

KMI 2017 Marriage Workshop

Loving Husband, Respectful Wife – Does One Come Before the Other in Marriage?

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Scripture references – (NASB, NIV'84 and ESV translations)

Matthew 19: 4-6 –

And He answered and said “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate.”

1 Corinthians 11:3 –

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-29 -

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church...

Colossians 4:2 –

Devote yourselves to prayer be watchful and thankful.

Psalm 119:9-11 –

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart, do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 –

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

1 Corinthians 10:13 –

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 John 1:7-8 –

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Romans 12:9 –

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Philippians 2:4-8 –

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Ephesians 6:10-12 –

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Some helpful resources:

www.minglingofsouls.com/resources/ (collection of 5-6 minute Q/A video clips – Matt Chandler, The Village Church)

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/denton-bible-church-love-song/id148822180?mt=2> (Song of Solomon series – Tommy Nelson, Denton Bible Church)

<http://marriagehelp.org/> (check out the resources link and find a re|engage church near you)

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/promos/focus-on-marriage-assessment> (Focus on the Family marriage assessment)

http://media.focusonthefamily.com/topicinfo/marriage_materials.pdf (extensive list of marriage materials and resource links)

<http://www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/by-series/a-beautiful-design> (“A Beautiful Design” 10-part series from the Village Church)

<http://cms-cloud.watermark.org/Conflict-Field-Guide-2016-PDF.pdf?mtime=20160223151716> - (guide for handling conflict biblically, marriage or otherwise)

Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. www.amazon.com/Disciplines-Godly-Paperback-Kent-Hughes/dp/1581347588

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Questions for discussion:

1. What is the most obvious way you think **your wife would say** she knows you love her? Or, if not married, what do you think will be the most obvious way you will demonstrate love for your wife? _____

2. What first comes to mind when you consider Ephesians 5:25? (*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*) _____

3. Can you think of an example where you and your wife had a **communication** break down? If you had a do-over, how might you approach that conversation differently today? [Whether married or not, when in conflict are you a WENI (Withdraw Escalate Negatively Interpret Invalidate)?]

4. What is a specific way you do/would sacrifice yourself for your wife? _____

5. What's one way in which you could help your wife feel more **secure** in your marriage?

6. Who do you think your wife would say is the holiest man she knows, and why him? [If not married, who is the holiest man you know and what about it?] _____

In loving my wife well, I like to consider the areas of **communication, security, and respect** with these **5 practical P's** :

1. **Prayer**
 - a. Start here
 - b. Ask the Lord for His direction in leading in your marriage
 - c. Trust in His provision – she is the wife He has given you
2. **Provision**
 - a. You must be in His Word, have it written on your heart, USE IT!
 - b. Hang around other men who lead and love their wives well
 - c. Ask other men in your life to hold you accountable, need a truth-teller
 - d. Take an inventory of your marriage with your wife
 - e. Pitch the porn, be a warrior in the fight against temptation (Rom 12:9, 1 Cor 10:13, 2 Cor 10:4-5), know what triggers your temptations
 - f. Draw a circle around yourself, and change everything inside that circle
“Men, you’ll never be a good groom to your wife unless you’re first a good bride to Jesus.” – Tim Keller
3. **Pursue**
 - a. You must initiate, lead, don’t wait on her, it’s YOUR responsibility in YOUR God-given role
 - b. date your wife, surprise her with a special night out, weekend get-away
 - c. hug her until she lets up
 - d. ask her questions and **give her freedom to answer**, and just listen
 - e. write her notes, tell her what you prayed for her today
 - f. brag on her to others in front of her
4. **Patience**
 - a. there are NO guaranteed shortcuts – it can just take time
 - b. expect some push-back – it’s ok, expect some attacks
 - c. humility (Php 2:8), be completely open with your struggles and ask her to help you (1 Jn 1:7-8), ask for forgiveness, give grace even if it’s not returned
 - d. be persistent, don’t give in to failure, keep at it
 - e. expect conflict – fight and fight well – you are on the same side against a common enemy (Eph 6:11)
5. **Prayer**
 - a. Begins and ends in prayer, you will not be truly successful w/o prayer
 - b. pray with your wife – LET HER HEAR WHAT’S IN YOUR HEART BEFORE THE LORD
 - c. Ask her what you can pray for her, tell her what she can pray for you
 - d. Hug when you pray (it’s amazing what this will do for your physical intimacy)

Big Ask – When you get back home, what is one way you will **SHOW YOUR WIFE YOU LOVE HER?** Write it down, and ask another key man in your life to hold you accountable to it...