

SERMON-BASED STUDY: BETTER FIGHTS

Ephesians 5:33, ESV – ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we were reminded that men and women were created equal, but unique. What does this mean? How have you seen this truth in your relationships?
- 2 Why does Paul give specific instructions to both the husband and the wife in Ephesians 5:33?
- 3 How can our differences as men and women be complimentary and not a source of friction?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *1 Peter 3:1-2, 7-9, ESV* – Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

4 According to the passage above, how can a wife's or husband's conduct "win" their spouse?

5 How is our conduct toward our spouse our responsibility and choice? How is our conduct really about God and not our spouse?

6 What are the blessings for right conduct in our marriage? How have you seen, or not seen, these blessings in your marriage?

7 This week, husbands were encouraged to remember that your wife spells love, "COUPLE" (Closeness, Openness, Understanding, Peacemaking, Loyalty, Esteem). Which of these six principles is most necessary to a happy marriage? Explain. Which of these can you (husbands) improve upon? Explain.

8 This week, wives were encouraged to remember that your husband spells respect, "CHAIRS" (Conquest, Hierarchy, Authority, Insight, Relationship, Sexuality). Which of these six principles is most necessary to a happy marriage? Explain. Which of these can you (wives) improve upon? Explain.

TAKING IT HOME

As you consider these principles for a better marriage, what stands out to you? What are you doing well? What can you improve upon? What next steps do you need to take in your life to follow God's will in being the best husband or wife you can be. Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you walk out these principles in your marriage.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 3:16-17
Luke 6:45
John 16:33
1 Corinthians 7:28
Ephesians 4:29