



Part Five: Re-tool Your Marriage!

Icebreaker: What 1 or 2 details were most memorable to you about your wedding day?

Read Ephesians 5:25-33 aloud:

"²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

1. **Husbands only:** Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." How does this verse raise the bar in your understanding of the primary duty of a husband to **love his wife**?
2. **Wives only:** Ephesians 5:33 says, "...the wife must respect her husband." How does understanding this as 'unconditional respect' raise the bar in your understanding of the primary duty of a wife **respect her husband**?
3. **Both:** What hinders your efforts to fulfill the primary job duties listed in Ephesians 5:33 for husbands to sacrificially & unconditionally love their wives and wives to sacrificially and unconditionally respect their husbands?
4. **Split off as couples, look into your spouse's eyes and ask the appropriate question below:**
 - Husbands ask your wife: "What is one thing you would like me to do better to make you feel loved?"
 - Wives ask your husband: "What is one thing you would like me to do better to make you feel respected?"

Prayer: Hold hands & pray as couples, that God would empower you to take the step your spouse shared in question #4 in order to 're-tool your marriage' this week.