



COLOSSIANS

Colossians 3:18-19

Rooted in Christ's Design for Marriage

By Andrew Farhat

Getting Started

- *Larger LIFEGroups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a "High" from the week and a "Low" from the week.
- What is the most memorable activity you did with your family as a child?

Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Read Colossians 3:18-19
- Paul will now give specific instructions to believers who are in particular stations in life such as husband/wife, parent/child, and slave/free.
- Christian books that have blessed many believers today on marriage are *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller and *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas.
- *Pastoral Note:* God's Design for marriage includes a husband who sacrificially loves his wife as Christ loves the church. If you are in a marriage that is abusive or your husband is not taking responsibility for his role, you are encouraged to make an appointment with your pastor or biblical counselor. Or, if you believe your wife is abusing you, you are invited to do the same.
- The Son of God submitted to the Father, but He also is equal in value to the Father.

- The Son of God submitted to a cross, and that is reason for His greatness.
- The Scriptures teach male headship in the context of covenant marriage. God has given equal value to husband and wife, while also giving complementary roles. Why do you suppose that God designed marriage with order and a plan?
- What is submission? What is submission not?
- How does submission *empower* husbands?
- How does both the husband and wife's role require self-denial?
- The husbands role is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church (Ephesians 5:25). This is a call to selfless serving.
- Wives: What are some ways husbands can love their wives on a daily basis?
- Husbands: What are your wives love languages? If "love languages" is a new concept, you are encouraged to take the love language quiz as a couple at www.lovelanguagequiz.com.
- Christ made an everlasting covenant with His Church. He resolves to be faithful and never disown us. Marriage is a covenant where husband and wife make vows before God and witnesses and are to remain committed to their vows until death.
- What are some ways to nurture spiritual unity as a couple?
- Why is quality time so difficult to come by, and yet so important for unity to be nurtured?
- What is God calling on you to do as a result of this study?

Group Prayer (15 Min)

Trios (20 Min)

Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
 - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
 - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you've encountered it in this week's Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
 - What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
 - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How's your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you're building and spiritual conversations you're having with non-believing neighbors and friends.

- List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:

- What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
- How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?