

God's Great Masterpiece!

Randy Blankenship; January 8, 2014



SUMMARY

God has created a great masterpiece that is also a mystery. The masterpiece is marriage. It is also a mystery because marriage is a message about something far beyond what we normally think of when we think of marriage. Paul tells us what it is all about in a very short statement in Ephesians 5:32. It is all about the relationship between Christ and the Church.

NOTES

We are called to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)

Marriage is not the main point of the Ephesians passage. God created marriage as an illustration of something –

What is marriage the illustration of?

The husband plays the role of Christ ... the wife plays the role of the Church ... this is to be applied in every aspect of marriage

DISCUSSION POINTS

- ❖ In some of the most controversial subjects of our time, how can we do a better job of speaking the truth in love?
- ❖ The husband in marriage is God's picture of Himself and Christ's relationship to the Church – how can you apply that in ways that you have not yet thought of?
- ❖ You are a man, yet you are the Bride of Christ (if you follow Him). Using marriage as an illustration, what do you need to do to have a deeper relationship with our husband, Christ?
- ❖ In what ways have you marred God's painting, and how can it be fixed?

APPLICATION

- ❖ Take time to meditate and ponder further how God's revelation of marriage between a man and a woman relates to your relationship with God.
- ❖ Think about and write down ways in which Christ's love for His bride, the Church, is an example to us as men and how we should treat our wives – or those who are not yet our wives.
- ❖ Further Scriptures to ponder: Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:17-19; Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18; Matthew 22:23-33; 1st Corinthians 13:4-7.

ON YOUR OWN

Book recommendations:

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas
This Momentary Marriage by John Piper
Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God by C. J. Mahaney
Sex and the Supremacy of Christ, edited by John Piper and Justin Taylor