

Transition:

Paul has spent much of his letter to the Ephesians pleading for unity within the Body. But he also realizes that, at the heart of this stability, is the unity of the family. Marriage was designed by God to showcase who He was (and is) to the rest of the world in the form of husband and wife. Our culture is turning its back on the value of Christian marriage and views most relationships in only a selfish way. But from the beginning, in Genesis 2, God created the roles of husband and wife – head and helper.

Tell the story:

Summarize verses 22-33 the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Rebuild this section by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the section. Then have someone else summarize the section as best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you define “submission?” How do verses 21 and 22 work together?
2. In what ways is the husband the “head” of the wife?
3. Ideally, what does the love between a husband and wife illustrate?

Fundamental:

God-given roles – Our current culture is systematically abandoning God-given roles for males and females. It is taught that a woman can do anything a man can do – and vice versa. But it was not always so. From the beginning, Eve was created as a HELPER. And from the beginning, the husband was created as the HEAD. These roles, and the submission of the wife to the husband, do not mean that the wife is any less important or less valuable or less crucial to the success of the marriage and household. The husband and wife both are called to abide with Christ, to hear from God and to bring wisdom to the relationship. But let us not disgrace the Word of God and bow to a culture that claims the Bible is antiquated and no longer needs to be followed.

1. What happens to a marriage when the wife attempts to assume the “head” role when the husband fails to do his job?
2. Though we have God-given roles, what does it mean to be one flesh?
3. Why do you think Paul tells husbands to LOVE their wives, but for wives to RESPECT their husbands?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Take an inventory of your feelings toward how the Bible describes the roles of husband and wife. If you have rebelled against this standard, repent. Seek out godly counsel if you have never been taught HOW to have a godly marriage.
2. Please read Ephesians 6 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Biblical submission is not popular in our culture. People will try to tell you that the Bible needs to change with the culture. But we must insist that God knew what He was doing when these things were written. We must insist that God's ways are best and that, no matter which direction the culture goes, we will trust that He knows what He's doing.

Prayer:

Pray that people believe the Word of God. Pray that we put our pride away and believe that God still makes godly marriages for the purpose of His glory. Pray for marriages to be healed and family curses of divorce and abuse to be broken.

Extras:

You and Me Forever by Francis Chan