

## Preparing for the Journey – Video Session 2

Ephesians 5:21-33 <sup>21</sup> *submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

### 4 Principles that Form the Bedrock of Our Marriage relationship

#### 1. Marriage is based on Mutual Submission

1. Husbands and wives often know what the other person is supposed to do. But submission means yielding to the Lord and doing your part; don't try to force the other person to do their part.
2. Submission is a value word. We value the other persons:
  1. Wants
  2. Needs
  3. Opinions
3. Submission is voluntary
  1. Submission is not demanded but voluntarily given.
  2. We are agreeing together that we're going to seek Gods direction for our life, for our marriage, and for our family.

#### 2. Marriage is based on a divine order

1. Usually we agree on things together, but there are times when we disagree and then the wife needs to submit to the husband.
2. It is the wife's role to Trust the Lord with those submissions

3. It is Easier for the wife to submit when the husband's life indicates that he's living his life in obedience to the Lord
  4. Conversation is necessary and the husband should put value on what his wife says. Most everything should be based on mutual agreement. But when conflict happens, We pray through it, We have conversation, We seek to listen. And then submit when necessary.
- 3. Marriage is built upon mutual love**
1. Love is the foundation of relationship
    1. In Gary Chapmans' book The Five Love Languages, he brings up the idea of an infatuation stage. This almost always lasts just a few years.
      1. Once we get past the infatuation stage then we see the other person as they really are, that's when we have the opportunity to really love them.
    2. It is the responsibility of the husband to create an atmosphere of love for the wife and family.
    3. Submission is easier for the wife when she knows that she is loved. Marriage isn't hard; circumstances are hard. These difficult circumstances should bring you together, not make a wedge between you.
- 4. Marriage is built upon Gods love.**
1. Jesus' love is both the standard that we aim for and the resource that we draw from.
    1. God's love is Constant. (Not conditional), steady, not swayed by ups and downs.
    2. God's love is Extravagant. Looking for ways to demonstrate how much that person is loved
    3. God's love is Continual. Daily Nourishing and cherishing.

### Homework

1. List at least 3 questions you have from the lesson.
2. Complete the lesson 2 worksheet "What Marriage Should Be" and discuss as a couple.

## Lesson 2 – What marriage should be

Take the time to answer each of the following questions individually, then come together and share your findings:

### 1. Christian Living

#### Ephesians 5:15-21

1. What instruction do you see in verses 15-16?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List **4 things** that should be visible in the life of a Christian in verses 18-21.

### 2. What is Marriage?

#### Read Ephesians 5:21-33

Fill in the following chart with the things directed exclusively at the husband, at the wife and then those things that are true of both.

Exclusively for husband

exclusively for wife

for husband and wife

Do the same for **1 Peter 3:1-9**

Exclusively for husband

exclusively for wife

for husband and wife

1. In your own words define marriage.
2. Do you believe marriage is a contract? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe it is more than a contract? How?

**3. Reasons for Getting Married**

1. Why are you marrying?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you think you will receive from getting married that you would not receive if you remained single?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What will *"getting married"* cost you?

Look at this list of reasons that people get married; circle any that apply to you.

- a) We want to get back at your parents by marrying someone of whom they do not approve of.
- b) All my friends are getting married and I feel left out.
- c) I am afraid of being alone all my life.
- d) I am rebounding after a long relationship came to an end.
- e) We have been together so long; it is the next logical step.
- f) I know my fiancé really wants to get married and I am afraid of hurting him/her.
- g) Pregnant.
- h) We are in love.
- i) I love my fiancé's companionship.
- j) I am convinced this is what God has for us.