

# Reflecting the Savior: Loving Your Spouse with the Love of Christ

## Part 1 - Kindness

### The Book of Ephesians

Couples Project . October 6, 2020

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**Part I - Sermon Notes** - For your reference as you review the message.

#### **Introduction**

*"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:11)*

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)*

- 1. How is God Kind? (Ephesians 2:4-10)**
- 2. Why Should I Be Kind to My Spouse? (Ephesians 4:1-3)**
- 3. What about All of the Obstacles to Kindness? (Ephesians 4:31-32)**
- 4. What if Kindness is Too Costly? (Ephesians 5:1-2)**
- 5. How Am I Supposed to Love with This Type of Kindness? (Ephesians 6:10-13)**

#### **Conclusion**

##### 7 Steps toward Kindness

1. Be Humble
2. Look to Jesus' Love
3. Look to Jesus' Example
4. Discuss as a Couple
5. Join with Others
6. Recognize Growth
7. Pray

**Part II** - *To be completed separately after the message. Take time on your own to answer these questions.*

1. What are two or three things you heard in the message that stand out to you as applicable to your marriage as it is currently?
2. What elements of Christ's kindness and love do you find most elusive or struggle to emulate?
3. Envision what your marriage would look like if you applied this message. What would be different? In what ways? What change could occur tonight or tomorrow if applied? Write your thoughts here.

**Part III** - *To be completed together within one week after the meeting. Take time where you can talk in an uninterrupted and unhurried way to complete the third portion of this project. Feel free to use this worksheet however you wish. If you want a plan, consider the one below:*

1. Pray. Ask God for his help to keep your conversation fruitful and redemptive. If, at any point during the conversation you feel conflict brewing, stop and remember together that Christ means to be the center of the marriage and the conversation, not a conflict.
2. Take the time to share your answers from Question 1 in Part II. Realize that God may have spoken to each of you in different ways, seeking to address different things. Don't correct or critique. Simply inform and share God's activity during the message.
3. Review your answers to Questions 2 from Part II. It is likely your spouse has a different list than you do. Don't negotiate or debate. Seek to learn from the difference and pray for one another in accordance with the answers.
4. Pray. Ask God to strengthen you with the might of his power as he fills your marriage with his Spirit. Ask him to forgive you for your contribution to any challenges and thank him for bringing you together as a couple. Pray that God would provide all of the help you need.