**BIBLE READING AND PRAYER Ephesians 5:21-33 29th May 2022**

Reflecting on the whole passage - Take some time to quietly confess where you have failed to fulfil any of the directions in this passage.

Looking at the passage in parts. Write a short sentence prayer or a few dot points in response to what God is saying to you through His Word.

*Eph 5:21-24  Honour Christ and put others first.  A wife should put her husband first, as she does the Lord.  A husband is the head of his wife, as Christ is the head and the Saviour of the church, which is his own body.  Wives should always put their husbands first, as the church puts Christ first.*

Is God calling you to change your attitude towards someone?

What do you need to do to *“honour Christ and put them first”*?

*Eph.5:25-28 A husband should love his wife as much as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it.   He made the church holy by the power of his word, and he made it pure by washing it with water. Christ did this, so that he would have a glorious and holy church, without faults or spots or wrinkles or any other flaws.   In the same way, a husband should love his wife as much as he loves himself. A husband who loves his wife shows that he loves himself.*

Take some time to thank God for the way He loves us, His Church?

Pray for yourselves that we may treat others as God treats us all.

*Eph.5:29-33  None of us hate our own bodies. We provide for them and take good care of them, just as Christ does for the church,  because we are each part of his body.  As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother to get married, and he becomes like one person with his wife."   This is a great mystery, but I understand it to mean Christ and his church.  So each husband should love his wife as much as he loves himself, and each wife should respect her husband.*

In this passage it is hard to tell if marriage is to be a picture of Christ’s love for the Church or the other way around.

What would it mean for you to love others this way? Pray a blessing on those you find hard to love and strength for yourself to love them as Christ loves the Church

*Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

*In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph 5:21-33)*