

## PRECEPT

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### EPHESIANS 5:21-32

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless...

## PROMISE

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For marriage to work, you need to have to work at it. Marriage is not easy; it can sometimes be very challenging because men and women are very different from each other. God designed it to be that way but by nature, we at times, repel from one another instead of coming together. It is only by God's grace and his great understanding that you can figure out how you can make your marriage right.

**DEAL WITH YOUR DYSFUNCTIONS.** Ephesians 4:31 says, "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and be the two will become one flesh." This is God's process of dealing with dysfunction and allowing us to get a new start. You need to leave your family of origin so that you can be united with your spouse. Our parents oftentimes continue to have influence and control over our lives that impede us from uniting together as husband and wife. When you get married, the most important person in your life is your spouse.

**RECOGNIZE YOUR BLESSING.** Genesis 1:28 tells us, "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'" God designed marriage as a blessing, he meant it for good and to bring you joy and happiness. Proverbs 18:22 says "he who finds a wife finds a God thing and obtains favor from the Lord." You need to get the mindset and you need to align your mind with the word of God to recognize that your marriage is a blessing and if you don't see the blessing, you're recognizing that you've got more work to do.

**REVEL IN YOUR ROLES.** Ephesians 5:22 tells us, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Nothing can succeed in life if there are no clear roles, no business, no team, or no church will succeed if there aren't defined roles and structures. In general, you need to be submitting, deferring, preferring, and co-operating. Marriage isn't about domination or rule, it is about a partnership that you're growing, uniting, and working together at, even amid difficulties and challenges you're going face in life. In mutual submission, husband and wife are to submit to one another, in mutual honor, you are to honor and build each other, and in mutual respect, you are to respect each other, having to communicate, relate, care, and nurture one another.

## PRACTICE

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**1. Marriage.** What will start and stop doing to recognize the blessings in your marriage and family?

**2. Roles.** Is there anything that's hindering you from performing/carrying out your role? And how can we encourage and pray for you regarding this?

## PRAYER

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### I. Ministries

- Pray that God will empower all of our ministries with His strength, grace, and guidance.

### II. Life Sports

- Thank God for a healthy body, abilities, and the gift of sports.

### III. Life Kids

- Pray for more dedicated volunteers and for our children to encounter God.

### IV. Life Worship

- May the worship team use their talents to glorify God and inspire others to draw near to Him.

### V. Life Link

- Pray that our ushers will serve our brethren filled with the Holy Spirit.

### VI. Church

- May each of us desire to seek God and extend His love to our family and communities.

### VII. Families

- Pray that our homes will be filled with God's presence.