



SERIES OVERVIEW

We live in a rapidly changing world. From the technology we use to the people we spend time with to the way we connect with our families, things are so very different than they were even just one generation ago. Because of this, it is important to regularly listen to the voice of God's Spirit for wisdom on how we should live as a spiritual family in our time and moment. In this series, we will turn our attention to six unique life stages within our church and hear God's invitation for each of them.

WEEK 1 - GOD'S INVITATION TO THE HUSBANDS OVERVIEW

For much of human history, marriages were guided by strict cultural norms rooted in patriarchal expectations of gender roles. Common beliefs, such as the inherent inferiority of women, led to deep inequalities (and often abuse) within marriages. Thus, when the Apostle Paul suggested in Ephesians 5 that husbands should practice *self-sacrificing love* for their wives, it was a shocking and provocative call. In this message, as we understand the true weightiness of this passage in its original context, we will discover that it continues to be a challenging invitation for husbands today, even in the vastly different context of modern marriage. It is an invitation for the husbands of Grace Church to demonstrate in their marriages a radically different way to live.

*For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.
He gave up his life for her...*
Ephesians 5:25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you currently serving at Grace?
2. What problems are modern husbands facing?
3. How were the roles of husband and wife different in Paul's time, when compared to today?
4. Read [Ephesians 5:21-33](#).
 - a. What is mutual submission ([verse 21](#))? What does this look like in any relationship?
 - b. How did Christ love the church? What would it mean for husbands to love their wives like Christ loved the church?
5. What are some practical ways husbands can look like Christ in their marriages?
6. What would it look like to "share the mental load" in your household?
7. Read [Romans 12:10 \(NRSV\)](#). What is the "race to the bottom" that Barry mentioned? Give one example of something you could do to "race to the bottom" in a relationship.

PRAY

Pray for the husbands in your group. Pray for the husbands at Grace Church. Pray for the husbands in your family, your neighborhood, your place of work.