STRENGTH STRENGTH OF MARRIAGE

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

February 12th, 2006

"This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband."

(Ephesians 5:32-33, NKJV)

Personal Notes:

Sermon Outline:

I Tough words
- A The words under discussion this morning are different that the teachings of the world.
- B While the world may see these words as foolish, God tells of his holy design.
- C Paul shows that Ephesian Christians (Ephesians 1:1) that the marriage relationship is similar to the church's relationship with Christ.

II The strength of submission
- A Submission is the humble obedience to another's will.
- B The submission of the wife is to be as her submission to the Lord (Ephesians 5:22).
  - 1 Each person is to submit themselves to God (James 4:7).
  - 2 This submission is as a result of the head (Ephesians 5:23)
- C The wife's submission is as the church submits to Christ (Ephesians 5:24)

III The strength of love
- A Husbands are to love their wives in the same manner that Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25, 28).
  - 1 Christ gave himself for the church (Ephesians 5:25).
  - 2 Christ made the church a priority (Ephesians 5:25-27).
  - 3 Christ did whatever it took to make the church glorious (Ephesians 5:28, 29)

IV The strength of sacrifice
- A There is sacrifice in leaving father and mother and joining with another *(opposite gender, of course)* to become one. (Ephesians 5:31)
  - 1 The leaving and cleaving has to do with dependence.
- B Paul's proclaims the mystery of Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32)
  - 1 Marriage is strengthened by Christ and the church and the marriage can strengthen the church. (one body and one flesh)
- C Love and respect take physical, emotional, mental and spiritual sacrifice. (So does following God!)