

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Questions
September 27, 2015



The Ideal Family – Week #1

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we kick off a new series about family, what well-known family (TV, book, pop culture, etc...) do you most relate to and why? Share with the group...
2. Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIVE IN:

1. Time for a reality check: Until now, what have been your primary sources of instruction and example for marriage? Have these influences been biblically accurate? Please explain.
2. Read through the entire Ephesians 5:21-33 passage that Pastor Paul referenced this week in his message. After reading the passage together as a group, discuss the questions that follow.

²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ 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. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

3. The passage reminds us that submission to one another is based on reverence for Christ, not other peoples' ability to earn it. What has been the basis of your willingness (or lack thereof) to submit within your relationships?
4. Wives, in what specific ways can you demonstrate sincere respect for your husband? Husbands, in what specific ways can you show honor to your wife?

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5. Get practical for a minute - how do you put your spouse before yourself? What does it look like to actually demonstrate this principle with work, kids, family, and the chaos of life?
6. Author Gary Thomas says, "If the purpose of marriage was simply to enjoy an infatuation and make me "happy," then I'd have to get a "new" marriage every two or three years. But if I really wanted to see God transform me from the inside out, I'd need to concentrate on changing myself rather than on changing my spouse." Have you ever tried to change your spouse? How did that go? Has God revealed anything this week that you need to change instead of trying to change your spouse?

NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Sacred Marriage Connection Groups –
Your marriage is more than a covenant with another person - its is a spiritual discipline designed to help you know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. What if God's primary intent for your marriage isn't to make you happy... but holy? Join other RC3 couples to dive into this question through a 6 week DVD study series.

Sacred Marriage (Herd) – Wednesdays @ 6:30pm – Maineville – No Childcare

Sacred Marriage (LeCompte) – Fridays @ 6:30pm – Mason – No Childcare

Groups launch in early October. For more info visit: RiversCrossing.com/Groups

- *Sacred Marriage: What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy?* – Gary Chapman
- *Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs* - Emerson Eggerichs