

Strengthening your Marriage Week 11

September 13, 2009

Icebreaker-Favorite animal/three adjectives

Prayer

Colossians 3:18-19 -Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Great questions from Max Lucado study guide on Colossians this week

Q Why is there such heated controversy regarding the biblical command that wives should “submit” (NKJV) or “yield to the authority of their husbands” (NCV)?

For wives:

Definition of submit-v. to yield oneself to the authority or the will of another

Synonym yield= to give up or cease resistance of another

*Submit suggests full surrendering after resistance or conflict to the will or control of another<a repentant sinner vowing to submit to the will of God>

* submission is NOT just obedience(ie. If he asks you to do something unbiblical)

Q Does this mean we should not express our view/concern to our spouse?

*This definition states we will have differing opinions and will have conflicts and we SHOULD discuss them, but if there IS resistance....don't pursue it SUBMIT! Ultimately man should/needs to have final say!

~Paper example-can just do what told but it is good to ask questions and communicate

The second part of the verse says **as is fitting in the Lord**. So....

We need to picture us as the church...submitting to Christ. We don't always like his answers or the cards we have been dealt....but bottom line he is in control and we need to not RESIST but SUBMIT. Yes we can and he WANTS us to discuss our concerns with Him, but ultimately HE has final say!

VERSES

1 Corinthians 11:3

1 Corinthians 11:8-12

Q How might most of this controversy subside if men humbly and consistently lived out verse 19?

Q Notice the first thing Paul tells the men to do

LOVE

Q What is the type of love that he continually refers to????

Agape=unconditional

Q What does it mean to not be harsh with your wife?(NCV be gentle with them)(NKJV do not be bitter toward them)

Doesn't give men a license to be overbearing and authoritative

Ephesians 5:21-33- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as 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. 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, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-for we are members of his body. "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.

NOTE: Verse 21 Both should submit to one another... but submission should not be a problem in homes where both partners have a strong relationship with Christ and where each is concerned more about the other.

Verses

Galatians 3:28-We are all one in Christ

Again, Paul focuses on husbands LOVING their spouse

Q How does he say a man should love his wife?(Life application bible great comments)

1 be willing to sacrifice everything for her

2 make her wellbeing of primary importance

3 should care for her as his own body(COOKIES AND DONUTS YEAH)

Personal example: God must've wanted me to reflect on this first hand this week. I had a woman's typical "emotional" day one day this week and I have to say my husband DID love me in this very way. He was willing to do all he could for my well being. He truly demonstrated Christ's LOVE for us....Jeremy loved me wanting nothing in return. He was not harsh with me and he looked at me as if I was "holy and blameless" even when I was in a bad mood and in the end it made me love him even more and will grow us closer together!

Verse to go along with example: 1 Corinthians 7:28-will face trials

1 Peter 3:7-A PROMISE/WARNING FOR MEN

Q So from a woman's perspective...Why is it that we require so much "LOVE"? What things do we like for our spouses to do to show us love?(listen up guys for ideas)

Q And from a man's perspective...What is it that you need from your wife to show submission?

Ex.taking interest in his interests, being thankful, appreciative/acknowledging hard work

*In a past bible study we were in, there once was a comment made and I think ALL the women in the group agreed that one of the biggest things the wives desired out of their husbands was to take leadership in the spiritual matters of the home. More than anything...we instinctively crave a man to take control and guide us. (ie. I think God is telling our family to do this, or Sunday nights we are going to have a couples bible study, let me pray for us tonight) What a picture this is of Christ and the Church.

And I think the men commented that they desired Respect/ Honor/ Support from their wives.

Another commentary note in Life Application Bible states-

The union of husband and wife merges two persons in such a way that little can affect on without also affecting the other. Oneness in marriage does not mean losing your personality in the personality of the other. Instead it means caring for your spouse as you care for yourself, learning to anticipate his or her needs, helping the other person become all he or she can be.

Again, for me...it all comes back to selfishness. When I wake up in the morning I need to ask God what I need to do for HIM/for my husband/for my family...

Q So what do you guys think? What stands out to you in these verses? How is God speaking to you right now?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS/VERSES

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 (from Jeremy) "MEN, you will want to read this to your wives"

Genesis 1:27, 2:18,20-24

Challenge:

Women=contact Jaime

Men=contact Jeremy

