

## **Relationships That Reveal Christ**

### ***Representing Jesus Through the Way We Love***

#### **Main Text**

- Ephesians 5:1–2
- Ephesians 5:21–33

#### Supporting Texts:

- John 13:35
- Galatians 5:22–23
- Colossians 3:12–14

**The way we handle relationships should visibly represent Jesus to the world.**

#### **Introduction**

- Many people think representing Jesus only happens through preaching, ministry, or evangelism.
- But one of the clearest places people encounter Jesus is through our relationships.
- Before people hear our message, they experience our love, patience, forgiveness, and humility.

“The strongest sermon many people will ever see is the way believers treat one another.”

#### **1. Representation Begins with Imitation**

##### **Text: Ephesians 5:1–2**

' Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. '

Ephesians 5:1-2

- We cannot represent Jesus if we do not imitate Jesus.

##### **Jesus represented:**

- humility
- patience
- forgiveness
- sacrifice
- truth with grace

## **Application**

Ask:

- Does my attitude represent Jesus?
- Does my speech represent Jesus?
- Does my response in conflict represent Jesus?

## **Practical Challenge**

Represent Jesus:

- in conversations
- in disagreements
- online
- at home
- in private moments

## **2. Spirit-Filled Relationships Become a Witness**

**Texts:**

- John 13:35
- Galatians 5:22–23

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- The world recognizes Jesus through relationships shaped by the Holy Spirit.

**The Fruit of the Spirit should shape our relationships:**

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.' Gal 5:22

## **Emphasize**

You cannot consistently represent Jesus outwardly without surrendering inwardly to the Holy Spirit.

## **Contrast**

***Culture says:***

- protect yourself
- cancel people
- hold grudges
- prove your point

**Jesus teaches:**

- forgive
- restore
- serve
- honor others

Our relationships either:

- distort Jesus  
or
- display Jesus

“People should not only hear that Jesus changed us — they should experience it through the way we love.”

**3. Marriage Is Meant to Reflect Christ**

**Text: Ephesians 5:21–33**

**- Mutual Submission Reflects Humility**

**Verse 21**

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

- Biblical marriage (and any relationship) is built on humility and service.

Healthy marriage asks:

- “How can I serve?”  
instead of:
- “How can I win?”

**- Husbands Represent Christ Through Sacrificial Love**

**Verse 25**

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church...”

### **Christlike leadership:**

- sacrifices
- protects
- serves
- leads gently
- lays down selfishness

### **- Wives Reflect the Church Through Honor and Partnership**

### **Verses 22–24, 33**

Biblical submission is not inferiority.  
It is a **reflection** of trust, honor, and spiritual unity.

### **Balance**

- husband and wife are equal in value
- both are called to reflect Christ beautifully

### **- Marriage Preaches the Gospel**

### **Verse 32**

“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

- Christian marriage is not merely about happiness —  
it is meant to display the Gospel.

### **Conclusion**

People should encounter Jesus through:

- the way we speak
- the way we forgive
- the way we honor
- the way we love
- the way we handle marriage and relationships

“If we carry the name of Jesus, our relationships should carry His nature.”