

EPHESIANS

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



March 17, 2024



WELCOME

At RCC, the Bible tells us that God wants us to find our greatest joy in Him and that He desires for us to share this experience with others.

So our mission is - To encourage people to **Enjoy God Together**.

And our vision is - To **build joy-filled communities of faith** whose very existence inspires individuals to live an abundant Christian life, **made up of three key relationships - r1, r2, and r3**.

r1 – A deepening relationship with God

r2 – A life-changing relationship with other believers

r3 – An engaging relationship with those yet to believe

To get there, we have a few things that matter to us:



WE FIND OUR GREATEST JOY IN JESUS



WHAT WE THINK ABOUT GOD MATTERS



WE HELP PEOPLE HELP PEOPLE



WE CELEBRATE QUESTIONS



WE EMBRACE INEVITABLE TENSIONS



THIS IS FOR LIFE

GIVING UPDATE

Thank you to all of you for investing in RCC's vision and community. As of 3/13/24 our giving vs. budget is:

General Fund Giving	Month to Date	Year to Date
2024 Actual	\$53,667	\$267,893
2024 Budget	\$52,949	\$266,897
Difference	\$718	\$996

TRAUMA

REBOOT

TRAUMA HEALING FOR EVERYONE



STARTING MARCH 24TH

On Sunday afternoons, starting March 24th, from 2-4pm, RCC will be hosting Trauma REBOOT. It is a 12-week, faith-based, peer-led course helping people to overcome trauma and embrace a brighter future. Practical teaching and a supportive community help people break free from the pain of the past and find renewed purpose and strength.

If you or someone you know would be interested, contact Keith at keithg@richfieldcc.org or register at rebootrecovery.com.

3rd Monday | March 18th

I AM PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

MORNING

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

CONSIDER: You are part of the family of God. You are adopted and beloved by God. Not only that, but you have been given gifts by God. You are an important part of the work God wants to do in the world.

TALK TO GOD: Talk/listen to God regarding who He has made you to be and what He has made you to do.

AFTERNOON

READ: Ephesians 4:1-6

CONSIDER: In this section of text, we are told by Paul how to live in relationship - how to treat people. Where can you see these characteristics being lived out in your life?

TALK TO GOD: Ask God for His help in identifying the most difficult areas for you regarding relationships and for growth in these areas through the fruit of His Spirit.

EVENING

READ: Ephesians 4:11-16

CONSIDER: Paul lists several gifts of leadership and teaching given to instruct, protect, and build up the body. Spend some time thinking of all the people who have taught you how to follow Jesus over the years - authors, pastors, friends, teachers, Life Group leaders

TALK TO GOD: Thank God for them and pray for the new leaders God will bring.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK:

Ephesians 5:22-33

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

NOTES:

Increasing the Joy of Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33

Todd Chapman & Heather Stannard - March 17, 2024

Paul tells us that marriage is a profound mystery. More fully understanding the profundity of the mystery of marriage will increase the meaning and joy we will experience in marriage.

Husbands and wives are to experience a uniquely meaningful and joy-inspiring relationship.

The purpose of Christian marriage is to be an inspiring illustration of the relationship that Jesus shares with all of us.

Christian marriage is most successful when....

Life Group Discussion Questions

Ephesians 5:22-33

For the week of March 17, 2024

Reading the Text:

1. What was the big idea of the previous text, Ephesians 5:15-21?
2. Speaking of marriage in v. 32, Paul says "*This mystery is profound...*". Why is it a mystery, and what is so profound about it? (More precisely, why is marriage representing Christ and the church such a profound mystery?")
3. What do vv. 25-27 explain that Christ did for the Church? What do vv. 28-30 explain husbands are to do for their wives? How do you think these two ideas connected in Paul's mind?
4. How would you restate v. 22 in your own words? How would you restate v. 25 in your own words?
5. How would you state the big idea of Ephesians 5:22-33 in your own words?

Living It Out:

1. After understanding the meaning of this text, has your interpretation shifted at all? How so? Are there ways you've heard this passage abused in the past?
2. Have you ever heard that marriage is an image or representation of Christ and His love for the Church? How does this elevate the way you view marriage now?
3. How can we as a Life Group encourage each other, whether married or single, to live a life that points to Christ and His love for the church?

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