

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of May 27: Love and Respect

What famous couples give you positive, negative, or humorous impressions?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *People may remember Lucy and Ricky, Archie and Edith, etc. The point is to talk about their style of relating to one another.*

STUDY THE WORD (THE BIBLE)

Read Ephesians 5:22-33.

How does the writer, Paul, summarize roles in verse 33?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *In talking about roles in marriage, Paul used two key words: love and respect.*

What is the role of the wife? What other words could be used? What is the source and motivation of her calling? (22-24)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Paul used the word "subject" (Greek hupatasso) which means "to arrange or order under." The essence of the meaning is to willingly submit oneself to the line of authority that God has established. This is used of the church to Christ, believers in the church to leaders, children to parents, and here, wives to the leadership of husbands. It says nothing about ranking of value (cf. Jesus submitting to the Father). The source of her calling is God and His master plan for marriage. The motivation is "as to the Lord." It is the Lord that she is serving and pleasing.*

What is the role of the husband? What other words could be used? What is the source and motivation of his calling? (25-30)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Husbands role is to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Jesus' love is characterized by compassion, sacrifice, and doing what is best for the other. The Source of His calling is God's design. That is, his role represents God and His design for the marriage. Motivation is to represent Christ, see his wife blessed(26-27), and glorify God.*

To what is God's design for marriage compared? (31-32) Why is this so significant?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Marriage in Genesis and now is compared to the relationship that the church has with Jesus Christ. This could imply the following:*

- *Oneness in marriage is a picture of oneness with Christ*
- *Marriage is to be a picture to the world*
- *Our marriages are a witness to the world*

How is this passage really about Christ? What stands out?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *It would be meaningful to read the passage out loud and emphasis the role and plan of Christ.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What do you feel or think as you study these biblical roles?

What can unmarried people learn from this?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *There are several things that we should all learn: God has a master plan that impacts all levels of the church, that God wants us to experience this level of oneness with each other and with God, that marriage has significant place in the witness of the church, and that we all need to value marriage.*

As a husband, what helps you feel respected? As a wife, what helps you feel loved?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Again, this could be insightful to all.*

Have you discovered which love language makes your spouse feel loved? (Acts of service, thoughtful gifts, time together, words of affirmation, physical affection)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *If you need more explanations concerning the love languages, go to this link:*
<https://goo.gl/6iwZLm>

What works to help your relationship be spiritually 'rooted in Christ?' (actions, attitudes, habits)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *There are many possibilities and varieties. Some may include praying together, keeping Sunday services as a high priority, studying the Bible together, being in a group together, serving together, reading books or attending seminars on marriage, etc.*

Grace to you,
Steve