

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 1st November 2020
Sermon Title: Biblical pictures of God's family: the bride of Christ
Bible Passage: Ephesians 5: 22 - 33

Recapping the Preach

Read Ephesians 5: 22 - 33 again and perhaps look at a different translation

- What were the differences (if any) between the translations?
- What stood out to from either of these passages?

Stu introduced the theme, 'The Bride of Christ' and connected it to the practical application of getting ready and preparing.

- Have you ever been unprepared for something that resulted in unpleasant consequences? What was it? How did you feel? Did you make a commitment to do things differently next time?
- On a scale of 1 - 10 (10 being brilliant!) how good are you at preparing ahead of time?

Stu pointed out that Jesus has done and is doing the work of preparing His bride by: loving her, giving Himself up for her and cleansing her in order to present her as a radiant bride.

- What do you think the phrase, 'cleansing her by the washing with water through the word' means?
- What do you think the 'water' in this verse symbolises?
- How does the Word of God cleanse us?
- Read Revelation 19:6-7 - what images does this verse conjure up about the church?
- What do you think are the areas the church needs to grow in and be prepared in most?

Stu then applied the verses to the primary application of this passage which is husbands and wives.

- What is the connection between Ephesians 5:18, 21 and 22?
- In what ways can husbands and wives live out the instruction in these verses?

Stu then closed with the practical application which was: if the Lord loves His church in this way, and if we love the Lord, then surely we would love His bride, the church, as well. He then suggested five ways we can do this (from Gary Chapman's 'Love Languages'): words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, acts of service and physical touch.

- Which of these 'love languages' comes most naturally to you in regard to the church?
- Which language do you need to grow in?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Pray for the church that she would be radiant.
- Pray that God would give you the grace to love His bride.
- Pray that God would make you fluent in the love languages.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>