

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, November 6th 2016

The Vehicle for God's Movement | Commitment to the Bride (Ephesians 5:18-32)

Sermon Recap: Travis spoke of the Church being Jesus' bride, his vehicle for movement in the world. This means we must engage the way a bride would engage with her husband: relationally, self-giving, and committed to unity. Travis touched on Jesus' coming union with his bride, the Church, being our great hope in carrying out our service in the world.

1. Ephesians 5 is often considered a passage only on marriage, yet Paul explicitly says he is talking about the church. What stands out as different when you read it with an emphasis to the Church?
2. Travis highlighted three paradigms within the Church today: transactional vs. relational, self-giving vs. performing (or spectating), and committed vs. independent. Assuming these are struggles for all of us, which of these are most difficult for you?
3. Given we all have busy, demanding lives, and can often drift from our intended course. What is your current purpose in the Church? In other words, why are you here?
4. Is there a gap between your purpose and God's purpose?
5. The angel told John to write these words in Rev 19 "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." The great hope of our time is that Jesus is coming back to make everything right, even as he is working through us now. How does this hope of invitation to eternal unity with Christ impact your daily life? Who is this great hope for?

Work Application

6. If the church is a bride, and we are the church, then how might the paradigms Travis talked about in question #2 above apply to your work environment?
7. Travis spoke of God's commitment to his creation, evident in Gen 1+2, where God created man & woman to "work" and "keep" his masterpiece. How does God desire you to participate in that same mission of working and keeping today? What role are you playing as a uniquely skilled agent of God?