



Battle of the Sexes- Session 4

How We Love: Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 5:46-47; Romans 5:8

1. Marriage is...

Ephesians 5:22–33.

From the text, what key words describe how a man should treat his wife? What does that look like in a relationship? Why is it important?

What does respect look like within a marriage?

What makes you feel the most respected? What makes you feel the most disrespected? Why do we struggle to say or listen to what we understand respect to be?

Here is the first takeaway for how marriage can be defined biblically: Marriage is a stage for displaying the beauty of the Gospel: the whole point of physical marriage is that it illustrates a spiritual union.

2. Marriage takes...

Ephesians 5:33 and Matthew 5:46-47.

Why do you think men and women are different in what they need from their spouse?

Why is it important to communicate and “build up” our spouse? Has that been a struggle for you? Why? How can you change that?

The second takeaway for how marriage is to be defined: Marriage should mirror God’s love story for us in Christ!

Five Love Languages- Dr. Gary Chapman

- i.** Words of affirmation – using words to build up the other person.
- ii.** Gifts – a gift says, “He was thinking about me. Look what he got for me.”
- iii.** Acts of Service – Doing something for your spouse that you know they would like.
- iv.** Quality time – by which I mean, giving your spouse your undivided attention.
- v.** Physical touch – holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc, are all expressions of love.

After reviewing the love languages, write down which language you like to be shown and which one you believe your spouse likes to be shown?

Which one of the love languages do you feel represents how you like to be shown love? Why?

Which one of the love languages do you feel your spouse desires to be shown love with? Why?

Why is it important to know how each person likes to be shown love? How will this help you moving forward in your marriage and relationship?

3. Marriage is for...

Romans 5:8

The final takeaway is that marriage has a mission to help us learn to love and grow couples spiritually in a unique way.

From the text, how did God show his total commitment to demonstrate love to us? What impact does that make for your marriage?

How would your marriage be different if you became less selfish and more sacrificial?

If you were to tell someone how you would be able to tell if two people are married, what would you say? How much would you describe their actions? Why does love involve action as well as our emotions?

How do you want your marriage to grow over the next year?

Application

A. Marriage with the end in mind means understanding the goal of marriage. The end goal - Where are you going?

B. Marriage with the end in mind focuses on the return of Christ and the fulfillment of THE MARRIAGE that our marriages represent. How will your marriage demonstrate the gospel this week?

c. Spend intentional time praying for your spouse (or future spouse)? Pray for their holiness and purity. Pray for their personal spiritual growth. Pray for their love to grow for you.