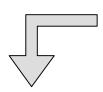
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Refining & Redefining Relationships: Saving and Savoring Marriage (Part Two) The Picture of Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33 Sunday, November 21, 2004

INTRODUCTION:



GOD'S IMAGE = seamless unity cemented in self-giving love
-Gn 1:26-27 (Jn 1:18; Hb 1:1-3; Col 1:15; 2 Cor 4:3-4; Phil 2:6-8; Mk 10:45)



Adam bears God's image in and to the world



God created a 'bride' to help Adam bear the image of God in and to the world -Gn 2:18-25



Jesus ('last Adam', 1 Cor 15:45), who is the image of God, bears that image in and to the world
-Jn 1:18; Hb 1:1-13; Col 1:15; 2 Cor 4:3-4;

Phil 2:6-8; Mk 10:45



God created a 'bride' to help bear the image of Christ in and to the world

- 1. Wives selflessly portray the submissive church Ephesians 5:22-24
- 2. Husbands selflessly portray our loving Savior Ephesians 5:25-30

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3. Mysterious summary: This seamless relationship requires simple roles, 5:31-33
APPLICATION: How does God's picture for marriage impact my own? 1. It grounds my marriage in something much bigger than 'us'.
2. It elevates the purpose and reason for my marriage.
3. It sweetens every act of humble service in my marriage.
4. It leads me to pursue marriage only with one who is 'in Christ'.
5. It keeps divorce from becoming a viable option in my marriage.
6. It keeps Jesus absolutely at the center of my marriage.