

Biblical Faithfulness: Being reliable, steadfast, loyal, and devoted in what we believe and how we live towards God and others.

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage... Hebrews 13:4 (NLT)

- Many marriages don't work because couples **stop working** on their marriage.
- Faithfulness in marriage is a <u>heart</u> that is fully engaged and <u>undivided</u>. Close your heart to every love but mine; hold no one in your arms but me. ... Song of Solomon 8:6a

27 "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28 (NLT)

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)

• A faithful marriage is not a **<u>perfect</u>** marriage, but we strive to <u>love</u> more fully. 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 <u>each other</u> flows out of our submission to <u>God</u>. Submit to one another out of <u>reverence</u> for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

Submission acknowledges: It's not about me.

Application:

• Wives: Respect your husband even when he doesn't deserve it.

Men respond best to respect.

• Husbands: LOVE your wife like Jesus loves the Church.

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)

Women respond to love.

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:

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

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

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

• We choose to <u>serve</u> each other.

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.

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

Other Notes:



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.
- What does it mean to honor marriage as it says in Hebrews 13:4?
- What does it mean to you that faithfulness is a heart issue?
- Read Malachi 2:15, What does it mean that God's Spirit inhabits the smallest details of marriage?
- What does it mean to submit to each other? Did Jesus submit himself to the Father? (John 6:38: "For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but to do the will of him who sent me.")
- What does it mean for the wives to submit to their husbands?
- What does it mean for husbands to love their wives as Jesus loves the Church?
- Choosing to not give up means that we choose to be fully engaged. How do we remain fully engaged in our marriage?
- How do we serve each other?
- How do we protect each other? How do we protect "Us"?

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What it Means to be a Faithful Spouse

Sunday, March 22nd, 2025

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