



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



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# BACK *TO THE* FUTURE

**WORSHIP FOLDER & MESSAGE NOTES**  
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION/PERSONAL GUIDES

**"MARRIAGE UP CLOSE"**

*PASTOR TONY MYLES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020*





## “Marriage Up Close”

[Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor]

### MESSAGE NOTES

The Big Picture: What are you looking for in a relationship? Why?

Hopes, dreams and desires have a way of becoming \_\_\_\_\_

- This can turn things from relational to \_\_\_\_\_ where we get involved with score-keeping or \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's get it out of the way...

- The ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't equal the ultimate marriage.
- A declining \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't equal a declining marriage.

Since God never wastes anything, He hasn't intended for us to go on this difficult and challenging journey so that the end result will be that we just go back to what we were, or just develop a new normal.

- God wants to lead us to an extraordinary life that we could only begin to experience by having walked through these painful circumstances and hard times.

Overlooked lessons from [Ephesians 5:1-21](#)

- [Verses 1-2](#): What you hope to see in any long-term relationship begins with what you do with \_\_\_\_\_.
- [Verse 3](#): God's design for physical affection is not primarily for you but for His \_\_\_\_\_—especially when it creates a bonding together meant for a husband/wife relationship.

- **Verses 4-5:** You may have a blind spot when it comes to your \_\_\_\_\_ on marriage.
- **Verses 6-14:** It's possible for Christians to still be caught up in \_\_\_\_\_, and even encourage it in each other.
- **Verses 15-17:** \_\_\_\_\_ time as often and creatively as you can.
- **Verse 18:** \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to whining... \_\_\_\_\_ can keep you from the Spirit... and yet even this negative example reminds us to be \_\_\_\_\_ filled by the Spirit.
- **Verses 19-20:** Don't overlook the impact of letting your personal worship of God give you \_\_\_\_\_ words in your relationship.
- **Verse 21:** Everyone wins in a Christian relationship when it involves a submission \_\_\_\_\_ - a race to the "back of the line."

#### Familiar lessons from **Ephesians 5:21-33**

- "Submission" is really about having a "\_\_\_\_\_"
- If you want to get the good stuff in a relationship, you have to do business with the \_\_\_\_\_ inside of you.
- Relationships are not about "Simon Says" - unless \_\_\_\_\_ gets to be \_\_\_\_\_

Instead of back to the future:

- Triple-check the "love" \_\_\_\_\_ (see **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**)
- Drop any toxic words/behaviors you use to manipulate others.
- Notice—\_\_\_\_\_ invites God to do something remarkable.

Don't miss this...

An everyday, ordinary marriage lived out through two people following \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can literally change the world.



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Ice Breaker:** What's your worst microwave experience; mess, explosion, fire? Share the when, how and why with your group.

1. When you think of marriage, what do you think of; initial thoughts, impressions, expectations etc.?
2. Read [Ephesians 5:1-2](#). How can living this passage out change our basic expectations for what a relationship looks like?
3. After reading [Ephesians 5:3-5](#), discuss how you've been able to make sure that your source material is leading you to treat your relationships as God would have you treat them.
4. Read [Ephesians 5:15-21](#). What are some things that are helping you live well; what are some things that need to change?
5. How and with whom have you seen a marriage epitomized by the ideals of a submission competition?
6. Read [Ephesians 5:21-33](#). If you're married, how are you doing in living out God's expectations of you as you represent His relationship with His church to a watching world? If you're single, what about this passage would affirm your thinking about marriage, and your potential role in it?
7. How have your expectations of marriage been shown to be in line with the Bible, or what changes do you need to make to bring them up to spec with God's blueprints? Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#).

## PERSONAL GUIDE

DAY 1: [Ecclesiastes 3](#)

DAY 2: [Ecclesiastes 4](#)

DAY 3: [Ecclesiastes 5](#)

DAY 4: [Ecclesiastes 6](#)

DAY 5: [Ecclesiastes 7](#)





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Overlooked lessons from Ephesians 5:1-21

- Verses 1-2: What you hope to see in any long-term relationship begins with what you do with Jesus.
- Verse 3: God's design for physical affection is not primarily for you but for His purposes—especially when it creates a bonding together meant for a husband/wife relationship.

- **Verses 4-5:** You may have a blind spot when it comes to your source material on marriage.
- **Verses 6-14:** It's possible for Christians to still be caught up in empty thinking, and even encourage it in each other.
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