

Marriage...

Made in Heaven. Lived on Earth.

Message 3 God's Plan for Marriage

Perry Duggar
September 30, 2018

► Outline

So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)

God's plan for marriage includes...

1. **Expressing** _____.
(John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 5:1-2;
1 Peter 1:22)

2. **Extending** _____.
(Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Peter 2:17; 3:7)

3. **Exercising** _____.
(Matthew 20:26-28; Galatians 5:13; Philippians 2:5-8)

Answers: 1. love 2. respect 3. service

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

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► Discussion Guide

Whether young or old, married or single, we can all benefit from exploring God's design for relationships. Use this guide with your spouse, with friends or on your own to develop healthy connections with others and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

For additional resources visit brookwoodchurch.org/marriage.

Conversation Starter

Describe a time someone surprised you by going the extra mile to serve you.

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [John 13:34-35](#).

1. How have you come to know God's love through your spouse or other close relationships? How can you allow God to love your spouse through you? See also [Ephesians 5:1-2](#).
2. If people looked closely at your marriage what would they learn about God?

Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#).

3. With your spouse or a specific friend in mind, name at least three simple ways you can apply the truths in this passage to that relationship.

Read [Ephesians 5:31-33](#).

4. What's the difference between *love* and *respect*? Which one do you most desire? How does that desire impact (or drive) the way you interact with your spouse?
5. What are ways people dishonor (disrespect) each other?
6. What does it look like to honor (respect) another person?

Read [Philippians 2:3-8](#).

7. What would it look like for us to have the mindset of Christ, taking on the nature of a servant? What would it cost us to live this lifestyle of serving others?
8. What major differences would you see in your marriage, family, workplace and/or circle of friends if everyone served each other with love and humility?
9. What activities or responsibilities have you made more important than your marriage and/or close relationships? What steps will you take to make loving, respecting, and serving people your greatest priority?

Soul Training

Pause and think about your spouse or a close friend. Ask God how He wants you to pray for him/her today. Spend a few minutes asking Him to work in that person's life.

Memory Verse

So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

[Ephesians 5:33 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [John 13:34-35](#)

Day 4: [Philippians 2:3-8](#)

Day 2: [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)

Day 5: [Romans 8:38-39](#)

Day 3: [Ephesians 5:31-33](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, October 7, we'll take a one-week break from the marriage series to have a 25 year celebration of Brookwood Church during both services! Our focus will be on the faithfulness of God and His power to transform lives. In preparation for our time together, read [Psalm 136](#) and [1 Corinthians 1:4-9](#).



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