



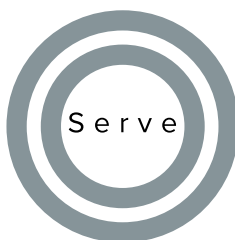
Marriage - Session 1 - Solid Foundation

What is wrong with this picture?



Opening Questions (World vs Christian)

- What is the purpose of marriage?
- What makes a good marriage?



Foundation for a biblical marriage:

• *One Christian man and one Christian woman*

- What are Christians called to do?
 - Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interest of others.
 - Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God
 - John 13:1-17 - Jesus washes the disciples' feet
 - John 13:34-35 I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.



Ephesians 5:22-33

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ since we are members of his body. ³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

Men are called to love their wives - What should this look like?

• JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH

Women are called to submit to their husbands - What should this look like?

- What Submission *Doesn't* Mean - JD Greear
 - **The dominance of the man.** A wife does not exist as a serf in her house to cater to her husband's whims. Just a few verses after Paul's command to wives, he tells the husband to lay down his life for his wife and love her "as Christ loved the church" (verse 25).
 - **Abusive relationships.** I wish this didn't need saying. When Paul says to submit to the husband "as to the Lord," that means "as a way of serving God"—not "in the place of God." This means that if your husband tells you to do something that would make you disobey the Lord or if his leadership ever puts you or your family in harm's way, you need to get out of there, and you need to get some counseling to help you heal.
 - **Submission in all areas.** Paul's command doesn't mean that all women everywhere should submit to all men, as if women can't lead (for example) in the workplace. Paul is only talking about the marriage relationship.
 - **Using this verse as a tool to wield over your wives.** Notice that the verse is addressed specifically to women. Men, it's her verse, not yours! As D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, that means you shouldn't quote it at your wife. It's hers to obey, not yours to demand. If she's not doing it, all you can do is be the kind of leader it would be a joy to submit to. You play your role, and trust God with hers.
- What submission to your husband *does* mean is that you allow him the space to steer the family. I love how Kathy Keller, wife of Redeemer Presbyterian's Tim Keller, explains it: "Submission means that in matters of disagreement, I yield to Tim the deciding vote. I get a vote; he gets a vote; he gets the deciding vote."

Group Questions

- Who modeled a biblical marriage for you?
- What fictional characters modeled marriage with biblical characteristics?



Additional questions:

Men

- Ask your wife to tell you what makes her feel the most loved by you.
- What can you sacrifice to serve your wife?
- What is the most difficult thing about leading in your home?
- What would help you be the leader that you are called to be?

Women

- Ask your husband to tell you what makes him feel the most loved by you.
- What can you sacrifice to serve your husband?
- Why can it be difficult to submit to your husband?
- How can you see submission as a positive responsibility God has given to you?

