

Rethinking Our Differences, Part 2

Series: Family Portraits

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Scripture: Eph. 5:25-28

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.

Group Session

Opening Questions

What have you seen on TV or movies about marriage this week? Did it strenor read

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the passage for today, Ephesians 5:25-28. Discuss what it means when it says that the husband who loves himself loves himself?
2. Psalm 127:1 says "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." Given the fact that so many Christian marriages end in divorce, how can this verse be true?
3. Marriage was created to bring glory to God, not to provide contentment or happiness. Do you agree? Would our culture agree? How can we change our view on this?
4. One of the chief needs that a man has is for respect. Is it true? Do you think our culture sees and understands this? What does Ephesians 5:33 say about that?
5. One challenge to respect is contentment. Which of these offers the most challenge to women in our society?
 - what you have financially and materially
 - who you are
 - how you look?
6. Why do you think men feel the need to be the provider? Are there ways that women undercut husbands in this need?
7. Men, share with ladies how it makes you feel to be nagged? Why do we resist it so fervently? How does it ramp up the problem if that is public criticism? Read Proverbs 19:13.
8. Will a women change a man more by nagging or by showing respect?

9. What is your reaction to hearing that your husband needs public praise from you? What do we learn from Hebrews 3:13?
10. It's instinctive for men to relate their standing with you to the quality of your physical relationship. Ladies, is this a surprise to you?
11. Read 1 Corinthians 7:4-5. Have you ever thought of your physical relationship as helping your husband resist temptation?
12. The husband needs forgiveness when he is wrong. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to forgive? How can we change our attitude on this? (Read 1 Cor 3:13-15, Eph 4:32)

Closing Challenge

Wives, what are some things in your relationship that you'd like to change and can begin this week?