

SUSTAINABLE MARRIAGES #3—LEAVING A LEGACY

Ephesians 4:31-5:2

NOTE: For some of these questions, you may need to modify your answers based on your specific relational status. For example, if you are unmarried, you may talk about how your joys and struggles in relationships relate. Regardless of relationship status, we can learn from the scriptures and one another as a spiritual community.

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever inherited something from a relative that you considered of great value? If so, what made it so important? If not, think of something you hope to inherit someday and describe why it is important to you.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Ephesians 5:15-16 encourages us to walk wisely and to “make the best use of the time.” On a scale of one to ten, how much planning and thought have you put into building your life around leaving a spiritual legacy? Circle one. Explain your answer.

None at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Highly Purposeful

Read Philippians 2:5-9. What do these verses tell us Jesus did in order to rescue us? Record your observations below.

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|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Philippians 2:5 says, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...” In light of verses 6-9, what would your life look like if you adopted Christ’s approach to life?

According to Ephesians 4:31-32, what is the reason we extend grace to others? If a life was characterized by bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander and malice, how would that, in one sense, be a denial of God’s grace to you?

Read Romans 8:31-39. How does the truth of these verses give your strength and security to depend on? If these verses are true of you, what do you have to fear in forgiving someone?

LIVING IT OUT

When you are having a bad day (week, month or season in life), what unhealthy response do you have towards conflict (it may be anger, sarcasm, manipulation, nagging, isolation, etc.)?

Romans 2:4 says that God’s “kindness leads us to repentance.” Another way to say this is that grace leads to change in a person’s life. Have you found this to be true in your marriage or relationships as well? Why or why not?

Spiritual directors encourage us to build a routine of remembering the grace we have in Christ so that we can become a grace-provider to others. What is one thing you can do each day this week to remind yourself of the grace God has given you?

What is one way to be a grace-provider to someone in your life this week?

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589. Some of these questions were based on questions in other curriculum. If interested, ask Jeff Lawrence for a list of sources.