

# La Familia de Dios Part 2

## 3 - Marriage is a picture of God's love for us

**Open by asking:** *"How is everyone doing?"*

**Introduction:** *"Last week we talked a little bit about how God's family compares and contrasts with our experiences in our own families. We wrapped up with the idea that if you belong to God's family, then he is going to give you power to make a real and lasting difference in your family and community. Tonight we'll be talking about where that power comes from and about God's desires for one very important relationship--marriage."*

### **Reviewing God's Power for Change:**

**Read Colossians 3:1-4:1. Then read this:** *"Last week we read this and talked about the motivation God wants us to have for living rightly and building good relationships."*

1. *Someone sum up the main point of this passage.*

*"Christ died and rose again, and this says we have died to our old ways and risen with him--we have his new life and his power to overcome the old "deathly" ways. God was (and still is) making his family by raising us up when we were dead in our sins. To this day, he is calling his people to change the way things work between people in this world. We are going to turn to another passage to look a little more at marriage."*

**Read Ephesians 5:21-33. Then read this:** *"Most of us here probably want to get married someday, and many people here probably will some day. That's why we want to look at why God set up marriage in the first place, and how he wants his people who are married to live. It's an extremely common relationship, but God has a really important purpose for it!"*

1. *So, Paul says marriage is one of God's big metaphors. What does it represent? How would you explain this ideal in your own words?*
2. *Compare this ideal with how have you normally seen marriage work. Discuss how husbands and wives treat each other in our own families.*
3. *In verse 24 it says wives should submit to their husbands like the church submits to Christ. What do you think that means? How do we as God's people submit to Christ? [Remember, Jesus listens to you, cares about your opinion, and just as we're talking about this semester, empowers you to change the world around you. Explore with your familia how this metaphor might extend toward earthly marriages. What might this kind of love between spouses look like?]*
4. *A lot of men might read about "wives submitting to husbands," and think, "Darn right!" But how does God balance this out? What does he expect from husbands? [He expects husbands to treat their wives like Christ treats us...how is that? Is he a harsh master? Does he beat down or humiliate?]*
5. *Read Matthew 20:28. This is Jesus' mission statement. How does this change the way spouses might think about how to love one another?*

**Wrap Up:** *None of us here are married, so what does all this mean for us today? Look at verse 21: "submit to one another..." What do you think that looks like practically?*

*Learning to put others' needs ahead of our own and "serve instead of be served" can help make you a better spouse in the future, but also helps to make you more like Christ today. What's one thing you can do this week to practice "submission to one another"?*

*"Let's wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us experience these truths more this week."*