

Until Death Do Us Part?

THE VERSES BEHIND THE VOWS:

A great marriage will be full of **trouble**.
1 Corinthians 7:28

You can't fall in **love**; you can fall in **emotion**.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

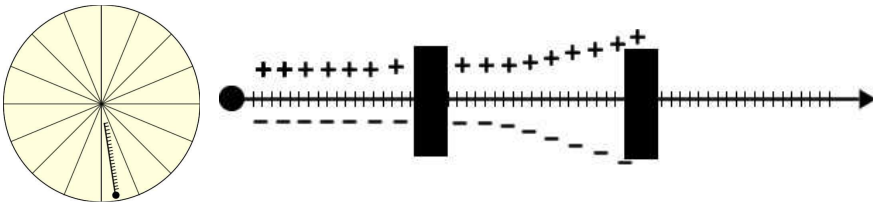
Love is a **choice**.

Submission is not: **one-sided**
inferiority
blind obedience
Ephesians 5:1-33

Submission is putting the **needs and interests** of someone else above your own.

A **50/50** marriage is a **doomed** marriage.

GETTING PRACTICAL:



It is all about the **little things**.

Mutual submission means clearly stating your **expectations**.

JOY → **DISILLUSIONMENT** → **MISERY** →
UNDERSTANDING → **MATURE LOVE**

Expectations **unsaid** will always go **unmet**.
1 Corinthians 7:1-5

TAKING IT HOME

1. When you see your own marriage or other relationship in one of the “stages” that Chris talked about, do any prayer requests come to mind? Is there anything that needs to be done or anything that you need to continue to do for your relationship to move toward a more mature love?

2. Is there anything you would like to change to be more obedient to God in the area of submission?

3. Are there any other expectations that you would like to discuss with your spouse or friend?

PRAYER REQUESTS

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Until Death Do Us Part?

THE VERSES BEHIND THE VOWS:

A great marriage will be full of _____.
1 Corinthians 7:28

You can't fall in _____; you can fall in _____.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is a _____.

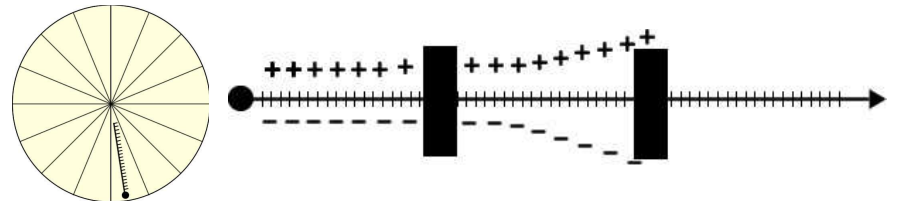
Submission is not: _____

Ephesians 5:1-33

Submission is putting the _____
of someone else above your own.

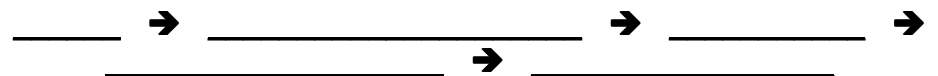
A _____ marriage is a _____ marriage.

GETTING PRACTICAL:



It is all about the _____.

Mutual submission means clearly stating your _____.



Expectations _____ will always go _____.
1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 25, 2010

Special Note About This Week's Topic of Marriage: Once again, this week's homework and Growth Group discussion are designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our marital status.

QUICK REVIEW – Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point, story or Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. This week Pastor Chris made it clear that love is a choice and not an emotion. Can you come up with some things that you have done to choose to love someone, even though you didn't feel like it? Have you ever been on the receiving end of that kind of unconditional love?

2. Many of us have been through the "cycle of marriage" or have been through a similar cycle in other relationships. Take a minute and really think through what it is like for two people to be in each stage of the cycle listed below. How would you describe what each stage looks and/or feels like?

Joy - Disillusionment - Misery - Understanding - Mature Love

Can you think of any ways you or others have traveled through these stages effectively or ineffectively?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Everyone walks into marriage and other relationships with a number of expectations. Identifying these expectations is a good exercise for all of us. Pick 3 or 4 categories below and write down one or two expectations you have for it in your relationship. Now take a moment and write down what you think your spouse or friend would write as their expectations in the same categories. If you can find the time, share and compare your responses with your spouse or friend before your group meets.

Communication
Other Friends
Household Chores

Time Together
Spiritual Growth
Conflict

Social Life
Money
Parenting

Work
Health
Family

The tricky part about sharing these expectations is not what we are sharing, but how we are sharing it. How can 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Philippians 2:1-5 help guide your conversation so it works out the best for both of you?

2. Submission is one of those things that can be hard to talk about and even harder to practice, yet Jesus tells us to submit to one another. Fortunately, the Bible gives us some instruction on what it looks like to put someone else's needs above our own. Read Ephesians 5:25-33 and Philippians 2:5-11 and take some notes on how we can "imitate" God's love and Christ's attitude.

Christ's love for the church is not just a great example of submission, it also shows how it was meant to be a model of how men should love their wives. What are some things that keep people today from truly loving others in this extreme way?

3. We got a clear message this week that love is a choice and that it cannot be built upon emotion. At the same time, God gave us the capacity to experience a wide range of feelings. Read the following passages and note in your own words what feelings can be a result of a loving marriage.

Proverbs 5:15-19

Song of Songs 4:9-10

Can you think of any dangers associated with making these kinds of feelings the ultimate goal of a marriage?