

# Living Water Fellowship

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## COME TO JESUS

**GATHERING MUSIC:** VIDEO – WHAT LOVE MY GOD (*CityAlight*)- CCL Licence 384660

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

**OPENING SONG:** VIDEO – REST MY SOUL (*Tim Timmons*)- CCL Licence 384660

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:** Genesis 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." <sup>19</sup> So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals & all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, & the man chose a name for each one. <sup>20</sup> He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, & all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs & closed up the opening. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, & he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, & flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" <sup>24</sup> This explains why a man leaves his father & mother & is joined to his wife, & the two are united into one.

<sup>25</sup> Now the man & his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**SONG:** VIDEO – HE KNOWS MY NAME (*Maranatha Singers*)- CCL Licence 384660

**BIBLE READING:** Ephesians 5:15-17 & 21-33

<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do...

<sup>21</sup> And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Saviour of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup> As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy & clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. <sup>27</sup> He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy & without fault. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his

wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup>No one hates his own body but feeds & cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. <sup>30</sup>And we are members of his body.

<sup>31</sup>As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father & mother & is joined to his wife, & the two are united into one." <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ & the church are one. <sup>33</sup>So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, & the wife must respect her husband.

#### FAITH CHAT:

Someone says to you, "I think most people get married for the wrong reason."

- a. What do you think they mean by that?
- b. How would you respond in a way that points toward Jesus?

**THE MESSAGE:** ~~DYSFUNCTIONAL~~: ~~DYSFUNCTIONAL MARRIAGES~~

**OFFERING SONG:** VIDEO – CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE (*CityAlight*)- CCL Licence 384660

#### PRAYERS:

#### THE COMMUNION:

*The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship during Communion:*

VIDEO – STAND IN YOUR LOVE (*Bethel Music – VICTORY*) CCL Licence 384660

*GO IN HIS POWER*

#### THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God...  
Christ submitted himself to the Father,  
so you can live in submission to Christ.  
-- Amen**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SONG:** VIDEO – DEATH WAS ARRESTED (*NorthPoint Inside/Out*)- CCL Licence 384660

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

#### Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-17 & 21-33 and Genesis 2:18-25. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. What is surprising about God's pronouncement "It is not good" in verse 18? What does this teach you about humanity? Where is the lack? How might you account for that?
3. How do vss 21-25 give you a picture of what God intends for marriage? How is this similar &/or different from 21<sup>st</sup> century views?
4. How does Eph 5:15-17 set the stage for what Paul directs in vss 21-33? We are "careful" about things that matter. How does the grace you have received in Jesus lead you to be "careful" about how you live in this world in full view of not-yet-Christians?
5. In what ways does looking at marriage merely through the lens of emotional, physical, or financial "need" fall short of the intention both texts lead us to discover as the purpose of marriage?
6. In what way would imitating Christ in marriage lead to oneness, unity, love & respect in a family? What effect would that have on how children view marriage & their roles as husband or wife?
7. Take a minute to read Eph 4:15-16. In what way does Paul's vision of Christ & the church from this previous chapter inform his view of marriage as a reflection of Christ & the church?
8. Since we know marriage is a target that Satan aims for, how do you pray for your own marriage (if you are married) the marriages of friends & family, or the state of marriage in our society? What are some specific steps you can take to strengthen & defend your marriage or those of people you know?
9. How does your relationship with God influence or alter your relationships with others? Why?
10. Jesus said, 'love one another as I have loved you.' The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians, "Forgive each other, as the Lord has forgiven you", & to the Ephesians, "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." How do you see the connection between love, submission & forgiveness? How can these become a way to show Christ's rule in your life to someone who may not yet trust him for their salvation?