



# STAND

## STAND, PART 5: STAYING IN LOVE

It is easy to fall in love—all you need is a pulse! But wow do you stay in love? Because it has never been easier to fall in love and get married, but it has never been harder to stay in love and stay married. The key is keeping your marriage relationship the number one priority over every other relationship—except your relationship with God.

**BIG IDEA:** Love God first. Love your spouse is second.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the first person you fell in love with. What made you fall in love? Have you fallen in love with anyone since then?
2. Why do you think there are over 1,500 matchmaking organizations in this country? Why is there such a demand? Has it become harder or easier to fall in love in spite of the fact that there are so many matchmaking opportunities?
3. What unwritten rules of love (both healthy and unhealthy) did you learn from your family of origin? How have those rules surfaced in your current relationships?
4. What steps can you take this week to proactively love someone rather than reacting to what someone else does or does not do for you?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read [Ephesians 5:18-21](#).*

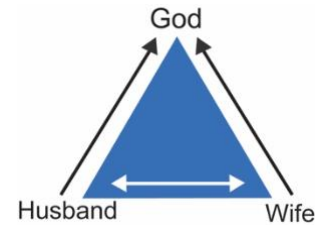
*Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* [Ephesians 5:18-21](#)

6. To do what God wants, we must be "filled with the spirit". What does this mean to you?
7. Chris described being "filled with the spirit" as *giving up control of your life to God*. What are some ways you worship God in your everyday life?
8. Chris defined submission as *to put another person's needs before your own*. How does this definition differ from how the world defines submission? How does this definition differ from how you viewed submission?
9. Real community—with God and others—comes when we give up control and submit. What are some ways we can submit to God? What are some ways we can submit to one another?
10. In Ephesians 5:21, Paul refers to mutual submission. What does mutual submission look like in the context of a romantic relationship?
11. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read [Ephesians 5:22-33](#).*

*For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." This is a great mystery, but it is an*

*illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.* [Ephesians 5:22-33](#)

12. Chris said, “If you don’t have a good relationship with God, then it’s going to be difficult to have a good relationship with your spouse. How does the order of Ephesians 5:18 and forward and the verbs and participles that Chris mentioned flesh that idea out?
13. What is unusual about the way Paul applies the general principle of verse 21 specifically to wives (verses 22-24).
14. How and why does he address husbands the way he does (verses 25-33)?
15. In your words, how would you describe the goal of a Christian marriage (verse 31)?
16. Have you ever heard a couple say, “I am in it for the kids,” or “I am committed to the kids.” Why is this dangerous?
17. Have you ever found yourself saying, “We’ll have time for one another when our children are grown. Right now, it’s all about the kids”? How can you change your schedule to better prioritize your marriage relationship?
18. God’s order is: *God, spouse, children, job*. How does the world turn that upside down? Is God’s priority list upside down in your family?



## MOVING FORWARD

The key to staying in love is not finding the right person. It’s finding someone who is committed to becoming the right person while you work to become the right person. It’s finding someone who is not afraid to put you second while they put their relationship with God first and foremost.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Go on a date with your spouse and tell them how valuable they are to you. If your spouse is not here, write them a letter communicating the importance of your relationship with them.

## WEEKLY READING

Genesis 1, Genesis 2, Genesis 3; Ephesians 5:18-6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-4:2; 1 Peter 3:1-7

