



## Discussion Questions

1. Take a second and think about your parents or a couple you care about. What is their relationship like in regards to their roles? What are some things that they do as a married couple that made you ask - why do they do that?

2. Genesis makes it clear that from the beginning, men and women had different roles in their marriage relationship. Adam was formed first to be the leader; a responsibility he carried into his marriage with Eve. We see this reflected throughout the Bible that the role of men in marriage is that: **Men are called to love their wives as servant leaders**. What does being a servant leader look like, and why is it so important to have the word "servant" in that definition? How does this challenge a totalitarian view of men's leadership in marriage?

3. Likewise, Eve was formed after Adam to be a "helper fit for him." This also shaped Eve's role in her marriage. From Genesis and the rest of the Bible, we see that the role of women in marriage is that: **Women are called to follow their husbands as vital helpers**. What is important to understand is the role of a helper. God is called a "helper" (see Deuteronomy 33:26 above), Jesus calls himself and the Holy Spirit both helpers as well (John 14:16-17)! This means being a helper is a vital part of reflecting God's glory in marriage. When we see "helper" as part of who God is, how does that shape our view of a woman's role in marriage? How does this change traditionally how we see the role of women in marriage?

4. Biblical Submission: to have the heart inclination to put yourself under the order or wishes of others. What does it mean for every follower of Jesus to submit to Him? How does a husband submit to Christ in His marriage? How does a woman submit to Christ and her husband in her marriage? (See Ephesians 5:22-33).

4. The ultimate purpose of marriage is to reflect the incredible marriage of Jesus Christ to His Church. All those who have put their trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord are part of the "Bride of Christ." Paul's words in Ephesians show us that marriage is actually meant to paint the picture of how Jesus loves His church and how His church submits to Him. If marriage is meant to be a reflection of Jesus' love and power, then how does that change the purpose of our actions in marriage? How does this change how we see our responsibilities in marriage even if our spouse doesn't fulfill their role?

5. What does day to day leadership look like for men in their marriages? What is one practical way that men can lead their wives and homes spiritually?

6. What does day to day following look like for women in their marriages? What is one practical way that a woman can submit to her husband?

## Time of Prayer:

*Take some time to pray through the prompts below. If you are in a group, assign one to anyone willing, and take turns praying together.*

- Pray for the marriages around you (even if you are single!) that they would be a beautiful reflection of God's glory.
- Pray for those who are struggling in their marriages that Jesus would bring power and healing to them.
- Pray for those who have been hurt deeply in marriage, that God would heal their hearts with the love of Jesus for them.
- Pray that we would all find our ultimate satisfaction in the person of Jesus Christ.