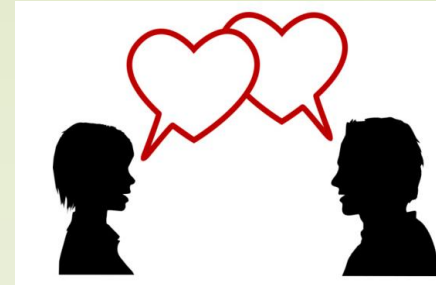




Our Relationships part 1— Marriage

Colossians 3:18-19

Same in Both Genders



- There are many things that are the same for **both genders in marriage** (i.e. all the “one anothers” in the Bible). We are called to love, submit to, encourage, and forgive one another in marriage (i.e. Col. 3:12-15; Eph. 5:21).
- This also applies to all the **expressions** of love that are given and received in marriage (i.e. love languages). Things such as **quality time** and **acts of service** can easily be understood by both male or female.

Different with Each Gender


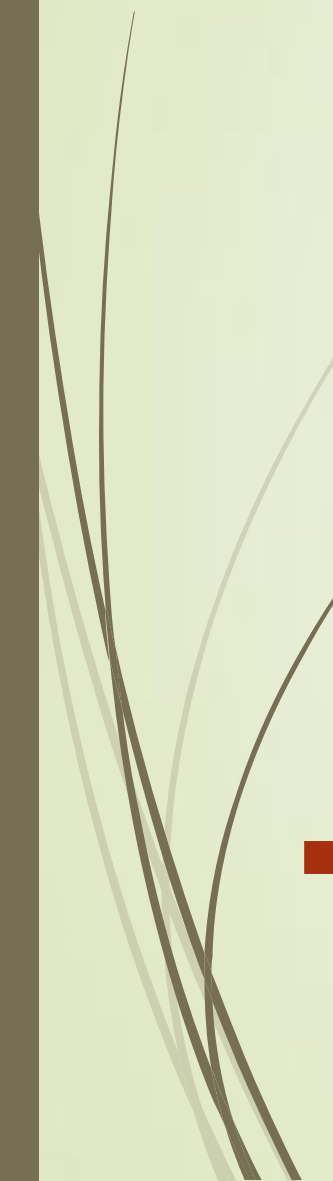
- However, male and female are created differently in many ways. (Gen. 1:27) There are also love languages that are **uniquely apparent** to a specific genders. (Eph. 5:33)
- Note: **Equality** and **equal** are two different things (i.e. equality in pay). Men and women have different physical and emotional **qualities**, and each have different emotional **needs** as well.



Men and Women (Eph. 5:33)



- Women in general want to be adored, cherished, feel secure, and be special.
- Men, on the other hand, want to make a difference, serve a purpose, and be respected.
- Therefore in general men seek after **significance** and women seek after **security**.

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- ➔ These are **general statements** that are widely observed and verifiable, nevertheless, there are of course women who seek more significance than security, and vice versa. Moreover, we don't mean to say that men do not need security or women do not want significance. But there is an **emotional yearning** that goes beyond reason for each gender specifically.
 - ➔ Moreover, we have a unique **burden** with each gender (Genesis 3:16-19). And we also have different **weaknesses** as well (1 Peter 3:1-7).

Gender Weakness



- A man may choose to use **force** or emotional abuse toward his wife instead of cherishing her. Moreover, he can be **self-centered** and focus on his needs, neglecting his wife and his family. (e.g. Pro. 6:29)
- A woman may focus too much on **outward beauty** (e.g. Pro. 31:30), and may choose to **manipulate** her husband instead of respecting him.



God's Wisdom



- (Read Col. 3:18-19; Eph. 5:22-33) In God's abundant wisdom He specifically commands us to **confront** our gender weakness and challenges us to rise above them and to show each other love that is specific to the opposite's gender.
- Note: the love language is obvious to the opposite gender but very difficult to appreciate from your own gender's perspective.

v.18 Submit to Your Husband

- Submission means to **respect**, not slavery.

Theologically, 1 Corinthians 11:3 teaches that while the husband is the head of the household, he is no greater than his wife in substance since “the head of Christ is God” and God the Father and the Son are equal in every way, except that Christ has **willingly** submitted to the Father. (Phil. 2:6-11)

- Ladies, please do not marry a man that you cannot **trust**. (i.e. his judgment) It is much easier to respect and show respect to a man that you trust.

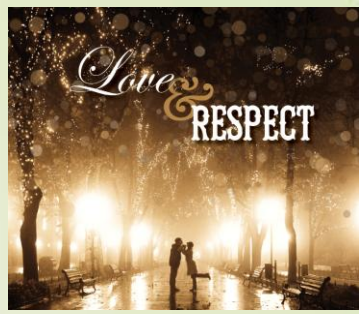


v.19 Love Your Wife



- (Eph. 5:25-33) in Roman culture, women usually feared their husbands and men treated their wives as property. Paul was asking a tall order for the men to **love** their wives as Christ loves the church, instead of just using her; and to ask wives to respect their husbands as to Christ, instead of just obeying out of fear. This was **radical** indeed.
- Sadly, this passage has become radical once again because our culture has swung to the other extreme. (i.e. no difference between gender)

How Shall We Grow in Our Marriage?



- Practically, where should we go from here?
- Husband: do you **love** your wife and **put her first** before yourself?
- Wife: do you **trust** your husband and listen to him?
- Sadly, many people overlook the simple truth of a happy marriage that was working for thousands of years, and are blindsided by today's idea of **romance** or **attraction**. (i.e. happily ever after)

Last Word

- Nevertheless, it is **difficult** to ask a husband to cherish a wife that he no longer desires. It is equally difficult to ask a wife to submit to a husband whom she has no respect for...
- Remember what Jesus teaches us about loving our **enemies**? (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27; 6:35) Note: our spouse is NOT our enemy, but surely they look like one at some point! Can you pray, do good, and expect no return? You are accountable and **responsible** for how you act toward your spouse.