

# THINGS TO FIGHT FOR



SUNDAY, MAY 21 | "A Thriving Marriage" | Ephesians 5:21-33

## Questions for Study and Group Discussion

1. Imagine you surveyed 10 people, asking for their "knee jerk" reactions to how they viewed marriage. What are some of the responses you think you'd get?
2. How would the larger American culture define a "thriving marriage"? Is this different from how followers of Jesus may define a "thriving marriage"? Explain.
3. Read Ephesians 5:21-33, then answer the following questions.
  - Look closely at the passage again, and observe how many times Jesus Christ is referenced. How does the centrality of Jesus and his Work in this passage shape how we read everything Ephesians 5:21-33 commands about marriage?
  - Some of the things the Apostle Paul brings up in this passage may sound extreme to you! As you seek to understand and apply the Bible, what IS Paul saying here? Are there ways this passage could be MIS-understood and lead to potential dangers? Share any questions you have about what this passage is saying, and discuss as a group.
  - Based on what you've learned in this passage, what are some essential ingredients of a thriving marriage?
  - Read Ephesians 5:32 again. How does knowing what a thriving, biblical marriage points to help you understand the meaning (and importance!) of marriage?
4. Why is a "Thriving Marriage" (defined by the Bible) worth fighting for? Whether you're married or single, why are thriving marriages important?
5. What are the biggest challenges to a thriving marriage? Work as a group to identify at least 6-8 challenges.
6. Which of these challenges have you faced in your own relationships? How were these challenges handled?
7. How can your group be a place where the real struggles of marriage can be brought to light—in a safe place, where you can find encouragement, support, and help?
8. **For anyone who's married:** What practical steps do you need to take this week to invest fresh attention and effort into a thriving marriage? **For anyone who's single:** What's your biggest take-away on marriage from Ephesians 5:21-33 and this discussion as a group?