

Big Idea: Marriage is a responsibility that brings reward, not a reward by itself.

Series – By Design

Over the next few weeks, we’re going to talk about marriage. But instead of asking, “*What’s going wrong with marriages?*” I want to ask a better question: “What was God’s original design for marriage?” Let’s go to the original designer. *Genesis 2* tells us marriage was God’s idea before government, before culture, before civilization. Marriage is the foundation to a healthy society, but our culture has completely redefined it.

Cultural Misunderstanding #1: Marriage is about Chemistry

There is a stark contrast between biblical marriage and marriage as portrayed by culture. Typically, we assume that if we can find the right person, marriage is a reward. Many believe it's all about chemistry. When things go badly it is because we didn’t find the right person, so we start our search again in the wrong direction. If you want your relationship to be rewarding, do it God’s way because marriage is not a reward. It is a responsibility that brings reward.

1. Ladies – “My responsibility is to submit to my husband” v.22. In light of v.22, many people believe that husbands should make all the important decisions in the relationship. After all, *submission = obedience*. That is not what this verse means. Remember, Paul is talking about “*mutual submission*” (v.21).

Q: What Does “Submit” Mean?

This passage is not hard to understand. You submit to various things every day of your life. You submit, because you respect. The real issue in the home is not obedience, but respect. You may not be familiar with the word “*submission*,” but I’m sure you understand the word, “*respect*.” Whether or not you know it, when you honor and respect, you submit. God commands women to respect and honor their husbands.

2. Men – “My responsibility is to love my wife” v.25. Men, you carry the weight. The husband is given two models, each introduced by the word “*as*” (vv. 25,28).

- ❑ **First “...as Christ Loved the Church” (vv. 25-27).** The Greek word Paul uses here is “*agape*”; it is the same word used to translate *John 3:16*, it is the God kind of Love. Now what is the God kind of love like?
- ❑ **Second “...as You Love Your Own Body” (vv. 28-29).** By saying that husbands are to “*feed*” their wife as they do their own body, Paul is talking about *needs-meeting*. Whether or not you understand her need is not the issue. Whether or not you are willing to sacrifice in order to meet that need is.

What Will You Do?

- ❑ In what ways do I purposefully honor my wife/ husband?
- ❑ What does my spouse need from me?
- ❑ What do I need from my spouse?

Family Night – Read Ephesians 5:21-33

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “How should we treat each other, and why should we do it (v.21)? How are husbands supposed to love their wives (v.25). How can we show respect for each other at home?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “What is the responsibility of the wife in the home? What is the responsibility of the husband? How do we sometimes disrespect each other at home? Describe ‘mutual submission’ (v.21).”

Prayer: “Father we want to honor each other and You in our home. Please help us do that. Amen.”

<p>Velocity (Middle and High School Students) Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, April 15th at 6:30. Gravity: Today in both services.</p> <p>Today’s Songs <i>Holy is the Lord</i>.....Chris Tomlin <i>I Know a Name</i>.....Elevation Worship <i>Praise</i>.....Elevation Worship</p> <p>New Series “Marriage by Design” Starts Today. No matter where you are in life, building strong homes by God’s <i>Design</i> is the ideal path.</p>	<p>Small Groups A small group can be you and one friend doing a Bible study together. Get started! We can show you how.</p> <p>Amazonia Summer Camp Summer Camp is June 8-12. If you can help us with camp this year, please fill out the volunteer form and leave at the Welcome Desk.</p> <p>Velocity Summer Camp Rafting Trip is June 22-26 for rising 6th – 12th graders. Contact Tyler to sign up!</p>
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