

Group/Individual Study

Series - Love Does: Submit in Marriage

Passages: Ephesians 5:21, 25-26, 33; Phil 2:3-4

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 6/3

1. Read Ephesians 5:21. This verse lays out the mutual submission that Paul bases his teaching about marriage on. "Submitting" has the idea of putting your needs under the needs of another. How can this type of attitude on the part of husband and wife bless a marriage? Why is it hard to live out? How does your faith help?
2. Read Phil 2:3-4. These verses are directed at all human beings but carry the same general message as Eph 5:21's call to mutual submission in marriage. Is it harder to live out this calling to mutual submission with our spouse or in other relationships in our lives? Explain.
3. Unfortunately, we all marry sinners as do our spouses ;). This means that God will often call us to love our spouses sacrificially at times when they don't "deserve" it. How does seeing this kind of love as an obedience to God - and not just something our spouses have to "earn" - impact you?
4. Read Ephesians 5:25-26. What is it about the feminine soul that flourishes when she is loved sacrificially - with her husband actually loving her like Jesus loves the church and lays down his life for her? In what ways does a man come alive when he steps up to the plate to love his wife in this way?
5. Read Ephesians 5:33. What is it about the masculine soul that is nourished when he feels respected? What insecurities make him doubt that he's worthy of respect? How can a woman nourish this part of her husband's soul? How might this be different from the cultural idea that "respect must be earned"?
6. The greek behind the word "head" in these verses that say "The husband is the 'head' of the wife..." might be best translated "headwaters". How might it help husbands to think, "What type of water am I sending downstream to my wife?... Will it nourish her soul and inner being?...Will she flower to God's highest and best with what I'm sending her way?" Guys, when have you mostly just sent sand and gravel downstream, instead of soul-nourishing, life-giving water?