



Family Circus

GOD, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. ...So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Malachi 2:15 (MSG)

- God has a **design** for your marriage that requires Him to **fill** your marriage.
- Your marriage is worth your **investment**.
- Marriage needs to be about **“we”** and not **“me”**.

An important question to ask:

- What does **our** marriage need?

Godly marriage myth:

- God has a perfect **mate** picked out for us, and It's our job to **find** that person.

The guideline God gives on who to marry:

God says believers are to marry a **believer**.

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers... 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

Don't be teamed with those who do not love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin? How can light live with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14 (TLB)

1 Corinthians 7:13-14

When we buy into this myth:

Our focus changes from **becoming** the mate God wants us to be to **finding** the perfect mate for me.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do 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. Ephesians 5:22-28 (NIV)

- Submission to **each other** flows out of our submission to **God**.

Submit to one another out of **reverence** (your worship, honor and submission) for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

Submission acknowledges: It's not about **me**.

A couple of simple keys of application:

- Wives: **respect** your husband even when he **doesn't deserve it**.

The reason this is important:

Men respond to **respect**.

- Husbands: **love** your wife. Your role is to **serve** her, not be **served** by her.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

The reason this is important:

Women respond to **love**.

The love that fills us has to get **shared** through us.

An important question to ask ourselves:

- What does **love** require of me?

Love is patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (TLB)

Choices that display our submission to each other:

- We choose to never **give up** on each other.

4 Love never gives up... Keeps going to the end... Love never dies. 1 Corinthians 13:4,7,8 (MSG)

5 ...God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," Hebrews 13:5 (MSG)

- We choose to **serve** each other.

31 ...Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! Luke 6:31

2 Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins... Ephesians 5:2 (TLB)

- We choose to **protect** each other.

9 Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends. Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How do we make marriage about "ME" rather than "WE"?
- Talk about the question: "What does our marriage need?" with your spouse.
- Why is submission such a difficult topic in marriage?
- What does it mean that submission to each other flows out of our submission to God?
- What does it mean to respect your husband even when he doesn't deserve it?
- What does it mean for husbands to love their wife as Christ loves the church?
- How would asking the question - "What does love require of me?" help us submit to each other?
- When you read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, what are some ways you hear the heart of submission?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading: "Choices that display our submission to each other." How do these choices help us to submit to each other?

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Today's Talk..



**“Marriage God’s
Way”**