



## House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on July 11, 2021

**Sermon:** The Nature and Purpose of Church

**Text:** Ephesians 5:22-33

### Gathering Guidelines

-Watch intro video for this week.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_oR5CugpVI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_oR5CugpVI)

### Take some time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXQGTInPpZU> You Are Here (Leeland)

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

### Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker Question:**

Get to know each other a bit better. . .choose which of the following you would prefer:

1. 35 above zero or 35 below.
2. Living on a farm, in small town or the city.
3. Coke or Pepsi.
4. Mountains or plains.
5. Dodge, Chev or Ford.

Based on the answers who is now your favorite person in your group? (Just kidding! Don't answer this! Unless you really want to then go for it. . .)

**Question #1:**

In Ephesians 5:22-33 we read about two primary things: submission and sacrificial love. It says that wives are to submit to their husbands and that husbands should sacrificially love their wives.

Take some time to express your honest thoughts about submission and sacrificial love. What things sound good? What things don't sit well with you?

**Question #2:**

Here is quote from the sermon on Sunday:

***"If you were a professional fighter, to submit is to lose. And who would ever want to encourage someone to lose in life! Instead, we want to say you should fight for you equality; fight for your place; fight for your voice; fight for your influence, make your mark, be noticed, be the influencer not the influenced. If someone dares to place themselves over you then you have the duty to knock them down and show them that you are not one who is going to roll over."***

Does this ring true in your mind? If yes or no, describe why you think this?

**Question #3:**

Colossians 1 talks about how Jesus is powerful, creating all things, and in John 13:3 it says "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power. . ."

Jesus was incredibly powerful, and yet it says a few verses later that He washed his disciples feet, a very demeaning act in that culture.

Then in John 13:8 it says that Jesus said to Peter: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

What do you think Jesus meant by this statement to Peter?

What might this act on Jesus' part have to say about how we are to live as Christians?

**Question #4:**

Here is another quote from the Sunday sermon:

**"Ephesians 5:21 says 'Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.' This is a big deal for kingdom living. We usually live out what we most value. Protecting ourselves from each other is often more important to us than living vulnerably with each other and trusting Jesus to take care of us, because it makes more sense to our fallen nature to live with powerful walls. When we see someone living genuinely humbly and vulnerably, we tend to feel**

uncomfortable and even guilty that we are not doing the same. That's the Spirit of God convicting us, and instead of listening to Him and submitting and asking Him to tear down our walls, we tend to get upset and do things to make the humble person back off."

After reading this, read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 and talk about how you think God is calling us to live.

Question #5:

Here is a last quote from the Sunday sermon:

"John 14:11 says 'Believe me when I say that I am in my Father and the Father is in me. . .' Jesus was absolutely full in His identity, and was full of power, and yet He was in submission to His Father's will. And there is an important lesson here: Jesus was not *forced to submit*, because that would have been a function of power, but instead He chose to submit because He wanted to see the goodness of heaven be expressed here on earth."

Read Luke 22:42; John 14:31; John 12:49; and John 5:19 to get an idea of just how radically Jesus submitted His life to someone else.

Does this sound like a good thing or a bad thing to do?

Does it seem that submitting to a husband or sacrificially loving a wife is a good thing or bad thing?

Invitation and Mission for this week

This week ask the Holy Spirit to help you to submit to someone out of reverence to Jesus and His example that He set for you. Ask Him to show you also *how* to do this.

This is a very big step, and to be honest, a mission that might be really easy to let slip by. But remember that Jesus set this example for us in order for it to be followed by us. We need to choose to obey if we want to honor Him.

Pray for each other