For the week of March 20, 2022 Preacher: Paul Taylor

## Marriage and the Mystery

11th week in the series: The Mystery of Christ Ephesians 5:22-33

As the apostle Paul continues practically applying the truth of the gospel, he arrives at the topic of marriage. Separate instructions are given to wives and to husbands, but the underlying message is the same. Instead of focusing on their partner, their attention is drawn to Christ. The goal of marriage is not to get what they want out of their spouse, but to deepen their dependence on Jesus.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What cultural models of marriage have you been taught? Have they been helpful? Hurtful?
- 2. How do you see the theme of unity which is so prevalent in Ephesians reflected in this passage?
- 3. How does the instruction for wives to submit express the ideal of self-giving love?
- 4. How does the instruction for husbands to sacrifice express the ideal of self-giving love?
- 5. What do you personally find most helpful about this passage? Most confusing?
- 6. How have you encountered Christ through marriage (even if you've never been married yourself)?