

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea

While it is easier than ever to fall in love, it is harder than ever to stay in love. And, no one wants to fall in love and just exist. Or just endure. We want our love to become deeper and deeper. We want our marriages to experience more intimacy. We want to stay in love. Today, we're going to look at what kills intimacy in relationships.



BIG IDEA: Sin & Selfishness destroy intimacy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the most famous person you have ever met? How did you interact with that person?
2. What is your most valued material possession? Describe this possession and how you treat it.
3. In what ways have you seen sin and selfishness destroy relationships around you?
4. *Read Philippians 2:3-4.* What are some specific things you can do this week to “value others above yourselves?” Specifically, how can you apply this idea to someone you love?
5. *Read Philippians 2:5-7.* Describe a time when you saw someone with position or power choose to serve rather than to leverage that position or status for his own benefit? How did you feel when you saw that? Were you surprised by his actions?
6. *Read Ephesians 5:21.* What does this verse have in common with the Philippians 2 verses?

We can't have it both ways. We can't choose getting what we deserve and choose submission. Jesus didn't He is God. He didn't deserve to die. He deserved to be served. But He didn't come to be served but to serve. If He would have insisted on getting what He deserved, then we would have never had the opportunity to be saved. But He placed our needs above His own. We needed to be saved, so He chose to die, placing our needs above His own.

7. *Read Philippians 2:6-7 and Mark 10:45.* Why can't we hold on to our privileges and submit to others at the same time? Why can't we have it both ways? What are some ways that you can choose to submit to the person you love this week?
8. Describe what your picture of an ideal marriage looks like. What do you think it takes to achieve the type of marriage that honors God?
9. Discuss some of the successful marriages you have seen. How did these couples achieve an ideal marriage?

THINK ABOUT IT

To stay in love you have to choose to love each other the way that Christ loved us. In other words, you have to choose to treat the person you love as the most important person in the world to you. You have to be willing to put them first. What is keeping you from this? Is it worth missing out on the love relationship that God designed for you?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:5-7