

the
truth
about
loving

CONNECT GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Truth About Loving: Your Spouse



RENAISSANCE
CHURCH

Read

On Sunday Pastor Christian used Ephesians 5:21 to speak about loving your spouse.

²¹ Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Reflect & Discuss

1. Many people think “being subject” to someone else is harmful and undesirable. Do you think it can ever be something positive? If so, under what circumstances? Share an example, either from your life or from relationships or situations you have observed.
2. What do you think “being subject to one another” in a positive way could look like in a marriage or other close relationship? Have you ever experienced it in your relationships?
3. How would you explain the concept of “reverence for Christ”? How could reverence for Christ help our marriages and other relationships? What ideas do you have for how can we grow in reverence for Christ?
4. In Matthew 7:3-5 Jesus said,

³ “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.”

How would you explain the log/speck concept? How have you seen this idea in your relationships, either because you or the other person followed what Jesus was teaching or because you failed to follow it? How could following Jesus' teaching strengthen your marriage and other relationships?

5. In Luke 6:31 Jesus gave the Golden Rule:

³¹ “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

How would you explain the Golden Rule? How can we live it out in our marriages and other relationships? Share an example when you or your spouse or a close friend lived out the Golden Rule.

6. Matthew 20:20-28 records the following incident.

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him [Jesus] with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able."

²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶ It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

James and John (the sons of Zebedee) wanted to have positions of honor and authority in Jesus' kingdom. The other disciples didn't appreciate this, nor did Jesus. How do you see similar attitudes and behavior in your relationships?

Jesus said these kinds of attitudes and behavior have no place in the lives of his followers. Instead, we should serve one another as he served us. Discuss with your group how Jesus serves us. Then talk about how following his example can benefit our marriages and other relationships.

Personalize It

Let's personalize and apply what we've been discussing.

1. Thinking about Pastor Christian's sermon, the passages we've read, and the concepts we've discussed, what one thing can you do this week to strengthen your marriage or another relationship?
2. How can we pray for you?

Reflecting on Scripture

Using the *Reflecting on Scripture* guide (see www.renchurch.com/connectgroups), set aside at least ten minutes three days this week to reflect on Matthew 7:12, Matthew 7:1-5, and Matthew 20:20-28.