

**Week Five: *Ancient Wisdom; Modern Problems—Why the Bible is Timeless***  
***Ephesians 5:21-33***

**Spend Fifteen – Day One**

1. Read [Ephesians 5:21-33](#). What is your initial reaction? Does this passage seem irrelevant or old-fashioned?
  
2. Thinking about what we've learned about context, is it possible these words might be universally applicable for us today? Why or why not?
  
3. Thinking again about the context in this passage, how would you expect the power dynamic of an ancient Hebrew family to look? How might that be the same or different than a modern-day marriage?
  
4. Does it seem as though the families of Jesus' time had as many problems as modern-day families?
  
5. Read the following verses and list some of the problems noted in these [verses](#).
  - a. [Proverbs 11:12](#)
  - b. [Proverbs 13:22](#)
  - c. [Proverbs 14:25](#)
  - d. [Proverbs 17:21](#)
  - e. [Proverbs 21:9](#)
  - f. [Proverbs 26:20](#)
  - g. [Proverbs 29:17](#)
  
6. As you can see by the wisdom imparted to the ancient Hebrews, human nature has not changed. People struggled with relationships, finances, parenting – everything that we still struggle with today. As you conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to help you have an open heart and an open mind as you work through this week's topic.

**Spend Fifteen – Day Two**

7. Look again at [Ephesians 5:21](#). What does it mean to “submit to one another”? Do you think people can actually do that, or does one have to be submissive and the other dominant? Explain your answer.
  
8. How have you personally seen a husband submit to his wife? What did that look like?
  
9. How have you personally seen a wife submit to her husband? How was that different or the same as a husband submitting to his wife?

10. What's the difference between "commanding" respect and "demanding" respect?
11. Do you think it is easier or harder to submit to a person who puts you ahead of himself? (See [Philippians 2:3-4.](#)) Explain your answer.
12. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to help you be the kind of person that commands respect, not demands it.

### **Spent Fifteen – Day Three**

13. Reread [Ephesians 5:21-33](#). How do we best submit to the Lord? Is it out of fear or love? Is it gladly or under compulsion? Explain the comparison in verse 22.
14. If the husband is the head of the wife like Christ is the head of the church, how much sacrifice is implied?
15. How did Christ serve the church? How can men best serve their wives?
16. Notice that Paul quotes [Genesis 2:24](#) in saying a man shall leave his mother and father to become one with his wife. What does that mean to you?
17. Explain the summation [verse 33](#). Does this come naturally when love reigns, or will it always have to be something we work hard to achieve?
18. As you finish the final FIFTEEN this week, ask God to help you love others as you love yourself.

### **Spent Fifteen – Day Four**

26. Imagine a world where everyone was nice to one another. No one cheated or murdered or stole or talked bad behind one another's back. Where people were generous and shared what they had. Seem like a pipe dream? What would it take to make that happen?
19. Read [Exodus 20:1-17](#). This section is one of the sections in which we find the Ten Commandments. Do some of these things seem outdated? Does the whole concept of them seem outdated? Why or why not?
20. Let's try an experiment. Look at each of these [commandments individually](#). Choose a few, as many as you have time

for, and examine each one. Write a brief description of what the world would be like if people followed each one as God commanded.

- a. [Exodus 20:3](#)
- b. [Exodus 20:4-6](#)
- c. [Exodus 20:7](#)
- d. [Exodus 20:8-11](#)
- e. [Exodus 20:12-13](#)
- f. [Exodus 20:14](#)
- g. [Exodus 20:15](#)
- h. [Exodus 20:16](#)
- i. [Exodus 20:17](#)

21. As you look over these commandments, does the wisdom behind them become more apparent? How has this exercise impacted how you feel about them? Does the need for them still apply today?
22. If you were to explain the value of the wisdom behind the Ten Commandments to someone else, how would you put it into words?
23. Read [Psalm 119:102-104](#). As you finish your FIFTEEN, end in prayer using the words of this psalm as your prayer.

**Spent FIFTEEN – Day Five**

24. When you think about the advancements of mankind, do you think the world is getting better? Is it staying the same? Or maybe getting worse? Explain your answer.
25. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:8-10](#). What does this verse say about this question?
26. Read [Hebrews 13:7-8](#). What does this verse say about God and his wisdom?
27. If human nature has not changed and God has not changed, God's wisdom is still as applicable today as it was when it was written. How does this truth impact your willingness to accept God's wisdom?

28. How might having a better understanding God's Word help you live your life? Try to list some practical ways.
29. Read [Hebrews 11:1-2](#). Just like the ancients, God wants us to trust him and put our confidence in him. As you end your final FIFTEEN this week, ask God to help you remain open to his teaching, even when it's hard.