

Discussion Questions
Warm Bodies in a Cold War
Ephesians 5:21-33

(What most intrigues you about the opposite sex?)

(If you are a woman, what do you most appreciate about men? If you're a man, what do you most appreciate about women?)

Read Eph. 5:21-33

- How does it strike you?
- Does it seem outdated, politically incorrect or something else?
- What comes to mind when you think of the word submission?
- Is there ever a time when you want to willingly submit to someone?
- What is it that fosters a desire in you to submit to someone?
- How do you think this passage has been misused in general in your life?
- Do you think you have ever misused it?

This passage calls us into submitting to God and others but that can be a bit frightening. Think of how God in Christ Jesus submits to us in love.

- Does the picture of Christ's submission to His Father's will and to us stir in you a desire to submit to Him and/or others? Why or why not?

During this sermon, Peter talked about how we as males or females are sometimes tempted to take what we long for, that which we lack, and yet does not yet belong to us. In Genesis we learn that Adam and Eve felt a lack, they felt God had something they didn't have and so they tried to seize it. After seizing the fruit that God warned Adam and Eve not to seize, they hid.

- Can you think of something you have seized when God was trying to protect you and warned you not to? How did that go?
- Have you hidden your heart from Him as a result? If so, are there any ways in which you have experienced Him pursuing you while you hide or hid from him?

Take a moment in the stillness and quiet of your own heart to remember something that you might have seized—something you took that wasn't yours to take, at least not in the way you took it.

- When you think about that, do you want to hide?

Now, imagine yourself hiding (where do you run and hide?) Now look up from your hiding place: God is looking for you (like He was looking for Adam and Eve in the garden—longing for relationship with them); He is looking for you despite it all. He longs for a relationship with *you*.

- Will you come out?
- Can you trust He is good and you don't need to hide your heart from Him?

Now, tell Him how you feel—no matter what you feel.

- If you want to run into His arms tell Him, and then do it.
- If you're not sure and it's scary to trust Him, tell Him.
- Whatever is going on in your heart, try to tell Him about it because He longs for relationship with you.

The summation of this sermon is that God in Christ Jesus longs to be one flesh with you! How does it make you feel to know that, in spite of all your perceived shortcomings and failures He longs to be intimately connected with you!

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*