

Week Beginning: 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

Worship Series: #4 in series



living sharing growing

## Theme Verse

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

## Remember This Week

The gift of grace helps us see clearly in relationships. It helps us see the flaws, imperfections, weaknesses, and dependencies of a person but also to see the deeper beauty of what God is growing and completing in their life. A grace immersed relationship is always committed to living for the other and pointing them to the love and grace of the Father for them.



**Blessed are all who fear the Lord,  
who walk in obedience to him.**

**You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

**Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**

**Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.**

Psalm 128:1-4



Gracious God, we praise you for your love and faithfulness. We thank you for your grace which covers every flaw and brokenness in our lives and glues us together in unity with one another. Help us to daily abide in your love and remain humble enough to ask for forgiveness and wise enough to freely give it, that through words that are kind, thoughts that are gracious and actions which are loving, our relationships and marriages may be reflections of your grace at work in our lives. Speak to us as we gather in your name that we may live lives that are worthy of the calling you have given to us. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



1. *Highs and lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *As a child, who did you secretly want to get married to or who was your first crush?*
4. *Whose marriage relationship that you have witnessed, inspires you? Why?*

At times marriage seems to be an unsolvable puzzle – trying to see how very different pieces can fit together to be an integrated whole. There's no other relationship on earth with greater power to expose our brokenness and reveal God's grace, fill us with joy and frustrate us beyond measure... all at the same time. And there's no other relationship Satan is more determined to attack and crush, crash and burn than marriage. The truth is that there is no relationship between human beings that is greater or more important than marriage. So today we look at grace immersed relationships, particularly how marriages that are immersed, saturated and marinated in God's life-giving, liberating grace lead to a life that is all in, reflective of the Gospel, and truly satisfying.

Read Ephesians 5:21-33



5. *What do you find challenging/confusing/confronting about this text?*
6. *What is your reaction to the word 'submit'? Does it have positive or negative connotations for you? Why?*
7. *How do you see people misunderstanding what it means to submit?*
8. *Read Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:3 and 1 Peter 5:5. What do these verses say is involved in submission?*



9. How are these verses countercultural to what the world teaches about marriage?

Everybody wants a happy home. Homes with the aroma of respect rather than the odour of continual belittling. Homes with laughter instead of bitterness, eye to eye conversations instead of sporadic comments, peace instead of conflict, laughter and connectedness rather than heaviness and separateness. That's God's desire too. Jesus wants us to bear fruit and the truth is that the lives of husbands, wives and children are made more or less fruitful by their experience at home. What we experience in the home shapes us for grace immersed relationships in our neighbourhoods, workplaces and communities.

10. *What was your home like growing up and how has it shaped you today?*

What we know about the word "submission" from the Greek language is:

- \* It is a military term.
- \* It has the idea of ranking oneself under another, or you could say, lining up or getting in order under the one you are serving.
- \* It is done voluntarily.

A biblical definition of submission is: **to voluntarily yield oneself for the sake of the other.**

The word "submit" or "in verse 21 is linked grammatically to verse 18 as the last of four present participles which describe being filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul is showing us what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Our heart overflows with song to each other and to God. Thankfulness for God's underserving grace is at the heart of those songs, and that leads to a willingness to submit to one another because of the relationship a person has with Jesus. It's only after establishing this truth, that Paul goes on to talk about what that submission looks like in marriages. To submit to one another means that each partner should willingly give up what they want and need for the other. We do not submit to one another because the other is perfect, or because we love them, or because we want to do what's right; we submit to our spouse out of reverence for Christ. Paul was telling men to treat their wives with the same love that Christ had for the Church; to exercise spiritual leadership in the family, taking the lead in reading the Bible, praying and bringing their families to worship. He was telling the women to continue to submit and respect their husbands as they figured out a new way to live in Christian marriage.

11. *What does it look like for a wife to submit to her husband as she does to the Lord? Share practical examples.*
12. *How can husbands love their wives like Christ loved the church?*
13. *How would it change the way we react/respond to the other person in a relationship if we see our role as looking for where God has already been at work, and then to helping to uncover the full beauty of what God is doing? How would it change them and change us?*
14. *Share an example from your marriage (or a marriage you know of) where you have seen mutual submission done well.*

The commitment between a man and woman has the potential to be a powerful reflection of who God is in Jesus; to model the grace that God has shown us in the deepest of relationships that can be experienced here on earth. Spouses are therefore called to treat each other in ways that honour one another

15. *Where is an area of your life where you could grow in submission and love? What will you do to grow in that area? share with the group.*
16. *What do you think is the most important instruction Paul gives in this passage that you need to hear in your life?*



- Praise God for the grace he has shown you by bringing you into a relationship with him forever. Thank Jesus for his willing submission to the Father, and his willingness to serve you in love. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with his grace in all your relationships that you may see the beauty of what God is doing in the other person's life.
- Name one relationship and one aspect of that relationship that you would like your LifeGroup to pray for.
- \* Pray for the 45 young people from Tang Krang Village who are going to a youth camp this week with Pastor Vibol, most of whom are not Christian, that God's grace may flood over their lives and they come to see the fullness of life in Jesus.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:  
*Name, may God's grace transform all your relationships. Amen.*

