

Marriage: Marvelous or Miserable?

BLESSING OR CURSE?

Proverbs 12:4 Proverbs 18:22 & 31:10-11 or Proverbs 21:9 & 21:19

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Ephesians 5:21-33 Romans 13:1-4 & 1 Peter 2:13 Hebrews 13:17
Acts 4:18-20 & Exodus 1:15-21 Acts 17:11

MARRIAGE MYTHS: Two Goofy Ideas That Are Taught In Our Churches, But Not Found In The Bible

- (1) God has a **PERFECT MATE** picked out for us.
It's our job to **FIND THAT PERSON**.
- (2) Husbands **LEAD**.
Wives **ADAPT** and **FOLLOW**.

TWO KEYS TO A GREAT MARRIAGE

- (1) Wives: **RESPECT** your husband
even when he **DOESN'T DESERVE IT**.
Ephesians 5:33 1 Peter 3:1-6
- (2) Husbands: **LOVE** your wife.
Your role is to **SERVE HER**, not to be **SERVED BY HER**.
Ephesians 5:33 Matthew 20:25-28 John 13:3-5 1 Peter 3:7

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 24, 2015

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. The topic of love and respect often comes up when talking about meeting the biggest needs of men and women. What actions, things, words, etc. make you feel the most loved or respected?

2. Larry talked about what husbands and wives can do to make a great marriage. How did this agree with or differ from what you learned or observed while growing up?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Larry mentioned sacrificial love puts the needs and interests of others first. Often times we're unwilling to put others first, especially those closest to us, when we feel they are undeserving or aren't living up to their end of the bargain. How do the following verses shed light on why God was so adamant about us sacrificially loving others?

1 Peter 3:1-2

¹ Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own 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. [NIV]

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Paul's Use of His Freedom

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. [NIV]

Colossians 3:18-24

Instructions for Christian Households

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. [NIV]

Why do you think people struggle demonstrating the sort of sacrificial love seen in the verses above?

2. Often times our submission to others comes easier when we've submitted to Jesus. One of the biggest roadblocks to this is our reluctance to give up our "freedom" to do what we want to do, when we want to do it. How does John 8:31-36 depict freedom that runs counter to this sort of thinking?

John 8:31-36

Dispute Over Whose Children Jesus' Opponents Are

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. [NIV]

What "freedoms" do you think people are the most reluctant to give up?

How could people be negatively affected by these "freedoms" without even knowing it?

3. As we heard this weekend, there are many misconceptions about what submission means for husbands and wives, and for Christians in general. How would you explain biblical submission to someone based on the following examples of Jesus?

John 13:12-17

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 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. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. [NIV]

Matthew 3:13-15

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. [NIV]

Matthew 26:47-54

Jesus Arrested

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” [NIV]

How might our relationships look different if we were to model the submission shown in Philippians 2:3-4?

Philippians 2:3-4

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this weekend's teaching, "Marriage: Marvelous or Miserable?" is there anything you want to put into practice in the upcoming week?

The following questions can be discussed by same gender groups during break out time.

Singles

Who's the most difficult person in your life to submit to?

How would the people closest to you rate your willingness to be submissive to others?

Are there any people in your life you need to work on being more submissive to in the next few weeks?

Marrieds

Husbands

How/when does my wife feel the most loved?

What am I doing to make her feel loved?

Wives

How/when does my husband feel the most respected?

What am I doing to make him feel respected?

Husbands and Wives

What could I do in the next week to make sure I'm meeting my spouses need for love or respect?



Looking for a great way to get your Growth Group together over summer break? Sign up to serve a meal at Bread of Life in Oceanside. This is a great opportunity to get together and meet a real need in our community. For more information, call Mary B. at (760) 330-9234 or sign up on our Community Service Website at northcoastcommunityservice.org/bread