

Marriage Matters Notes

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Ephesians 5:21-33

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Main Point: If you want your marriage to matter, live out your role and responsibilities.

Preliminary Points

1. As Christians, whether we are married, divorced, widowed or single, we must reclaim marriage as a _____ from God (Hebrews 13:4).
2. A good marriage is more than being with the right person; it's _____ the right person.
3. Marriage is not 50/50 where you go halfway and then wait for your spouse to catch up. We're called to give _____% (1 Corinthians 13:7).
4. If you are in an abusive and dangerous relationship, please find a safe place and get some help.

Submit to One Another

1. It is unacceptable for anyone to exalt themselves as _____ than anyone else (Ephesians 5:21).
2. We are called to humbly submit to our spouses by focusing on their interests, concerns, and _____ (Philippians 2:3).
3. This requires a _____ attitude where we lay our rights and ambition aside.
4. Good gardens, like good marriages, don't happen by accident. They take _____.
5. The problem is there are two sinners who are striving to become _____.
6. Our culture teaches people to marry for happiness while the Bible says marriage reflects the glory of God and is a reenactment of the _____.
7. The husband has the privilege of portraying the headship of Christ over the church by his loving and _____ leadership.
8. The wife's privilege is to symbolically represent the _____ in its submission to the Lord Jesus Christ, its Head.
9. These divinely appointed marital roles serve as symbols of the mysterious and beautiful relationship between Christ and His church.

Role of the Wife

1. Wives are to submit to their husbands, as to the _____ (Ephesians 5:22-24).
2. The word "submission" is explosive in our culture today because many equate it with oppression, subjugation, or _____.
3. Husbands and wives are equal in value, but not identical in roles and responsibilities. We are designed to function in _____ ways.
4. The wife is to be subject to her husband not because he is such a wonderful creature, but because she has a previous and primary _____ with her Lord.
5. Submission to your husband is to be a reflection and outworking of your submission to _____.
6. A wife is to submit because of the Lordship of Christ and the headship of her husband (1 Corinthians 11:3).

7. To submit comes from an old military word meaning to _____ line up under for the sake of order.
8. The primary idea is to give up one's own _____.
9. "To rank yourself _____ someone else in order to lift them up and build them up."
10. It's an attitude of cooperation.
11. It does not imply inferiority but a willingness to line up under the husband's leadership.
12. The key to developing a spirit of submission is to first be surrendered and _____ to the Lord (Colossians 3:18).
13. Submission will always be a struggle because the tension goes back to Genesis 3:16.

The Husband's Role

1. Paul instructs a man to love his wife as Christ loves the _____.
2. Only as you love your wife, can you provide _____ leadership for her.
3. He repeats the command for husbands to love their wives _____ times in this passage.
4. "Love that acts for the best good and promotes the well-being of the other person, demanding nothing in return."
5. This kind of love gives freely, sacrificially and unconditionally...regardless whether it's _____.
6. Five ways a husband is to love his wife
 - With _____ love (Ephesians 5:25).
 - It's not about rights and power, but about relationship and sacrifice.
 - Husbands are not to be _____ (Colossians 3:19).
 - Husbands are not to be _____ (1 Peter 3:7).
 - With _____ love (Ephesians 5:26-27)
 - The word "sanctify" means "to set apart and be _____."
 - The word "cleansed" is the idea of "freeing from _____."
 - Husbands are to help their wives pursue _____.
 - A husband's love is designed to bless and benefit his wife.
 - With _____ love (Ephesians 5:28-31).
 - We are called not only to provide a positive spiritual environment but also to care for our wives physically and _____ as well.
 - The word "nourishes" focuses on internal provision and means, "to bring to _____."
 - The word "cherishes" means "to soften with heat and has the idea of external protection through _____ care, concern, and comfort."
 - As husbands, our responsibility is to love our wives by holding things _____ in the home and providing an environment for growth and fruitfulness.
 - With _____ love (Ephesians 5:31, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5)
 - Whatever each does to the other, he does to himself or herself.
 - We're called to _____ our parents, cleave to our wife, and allow the Lord to weave us into one.
 - With _____ love (Ephesians 5:32)
 - The word "mystery" refers to a symbolic _____.
 - The word "profound" means "_____ in size and stature."

Love and Respect (Ephesians 5:33)

1. The word "let" indicates this is a _____.

2. The phrase "each one of you" shows it applies to _____ who is married.
3. If you're a husband, you must _____ your wife.
4. If you're a wife, you must _____ your husband.
5. The real issue is often the wife is not being loved and the husband is not being respected.
6. The way to stop the crazy cycle is for one spouse to make the _____ move and begin living out his or her responsibility.
7. I must focus on what I must do, _____ of how my spouse is fulfilling his or her role.

Action Steps

1. Women, attend the Women's luncheon on May 4, get involved in a women's Bible study, a book study, or in intentional discipleship.
2. Men, plug into one of our four weekly Bible studies.
3. Instead of fighting against each other, start fighting for your _____.
4. Stop asking God to fix your spouse and ask Him to fix _____.
5. Choose to believe the _____ about your spouse.
6. Get some help if you need it.
7. Obey with actions even if you don't _____ like it.
8. Husbands, get in the habit of saying, "I _____ you" to your wife and show that you do every day, whether she shows respect to you or not.
9. Wives, get in the habit of saying, "I _____ you" to your husband and show that you do every day, whether he demonstrates love to you or not.
10. Practice saying "please _____ me" and "I forgive you" because you're going to need it.

The Ultimate Marriage Builder

1. Wives, as daughters of Eve, your natural desire will be to push back against your husband's _____.
2. Husbands, as sons of Adam, your natural desire will be to _____ or abdicate.
3. If you want a marriage that matters...
 - Be continually _____ with the Holy Spirit.
 - Suit up spiritually and _____ against unholy spiritual forces attacking your marriage.