

The Good Life

Men, Honor Your Wives

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband" Proverbs 12:4a (ESV)

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord." Proverbs 18:22 (ESV)

"House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord." Proverbs 19:14 (ESV)

"10 An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. 14 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. 15 She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. 16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. 17 She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong..." Proverbs 31:10-17 (ESV)

"25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 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. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." Ephesians 5:25-33 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What from the message today was most memorable to you?
- What are some ways in which Jesus challenged first century culture to increase its respect for women?

As we Begin: Introductory Note and Question

- Today we're continuing our discussion of this morning's message, which was spoken primarily for men. What are the benefits for our church culture when we publicly teach on topics such as manhood, womanhood, singleness, marriage, and parenting, while in the presence of all, even if not all of us share the same vocations?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Passages like Gen. 1:27 and Gal. 3:26-29 speak to the equal value of men and women before God. We were made to complement one another! What happens to our behavior when we take this to heart?
- Scripture (1 Cor. 7) tells us that both singleness and marriage can be beautiful expressions of living in faith. When it comes to marriage, what point do Proverbs 18:22 and 19:14 make about wives?
- Read Eph. 5:25-33. How does this passage move the conversation away from the discussion of who has the power in a marriage?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Biblical manhood and husband-hood (is that a word?) could be best understood in light of Matthew 20:28. How does Jesus model the best of what a man and husband can be?
- Pastor Michael often speaks of his wife as "the second-greatest gift" that God has given to him. Why is it important for their marriage that she is not first? Why is it important that she's not third?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- The church is struggling at helping men mature in the faith and become "husband material." How can you be a part of the solution?
- Men: How can you take the first step toward honoring and serving your wife, or women in general, this week?
- Husbands: Print the vow at renewaldenver.org/vow as a reminder

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

"God, you created men and women to be distinct, but also of equal value before you, to complement one another in a beautiful way! We thank you for the gift that women are, and in our community, may men love their wives as You love Your church. Amen."

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

(1) What was a memorable passage from your Life Journal (or other Bible reading plan) reading this past week? (2) What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week? (3) What good can we do around here (are there any community needs God is calling us to meet)? (4) Pray for one another.