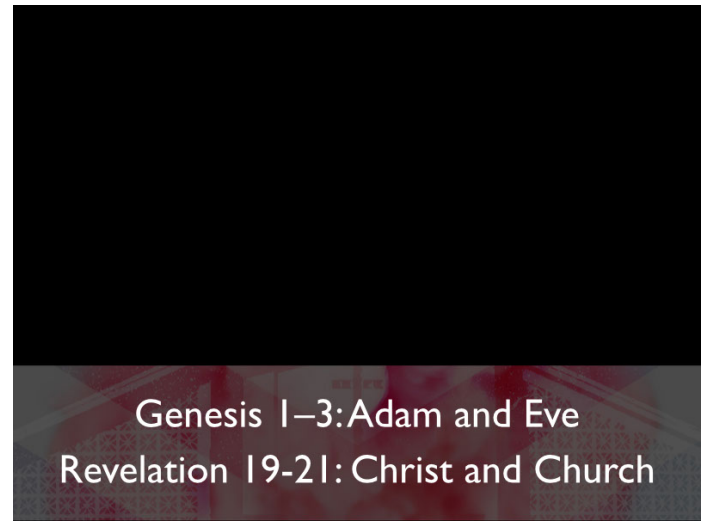


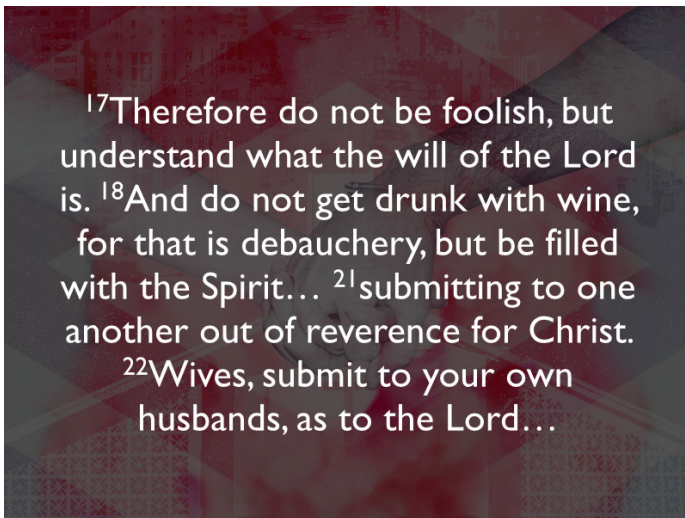


-.001.tiff



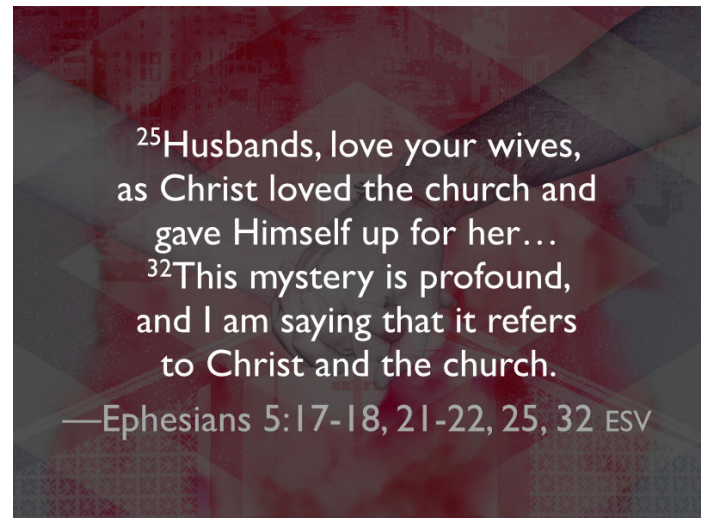
Genesis 1–3: Adam and Eve  
Revelation 19-21: Christ and Church

-.002.tiff



<sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit... <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord...

-.003.tiff



<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her... <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.  
—Ephesians 5:17-18, 21-22, 25, 32 ESV

-.004.tiff



Marriage is the glorious reflection of the gracious union of Christ and the church.

-.005.tiff



Marriage Matters to the Church Because...  
We Reflect Our Creator's Identity in the World (Ephesians 5:17)

-.006.tiff

“Marriage is unique because it is confined to human beings alone. It was intended by God to be unique and unmatched. As God designed it, there is nothing earthly that compares to it, and there is nothing in heaven or on earth that can change or dismiss it.”

-.007.tiff

“Biblical marriage is sacred and a witness to the sacredness of God because like God, it is absolute, exclusive, pure and unchangeable, demanding respect and adherence... This earthly, biblical marriage is an absolute natural law which depicts the absolute, spiritual law of Christ being one with God’s redeemed. Each becomes one with another...” —Edward Ridenour

-.008.tiff

Marriage Matters to the Church Because...  
We Honor the Authority of  
God’s Holy Word (Ephesians 5:21)

-.009.tiff

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness.”

-.010.tiff

“But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.” —C.S. Lewis

-.011.tiff

### Knowing God = Showing Love

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

-.012.tiff



## Knowing God = Showing Love

<sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

—1 John 4:7-11 ESV

-.013.tiff

## Honoring God = Showing Love

Ephesians 5:25-29

-.014.tiff

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

—Hebrews 13:4 ESV

-.015.tiff

Marriage Matters to the Church Because...  
We Confirm the Integrity of Our  
Christian Witness (Ephesians 5:32)

-.016.tiff

Marriage is to demonstrate  
forbearance and forgiveness.

-.017.tiff

Marriage Matters to the Church Because...  
We Confound the Animosity of a  
Cultural War (Ephesians 6:10-13)

-.018.tiff

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

-.019.tiff

<sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

—Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV

-.020.tiff

Marriage Matters to the Church Because...  
We Experience the Reality of the  
Spirit's Work (Ephesians 5:18)

-.021.tiff

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

—Ephesians 5:18 ESV

-.022.tiff

To Be the Church in Marriage means:

- Understanding it begins before you get married.
- Knowing it takes work to live out the marriage covenant.
- Believing it's never too late for a new beginning.

-.023.tiff

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

—2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

-.024.tiff