



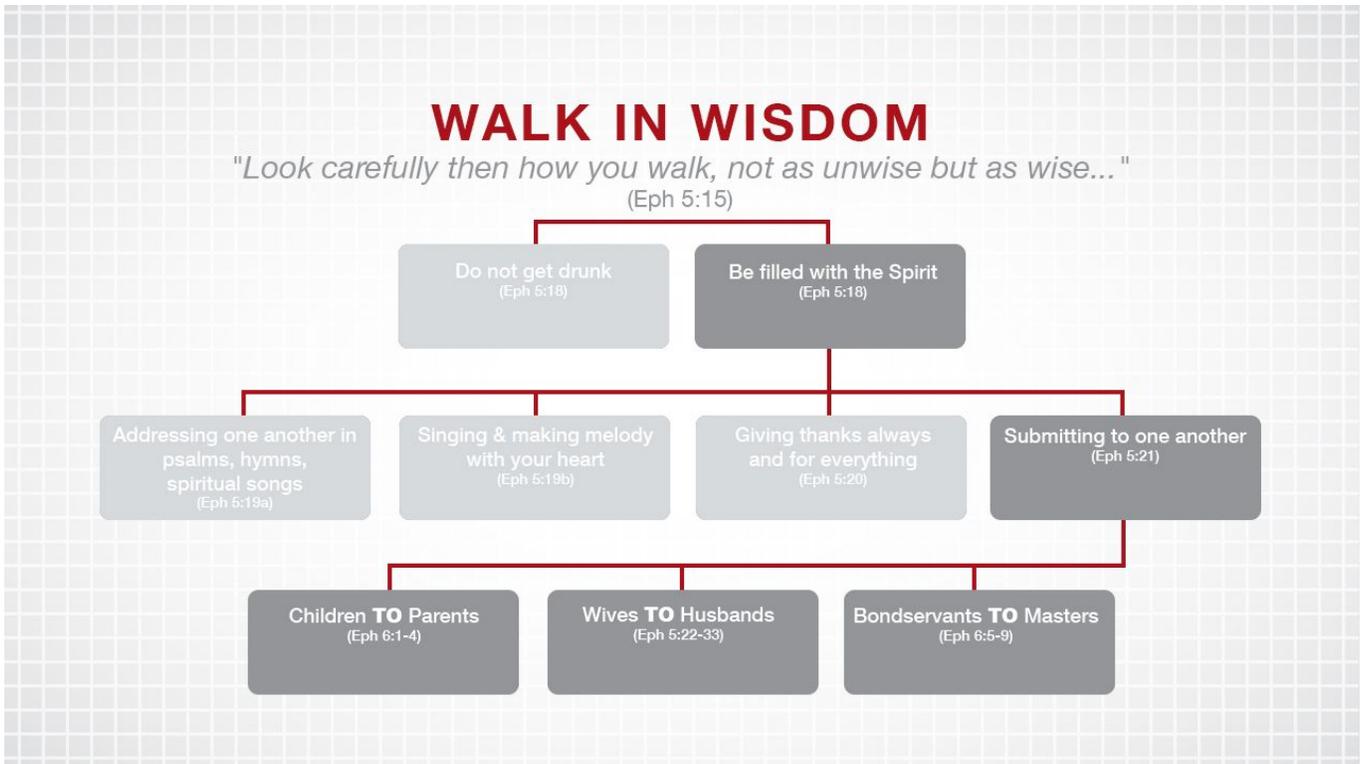
Feb 26 - Mar 4, 2017 • Community Group Lesson Plan • Winter Quarter - Week 7 • Abbotsford

**Title of Sermon: Love and Marriage**

**Passage: Ephesians 5:21-33 NIV**

**Point 1 - 2 Big Ideas**

1. When you look at Christian marriages around you, would you conclude that what you see is a good picture of the gospel? Why or why not?
2. When you think of being Spirit-filled, what comes to mind? Are the things described in Ephesians 5:19-21 surprising to you as evidences of being filled with the Spirit? Why or why not? (See graph "Walk in Wisdom")
3. What does submission look like (See descriptions of husbands/wives, child/parent, servants/masters)? Does everybody submit to everybody? Why or why not?



**Point 2 - Instructions for Wives**

1. Wives and husbands are addressed separately in this passage, what is the danger of focusing on the instructions that are not focused on you? How have you seen this be a problem in marriages?



2. How do you respond to the word “submit”? Is it a positive response or a negative response? Why?
  - a. What does our culture think about submission? How has the church been influenced by the culture’s view on these matters?
3. What makes submission hard for a wife? What helps to make it easier?
  - a. Should the wife submit to everything the husband says?
  - b. Does submitting to another make you less important than the other person? Why or why not? (How does Jesus submitting to his father influence his status? Eph 2)
  - c. What does submission look like in practical terms? Where have you seen it done well or poorly?

### **Point 3 - Instructions for Husbands**

1. Why does Paul spend more time on instructions for husbands than for wives?
2. What things does Paul point out about how Christ loves the church that husbands should follow when loving their wives? Can you think of other ways that Paul doesn’t mention where husbands should love their wives like Christ loves the church?
3. How does the faithfulness of God to the church encourage husbands to be faithful to their wives? How are husbands often unfaithful to their wives?
4. What does it look like for a husband to commit to the spiritual development of their wife (Eph 5:25-28)? What kind of things can a husband do to help his wife grow?
5. Read Eph 5:28-29. Do husbands care for their wives as much as they care for themselves? What kinds of things would a husband do for his wife if he treated her the same way he treated himself?

### **Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group?  
Pray for each other along with other requests.

### **Benediction - 2 Cor. 13:11 ESV**

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."*