

Happiness in Marriage

discovering the blessing God intended

A Seminar By
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SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

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Happiness in Marriage: *discovering the blessing God intended*

SESSION 1 -- Understanding Your Mate:

GENERAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

| MEN | WOMEN |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. LIFE PURPOSE: Gen 2:15 | A. LIFE PURPOSE: Gen 2:18 |
| B. RELATIONSHIPS: 1 Cor 11:8 | B. RELATIONSHIPS: Gen 3:16 |
| C. ROMANCE: Song of Solomon | C. ROMANCE: Song of Solomon |
| D. EMOTIONS: | D. EMOTIONS: 1 Tim 2:14; 1 Pet 3:7 |
| E. CONVERSATION: | E. CONVERSATION: 1 Tim 5:13 |
| F. PHYSICAL AFFECTION: | F. PHYSICAL AFFECTION: |

ASSIGNMENT: Understand Your Mate

In the following spaces note the innate differences you see between you and your spouse.

A. How is your spouse different from you in the area of PERSONAL VALUE::

B. How is your spouse different from you in the area of RELATIONSHIPS:

C. How is your spouse different from you in the area of ROMANCE:

D. How is your spouse different from you in the area of EMOTIONS:

E. How is your spouse different from you in the area of CONVERSATION:

F. How is your spouse different from you in the area of SEX:

SESSION 2 -- The Successful Marriage

I. WHY DO WE STRUGGLE IN OUR MARRIAGES?

We enter marriage with _____ our _____ for marriage is wrong

We have _____ of love and marriage

II. WHAT IS A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE?

One which accomplishes _____

III. WHAT ARE GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MARRIAGE?

A. Gen 2:18; Eccl. 4:9-12 -- to enhance the effectiveness of a man's calling by means of a formalized partnership

B. Gen 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:9; Hebrews 13:4 -- to provide a permanent, stable, protected relationship for emotional intimacy, procreation, and the pure expression of sexual desire

C. To accomplish those ends, God . . .

1. Gen 2:24.: supernaturally bonds 2 people into 1

2. Gen 2:23; Song of Sol: makes marriage emotionally fulfilling

IV. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL MODEL FOR LOVE & MARRIAGE?

Rev 19:7; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:22-32 God's _____ with the Church

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

2 Corinthians 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

V. WHAT IS TRUE LOVE, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLICAL MODEL?

True love is something you or

Agape: It is an to act

A. Love is based on a of the will

Mat 22:37-39 are not required by commandment

Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

B. 1 John 3:17; Jam 2:14; Lk 10:26-28; Mt 25:32-46 Love is without

1 John 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

C. Mat 22:39; Eph 5:29 Love is proven by

Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Eph 5:29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church

Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17 Love in marriage is formally obligated by the

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT: God's means of legalizing romantic relationships

Malachi 2:14 ". . . It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant." (also Proverbs 2:17)

COVENANT: (Hebrew) beriyth, ber-eeth'; in the sense of cutting; a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh; ie: sealed with blood): contract, confederacy, treaty

What is the Marriage Covenant? As defined by historical Hebrew records:

- ◆ It is a formalized official relationship.
- ◆ It is entered into on a contractual basis with repercussions for violations, *ie: death for adultery (Lev 20:10)*
- ◆ It is entered into by taking vows and oaths of commitment, spoken before witnesses, among whom the foremost is God Himself.
- ◆ It is consummated (made official) by a solemn oath of faithfulness which then allows the exercise of rights and privileges, *ie: cohabitation & sex in marriage -- (1 Cor 7:4), etc.*
Numbers 30:2 When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

Deuteronomy 23:21 If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin. 23 Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth.

- ◆ It is an indissoluble bond between two parties which protects the intimate rights and privileges of their new relationship; it is no more dissoluble than a blood relationship.
- ◆ It is a protective, formal relationship which emphasizes duty and obligation before privileges.

D. Mat 5:44-45; Rom 5:10 True love is

-- not based on

Mat 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SIGNIFY?

- "I'm not in love with you anymore."
- "I've got to get out of this relationship -- I've lost that lovin' feelin'."
- "I'm the only one around here loving anymore . . . and that ticks me off!"
- "Yes, I love you, but you're wearing my love thin."
- "I know I love you . . . I like who I am when I am with you."
- " . . . you meet my needs like no one else."
- " . . . I need you so much."
- " . . . you're a dream come true."
- " . . . I miss you when you are away."
- " . . . I like to be seen with you."
- " . . . I am so jealous of others."
- " . . . I can't keep my hands off of you."

☞ **They are statements rooted in conditional, love**

☞ **The biggest obstacle to TRUE LOVE is**

E. 1 Cor 13:5 Love is and

1. John 15:13 No or >

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

2. Eph 4:2 Love is rooted in

Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

3. Mat 20:28; John 13:14-15; Gal 5:13b Love

Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Gal 5:13 . . . serve one another in love.

4. 1 Cor 13:7 Love all

1 Corinthians 13:7 beareth all things...

5. Eph 5:25 Love is not just

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

6. 1 Cor 13:4 Love

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love suffers long...

VI. WHAT IS GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE?

A. Romans 8:29; Gal 4:19 To _____ us into the _____ of Christ

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...

Gal 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

B. God uses the _____ of marriage to

This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" Zech 13:9

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:3-5

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

VII. SUMMARY

A. We enter marriage with the wrong _____ Our purpose is

Our purposes may

We may _____ get our _____ met the way we want

We may never -- be _____ the way we want

B. **THE KEY** God's purpose for us is to learn to _____ not to be

C. God's greatest interest for us is not _____ fulfillment. It is the _____ in us.

D. Success is determined . . .

NOT on Am I being _____ but on "Am I _____ and _____ as _____ ?!"

SESSION 3 -- Resolving Anger and Unforgiveness

Ephesians 4:26-32 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, {27} and do not give the devil a foothold...{29} Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. {30} And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. {31} Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. {32} Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

I. WHY DON'T WE WANT ANGER IN OUR HOMES?

A. Eph 4:31; Col 3:8; Jam 1:19

B. Prov 15:18; 29:22; 30:33; Jam 4:1

II. WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS ANGER?

A. Mk 3:5; 10:14; Mt 21:12 Selfless -- other oriented

Mark 3:5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

Mark 10:14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Matthew 21:12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

B. Prov 29:8,11; 14:17 Self Controlled

Proverbs 29:8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger... 11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Proverbs 14:17 A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.

III. HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE HAVE AN ANGER PROBLEM?

Five Elements and Expressions of Anger (from Eph 4:31):

BITTERNESS: *Pikria*; polluted, contaminated, sour, smelly

When anger is left unresolved, it turns to bitterness, *completely* infecting our spirit and outlook on life. It ultimately hardens our heart.

RAGE: *Thumos*; wrathful outbursts, impassioned agitated *feelings*, anger in its first-stage

If left unchecked, our initial feeling of inner indignation, will produce an abiding and active anger.

ANGER: *Orge*; fierce passion

While *rage* is more indicative of an *inward* impassioned *response*, *anger* suggests an abiding condition of the mind, often with a view to vengeance.

BRAWLING: *Krauge*; noisy, like a raven's cry

Those ruled by their rage can be tempted to clamorous arguments and fights.

SLANDER: *Blasphemia*; to blaspheme, revile, rail

The natural fruit of bitterness is to verbally attack the object of our anger, either confrontationally or by gossip and slander.

IV. WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

V. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO REMAIN UNFORGIVING?

Pikria; polluted, contaminated, sour, smelly

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15

Manifestations of unforgiveness:

- Constant irritability, always snaps, easily angered
- Nit-picking, critical, faultfinding
- Rudeness, constant sarcastic cuts and digs
- Over-willingness to tell others of the offense, rallying them to our side
- Dwelling on the offense, reliving the cause of "injury" -- rehearsing it in our mind over and over
- Impatience, intolerance
- Vengeful, wants to hurt back
- Competitive, wants to see them lose
- Rejoicing when the other is humbled
- Intentionally hurtful -- in words and actions
- Degrading and embarrassing them in front of others
- Harping on past failures
- Over-willingness to give "low blows," using past confessions of weakness as ammo against them
- Hateful, demeaning, scornful thoughts
- Silence, communication breakdown, cold-war, cutting off, closing down
- We want them out of our lives

VI. WHAT IS THE MOST SELF-DECEIVING SYMPTOM OF BITTERNESS?

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 1 Cor 4:5

1. Only **God** has the authority to
2. Only God has the ability to accurately

SIGNS OF HEART JUDGMENT:

- Extreme mistrust; total refusal to believe good of them
- Hypercritical of all much of what they do
- As mistrust grows, their motives are frequently assumed to be evil; if something can be taken two ways, the worst is automatically assumed
- Perceive the offender as being *completely* and *thoroughly* evil
- In misunderstandings you respond with *immediate* frustration and judgment of their motives before the facts are fully sought or verified
- Self-deception

VII. WHY IS FORGIVENESS SO DIFFICULT AND HOW CAN WE OVERCOME IT?

A. We allow _____ to control us

SOLUTION:

1. 1 Pet 3:6; 2 Tim 1:7 Don't permit _____ to _____ you.

1 Peter 3:6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2. 1 John 4:18 Pursue _____ for them

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

3. Rom 8:31; Heb 12:1-3

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. {2} Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. {3} Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

B. We _____ our resentment and call our bitterness

SOLUTION: Prov 28:13; Jam 5:16

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

C. We _____ for our responses to them, making ourselves

SOLUTION: We must own our

1. 1 Cor 4:13; 1 Pet 3:15 We are responsible for

1 Corinthians 4:13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

2. Mat 5:44 Luke 6:27-28, 35; Rom 12:17-21 We are expected to

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Luke 6:27-28 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, {28} bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.... 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Romans 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. {18} If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. {19} Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. {20} On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." {21} Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

3. They are responsible for their _____, but not our

D. Unforgiveness makes us feel

SOLUTION: Mat 16:24; Col 3:5; Jam 4:7 _____ yourself -- release control to

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

E. We are filled with _____ and

SOLUTION: Jam 4:6 Own your _____ -- remember pride's

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1. 1 Tim 1:15-16 See yourself as GOD does

1 Timothy 1:15-16 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. {16} But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

2. Eph 4:32; Col 3:13 _____ as God has _____ you

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

a. Rom 5:10; Gen 6:5; Job 25:4-6 Remember the great _____ God _____ you

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Job 25:4-6 How then can a man be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? {5} If even the moon is not bright and the stars are not pure in his eyes, {6} how much less man, who is but a maggot-- a son of man, who is only a worm!"

b. John 13:34; Luke 7:47; 19:8 Allow that fresh dose of _____ to _____ over

*John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."
Luke 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

3. Rom 12:18; Mat 5:23-24; Prov 6:3 Go to them and

(Do not _____ or _____ them)

*Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.
Prov 6:3 then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor!*

F. The pain goes

SOLUTION: Stop trying to find your _____ in your mate

a. Prov 29:25; Mat 10:28; Rom 8:31 Find _____ in God's

☞ Look for your value in _____ not in your

*Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.
Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

b. 1 Cor 13:5; Eph 5:25 Be a _____ not a

1 Corinthians 13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

G. We ignore God's

SOLUTION:

Job 1:21-22; Rom 8:28 Trust in God's _____ offenders are

*Job 1:21-22 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." {22} In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.
Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

SESSIONS 4 & 5 – The Organization of the Family & The Husband's Role in Marriage Eph 5:20-33

I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT FAMILY ORDER?

A. Like with all of creation, God designed the family to have _____ and
1 Cor 14:33 For God is not a God of disorder ...

- Chaos occurs in any organization lacking clearly defined roles

B. God designed the organization of the family with specific roles for its members

1. He designated men as the _____ of their homes.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

1 Cor 11:3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:8-9; Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; 1 Tim 5:8; Exo 6:14; 6:25; Num 1:4; 7:2; 31:26; 32:28; 36:1; Josh 21:1; 22:14; 1 Ki 8:1; 1 Chr 5:15, 24; 7:2, 7, 9, 11, 40; 8:6, 10, 13, 28; 9:9, 13, 33, 34; 15:12; 23:9, 24; 24:4, 6, 31; 26:21, 26, 32; ;27:1; 2 Chr 1:2; 5:2; 19:8; 23:2; Ezra 1:5; 2:68; 3:12; 4:2, 3; 8:1, 29; 10:16; Neh 7:70, 71; 8:13; 11:13; 12:12, 22, 23

2. Wives were created as _____ to their husbands

Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helpmate suitable for him."

1 Cor 11:8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

Gen 2:15, 18; Eph 5:22, 23-24, 33; Col 3:18; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1-6; 1 Cor 11:3-9; 14:34-35; 1 Tim 2:9-15; Prov 31:10-31

II. DOES A MAN'S HEADSHIP IMPLY A WOMAN'S INFERIORITY?

A. _____ – In Christ we are all

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

B. A _____ position does _____ inferiority in nature or capabilities

*John 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I.***

*John 13:16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, **nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.***

*Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and **submit to their authority.** They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT A MAN IS THE HEAD OF HIS WIFE?

Ephesians 5:22-33

A. vs 23 He must assume _____ the home and family

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

➤ The existence of a "head" indicates a need for _____, _____, and _____

1. _____ and set _____ for your family

2. _____ you wife and children

3. Leadership means _____

B. vs 25 He must be willing to _____ himself for her

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

➤ The call to sacrifice indicates the extent of _____ required to accomplish love, ie: until you are all used up, spent

1. Loving her takes _____

2. Loving her may not be _____

3. Sacrificing for her communicates _____

➤ Inconveniencing yourself says to her _____

C. vs 26-27 He is to _____

Eph 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

➤ The call for spiritual nurturing reveals a wife's _____

1. Make certain she is in the _____

2. Take her to Lord in _____

3. Make sure she is in _____

D. vs 28-29 He must _____, and _____ his wife
Eph 5:28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church

➤ The call to nurture reveals her

1. Do not _____ her when she needs
2. She entrusted her _____ to you – be careful with it
3. Do not _____ her for her _____ – _____ her from them.

E. vs 29,33 A wise husband _____ his wife
Eph 5:29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church ... 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband

➤ The call to cherish her indicates her inner wish to be

1. _____ value to you and the kids
2. Be careful of sending her the message that she is
3. Do not _____ yourself when she accuses you of not _____ her. Express _____ &
4. _____ to her when she speaks to you. Try to _____ her.
5. Touch her without
6. _____ at her.
7. Affirm her about her
8. Ask her about her _____ and
9. Learn to speak her
10. _____ her.

F. vs 31 He must be a _____ in the relationship
Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

➤ The call to *cleave* reveals her need for

1. He must treat her tenderly -- as the
Col 3:19 - not be harsh with his wife
1 Pet 3:7 - be considerate and respectful of his wife as the weaker partner
2. Never threaten

HUSBANDS' ASSIGNMENT: A Vision For Leadership

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR YOUR FAMILY? *list 4 below:*
(Typical areas: spiritual, ministry, time mgmt, economic, etc.)

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OR WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS?

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

SESSION 6 -- The Wife's Role in Marriage: Eph 5:20-33

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 33 . . . the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:22-24, 33b

I. WHAT ARE THE 2 MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WIFE TOWARD HER HUSBAND?

A. vs. 22

B. vs. 33

II. WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES?

A. Gen 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

B. Gen 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

C. 1 Cor 11:7-9

A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

III. WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF SUBMISSION?

hupotasso, hoop-ot-as'-so; from hupo and tasso; to subordinate oneself in obedience; literally -- to come under for the sake of order.

A.

B. What does God offer as His model for submission?

1.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.. Ephesians 5:22-24

2.

1 Pet 3:1 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

C. Does submission mean . . .

1. Inferiority?

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

John 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2. Loss of identity?

3. Groveling silence and slavery?

4. Obedience to sin?

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

IV. WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF RESPECT?

A.

phobeo, fob-eh'-o; from phobos; to be afraid of; as towards one who has power to exercise authority

B. Must respect be earned?

V. WHAT EFFECT MAY A WOMAN'S ATTITUDE HAVE ON HER HUSBAND?

Prov 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

A. Negative

Positive

B. Negative

Positive

C. Negative

Positive

D. Negative

Positive

VI. WHAT WILL HINDER A WOMAN FROM RESPECTING AND SUBMITTING TO HER HUSBAND?

A. Rom 12:2

B.

C. 1 Pet 3:6

D. Eph 5:22

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VII. WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL OUTWORKINGS OF SUBMISSION AND RESPECT?

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