in public**

- ✚ When two people get married they believe they will live a fairytale life
- ✚ Marriage struggles begin when we realize our spouse is not perfect

Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts Les and Leslie Parrott

❖ They discuss four myths about marriage

Myth #2 - Everything good will get better

Myth #3 - Everything bad will disappear

⊗ **We are to love our spouse as Christ loves us with all our failures, disappointments, sins, character flaws**

• **Marriage, according to the Bible, does not have an ejection seat**

✓ Married couples take the attitude we're crashing so I'm going to bail out

• **Marriage does not come with a guarantee**

✓ Going to church, serving in church, does not guarantee a successful marriage

✚ Do you have unrealistic expectations in your marriage?

✚ Will you forgive others, but not forgive your spouse?

✚ Are you condescending, angry at your spouse, but would never treat a church member like that?

✚ Do you love your spouse enough to go through trials together?

■ **Our Marriage Needs to Reflect the Gospel**

❖ When marriages fail, then the gospel appears to also fail

❖ Our marriages should be a picture, example of the gospel

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

■ **Two Words for the Believer and Their Spouse**

❖ Submitting and forgiveness

submitting – military term, be under, in one's control

- ❖ When used in a non-military sense, it is a voluntary attitude of giving, cooperation, carrying someone's burden

Matthew 20:26-28 (NKJV)

26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- ❖ The purpose of marriage is to glorify God
 - ✪ **Marriage exists for God more than a husband and wife**
 - ✪ **God instituted marriage, therefore marriage belongs to God**
- ❖ We work out the theology of marriage in front of the world
- ❖ We tend to live two lives in our marriage, public and at home
- ❖ We should not be surprised if you stood up and told us all your marriage problems because we are sinners

Close

- ✚ The gospel is more than just salvation; it is our life