

RENOVATE: SERVING EACH OTHER IN MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:21 – 33
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MESSAGE NOTES

As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. — Ephesians 4:1 – 2

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. — Ephesians 5:20

No one is superior.

How do we serve one another?

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. — Ephesians 5:22 – 24

Wives, how can you serve your husband?

5 WAYS TO GET STARTED (Adapted from *Love and Respect*)

- When he gives advice, thank him for it. Don't respond as if he doesn't care about your feelings.
- Give your reasons for a disagreement reasonably. Never attack his leadership.
- Thank him for his commitment to provide for and protect you and the family.
- Listen to his stories as closely as you expect him to listen to yours.
- Enable him to open up and talk with you as you do things together.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, people have never hated their own bodies, but they feed and care for them, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of His body. — Ephesians 5:25 – 30

Husbands, how can you serve your wife?

5 WAYS TO GET STARTED

- Don't try and "fix her" unless she specifically asks for a solution. Identify her feelings.
- Never hold on to bitterness and consistently reassure her of your love.
- Make her and your marriage a priority. Keep your commitments.
- Speak highly of her in front of others.
- Pray for her and with her.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. — Ephesians 5:31 – 33

The mystery of "oneness"

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. — Deuteronomy 6:4 – 5

In self-oriented marriages, arguments are between women who won't submit to their husbands and men who won't love their wives. In God-oriented marriages, arguments happen, but they have an altogether different character, because they are between men willing to go the second mile in loving and women willing to go the second mile in submitting. In such marriages, Jesus is the third partner, like a magnet over iron filings He orients things in the right direction. — David H. Stern

So what do we do with this?

Surrender yourself to God.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. — 1 Peter 5:6

Surrender yourself to your spouse.

Surrender your marriage to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read the bible verses together.

- What is the one thing that impacted you most when reading over the verses?
- What is one thing that stood out to you from the teaching this weekend?
- What are some misconceptions about what submission means in this context?
- Discuss what it means to be the "head" of the wife?
- How can a husband love his wife like Jesus loved the church?
- What does it mean that he who loves his wife loves himself?
- What does becoming "one flesh" mean for married couples?
- What are a few different ways you can serve your spouse?
- What can you do this week to let your spouse know that you love and serve them?