

Life Group Questions and Message Notes

1. How does your most important relationship show God's true purpose?
2. **In marriage or a dating relationship, which of the four C's did you focus on before getting into that relationship?**
3. Do you have a relationship where you need to risk and break the stalemate? How can you do that this week?

Relationship Games: Playing to win in dating and marriage

Pastor Kerry Shook – March 7th, 2021

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of His body. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

Ephesians 5:25-32 (NIV)

1. START WITH CHECKMATE

“Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives....”

2 Corinthians 6:14-16a (MSG)

The Four C's of Dating:

- Christian
- Character
- Compliment
- Commitment

2. BREAK THE STALEMATE

“Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything He does and says is designed to bring the best out of her.”

Ephesians 5:25-26 (MSG)

To Fulfill the Purpose the Husband Needs to:

- Make Sacrifices for Her
"a love marked by giving, not getting."
- Intentionally Build Her Up with Words and Actions
"...everything he does and says is designed to bring out the best in her...."
- Treasure her by reflecting God's truth About Her
"...His words evoke her beauty...."
- Lead Her Spiritually by Taking Responsibility
*"In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church."
Ephesians 5:28-29 (NIV)*

3. BECOME A GREAT TEAMMATE

"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord." Ephesians 5:22 (NIV)

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

To Fulfill the Purpose the Wife Needs to:

- Walk Hand in Hand with Her Husband
- Give Her Respect to Her Husband
*"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."
Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)*

4. RISK IT ALL TO BECOME SOULMATES

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."
Ephesians 5:31 (NIV)*