



September 28, 2025

United - Ephesians 5:22-24 - Soil of Marriage - Part 2

SUMMARY: In this sermon, we continued our marriage series using the metaphor of a garden to explore the unique design and roles of husbands and wives. Drawing from Ephesians 5:22-24, we examined how men and women are created differently—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—and how these differences are not flaws but intentional aspects of God’s design. The sermon addressed the cultural push to erase gender distinctions and emphasized that true partnership in marriage comes from embracing our God-given roles, not from competing or conforming to societal trends. We discussed the biblical concepts of headship and submission, clarifying that these are not about superiority or inferiority, but about order, responsibility, and mutual sanctification. The call was for men to lead with Christlike servant leadership and for women to support and challenge their husbands toward godliness, all within the context of grace, humility, and dependence on Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:22-24; Genesis 2-3; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 3:1; Matthew 20:28; 7:13-14

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. The sermon compared marriage to a garden, where each plant has unique needs. In your marriage (or in marriages you’ve observed), what are some practical ways you can honor and accommodate your spouse’s unique design?
2. Husbands are called to lead with Christlike servant leadership. If you are a husband, what is one area where you can take more initiative in serving your family this week? If you are not a husband, how can you encourage the men in your life to lead this way?
3. Wives are called to support and challenge their husbands toward godliness. If you are a wife, what does it look like for you to lovingly confront or encourage your husband’s spiritual growth? If you are not a wife, how can you support the women around you in this role?
4. The sermon talked about not enabling sin or being walked over in the name of submission. Can you think of a time when you (or someone you know) had to set a healthy boundary in marriage? What did that look like?
5. Pastor Matt warned against criticizing from the backseat or using authority for selfish ends. Are there ways you have fallen into either of these patterns? What would it look like to step into your role with humility instead?
6. God’s wisdom often goes against cultural trends. Is there a specific area in your marriage or relationships where you feel pressure to conform to the world’s ideas instead of God’s design? How can you trust God’s wisdom in that area?
7. The sermon emphasized building marriages on the foundation of Christ’s love and grace. What is one practical step you can take this week to depend more on Jesus in your marriage or close relationships?