

**Building A Foundation For The Family Series**  
**Message # 1: The Marriage That Goes the Distance**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
October 28, 2018

**Message Overview:**

Today we begin a **series on marriage and family** and I'm going to talk about **7 characteristics that cause and allow and make marriages last**. Paul's teaching in Ephesians 5:21-33 tells us **two things** about the **ingredients and principles that will make our marriage last**:

**1. Actively Put Your Mate First.**

It's very clear in this passage that we are to be servants and put our spouse first in our life.

**2. Jesus Sets The Example.**

What Paul says is if you don't know how to do this, just look at the life of Jesus and He will model it for you.

**Text:** Ephesians 5:21-33

**Questions for Discussion:**

• **OPEN IT –**

1. What husband and wife team do you greatly admire?
2. In your view, what one quality or ability sustains a marriage relationship?

• **EXPLORE IT –**

1. How is the relationship of the church to Christ an example to wives? (5:24)
2. How are husbands commanded to love their wives? (5:25)
3. How should husbands love their wives? (5:28-30)
4. How is the bond between husband and wife greater than the bond between parent and child? (5:31)
5. How does the bond between Christ and the church illustrate the love of a husband for his wife? (5:32)

• **GET IT –**

1. How should both husband and wife model themselves on Christ?
2. Why would unselfishness be an essential part of a Christian marriage?
3. How does a healthy marriage relationship honor the Lord?
4. What are some ways local churches can help Christian couples strengthen their marriages?

• **APPLY IT –**

1. What is something you can do to help a Christian couple strengthen their marriage?
2. How can you treat your spouse with more respect and love this week?
3. How can you express your thankfulness to Christ today for making you His bride?