



Marriage // The Struggle is Real // Part 2

Introduction:

This week Matt continues a new series called '**Marriage // The Struggle is Real**' with the message for **Part 2**. How does marriage work? This week Matt helps you look at what the picture of marriage should look like from the woman's and the man's perspective based on God's Word.

From the text this week in Ephesians 5, there are 2 commands to the woman and 4 commands to the man. The questions that accompany these commands are: how does Jesus relate to His people and how do His people relate to Jesus?

Questions:

1. As you examine the first command to the wife in marriage, to **submit**, why is it important to consider how the people of God submit to Jesus? How well do you submit to Jesus? When you fully surrender, do you flourish under the leadership of Jesus? As you enter the covenant of marriage, is it important that both individuals, out of love, are submitting (surrendering) to each other? What does it look like to surrender to the God-given leadership of your husband? **Ephesians 5:21-24**
2. If the second command for the wife is to **respect** her husband, how do the people of God **respect** God? Is it surprising that the Greek word is often translated as **fear/awe**? Do you **fear** God in **awe**? Does it help to know that this has nothing to do with terror, or being afraid? How does a woman respect? **Ephesians 5:33**

3. As wives look at how to best **respect** their husbands, are you an expert in his strengths? Can you learn to recognize, know and celebrate his strengths? Why is it important for the wife to be trustworthy, how can you demonstrate that, do you know your words matter? Why is it valuable to be appreciative of his efforts to do what is right?
4. If the first command for husbands is to **love** your wife as Christ loved the church, what does it mean that He didn't lose Himself, He gave Himself? How can the husband take the **initiative** to be the spiritual thermostat of your home by leading in sacrificial humility, healing, forgiveness and reconciliation? **Ephesians 5:25-27**
5. If the second command to the husband is to **nourish** your wife, how does Jesus nourish the church? As a husband, do you cultivate your wife's soul? Are you creating a home with Jesus at the center, do you treasure Him above everything else? How are you strengthening and building up her faith without anything else getting in the way? What does it take to do this everyday? **Ephesians 5:29**
6. The third command for the husband is to **cherish** his wife, how do you cherish like Jesus? What should **presence** look like in your relationship as a physical component, are you sometimes absent when your wife needs you? As a spiritual component to your relationship, do you seek out her wisdom and advice on spiritual matters demonstrating that her gifts and opinions are important to you? **Ephesians 5:29**
7. The fourth command for the husband is to **love** his wife as his own body, what might be preventing you from loving her as Jesus commands? Do you struggle to love yourself? Do you feel useful but not lovable? How can finding your identity in Christ and that you are fully loved by God allow you to more fully love your wife? **Ephesians 5:28-30**

Key takeaway: *Husbands are to love your wives, and wives are to respect your husband. If we can live out that Biblical picture, marriage becomes one of the most beautiful gifts that God has given us.*

Summary:

(Ellipsis = looking back to prior sentence)

- Submit = what does it look like to submit to Jesus?
- Respect (fear) = how do you respect God? Awe not terror
- Become an expert in his strengths, Be trustworthy, don't run him down, Be appreciative
- Initiative = sacrificial love, lead in humility, forgiveness; be the spiritual thermostat of the home
- Nourish/cultivate her soul, there are spiritual & physical components to that
- Cherish like Jesus cherishes = by presence, being there with her
- Love her as your own body by finding your identity in God