



#RELATIONSHIPGOALS

*Bringing People Closer Than Ever*

**CLOSER TO MY SPOUSE**

*September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

# Closer to My Spouse

*However, each one of you also must LOVE his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must RESPECT her husband. - Ephesians 5:33 NIV*

## The Two Ingredients for a Strong Marriage: Love and Respect

### The Research and the Revelation

- The University of Washington studied 2000 couples for 20 years and found that LOVE and RESPECT are the two key ingredients.
- Shaunti Feldhahn asked a random sample of American males, “Would you rather be left alone and UNLOVED in the world or viewed as inadequate and DISRESPECTED by everyone?”
- Dr. Emerson Eggerichs asked 7000 people, “When in a conflict with your spouse do you feel UNLOVED or DISRESPECTED?”

*...wives...even if any (husbands) are disobedient to the word, they may be won... as they observe your...RESPECTFUL behavior. - 1 Peter 3:1-2 NASB*

*Husbands, LOVE your wives and do not be embittered against them.  
- Colossians 3:19 NASB*

## The Reaction When We Overlook Them

1. We Step on the AIR HOSES.
2. We Start the CRAZY CYCLE.

## How to Ensure the Two Ingredients in Marriage

1. By Valuing GOD’S DESIGN.

*(Jesus said) “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them MALE and FEMALE?” - Matthew 19:4 NASB*

## 2. By Embracing GOD'S CALL.

### a. He Calls Me to Embrace MY SPOUSE'S GOOD WILL.

*[A man] who is married is concerned about ... how he may please his wife, and [a wife] is concerned about...how she may please her husband. - 1 Corinthians 7:33-34 NASB*

### b. He Calls Me to Embrace FRICTION IN MY MARRIAGE.

*But because sexual immorality is so common, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. <sup>3</sup>A husband should fulfill his marital responsibility to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does. <sup>5</sup>Do not deprive one another sexually. ...However, if you do get married, you have not sinned... But such people will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. - 1 Corinthians 7:2-4, 28 HCSB*

### c. He Calls Me to Embrace MY CHRIST-HONORING STRENGTH.

*Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another. - Ephesians 5:21 MSG*

### d. He Calls Me to Embrace MY ETERNAL REWARD Over My Temporary Setback!

*As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. <sup>7</sup>Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>8</sup>Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free. <sup>9</sup>Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.  
- Ephesians 6:6-9 NLT*

## My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize *Ephesians 5:33*.
- Commit to the values of love and respect in my relationship with my spouse.
- Get involved in deeper community through a Small Group.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

# Walk the Talk

## *A Small Group Discussion Guide*

1. How do you see the state of marriage in America right now? How can we find a way back to a Biblical model again?
2. Read Ephesians 5:21-33 aloud to the group.
  - a. Why do you think Paul started out this section with verse 21?
  - b. As a woman, how does verse 22-24 challenge you? Change you? Encourage you?
  - c. As a man, how do verses 25-29 challenge you? Change you? Encourage you?
  - d. What do you think best builds a “one-flesh” relationship in a marriage?
3. Why do you think it is vital that the twin qualities of masculinity and femininity be valued again in our culture the way God designed them to be? What would that look like?
4. Under the point of “By Embracing God’s Call,” above, which of the four helped you the most? Explain.
5. Have a time of prayer for each other’s marriages or for marriage in general.