



## Study 9

### Marriage: Dancing in the Mine-Fields

Hope Community Church  
July 3, 2016

**Key Scriptures:** Ephesians 5:18-33

**Discussion Starter:** We all bring baggage (good and bad) into a study of marriage. What kind of baggage do you think we should be sensitive to, for each other's sake?

#### Digging Deeper

1. How would you describe God's vision for marriage, according to Ephesians 5:21-33?
2. Paul's command to be filled with the Spirit sets the agenda for Ephesians 5:18-33. How is the Spirit's work connected to marriage?
3. How is Ephesians 5:1-2 similar to Ephesians 5:25? How does this show us the power for a great marriage (and great relationship in general)?

#### Applying

4. Let the women speak to this question: What is God calling you to think, feel and be in this passage?
5. Let the men speak to this question: What is God calling you to think, feel and be in this passage?
6. What do you think of Tim and Kathy Keller's words (from "The Meaning of Marriage"):

**In any relationship, there will be frightening spells in which your feelings of love seem to dry up. And when that happens you must remember that the essence of a marriage is that it is a covenant, a commitment, a promise of future love.**

**This means we must say to ourselves something like this: "Well, when Jesus looked down from the cross, he didn't think, 'I am giving myself to you because you are so attractive to me.' No, he was in agony, and he looked down at us—denying him, abandoning him, and betraying him—and in the greatest act of love in history, he stayed. He said, 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.' He loved us, not because we were lovely to him, but to make us lovely. That is why I am going to love my spouse." Speak to your heart like that, and then fulfill the promises you made on your wedding day."**

7. What do you wish you had been told before you got married? What advice would you give to someone you are helping to have a better marriage?
8. Many of us have seen great marriages that we look up to. Share an observation of a marriage you have observed and been inspired by.
9. What one thing do you think the Holy Spirit has said to you about your life during this study?