

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

By This Time Next Year: Marriage – February 1, 2026

Big Idea: A husband's greatest need is respect. A wife's greatest need is love.

Ice Breaker: Who is your favorite famous celebrity couple?

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the key points from this week's sermon.

- Scripture gives us principles in guiding us to understand our spouse
- Submission can be defined as the calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership, and so help to carry it through according to her gifts
- Husbands are called to love their wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
- Husbands and wives don't need the same thing the most; husbands need respect and wives need love
- The "Crazy Cycle" begins when love and respect break down

Discussion Questions

Based on the sermon, discuss the questions below.

- What was your biggest takeaway? What stuck out the most or moved you on a personal level?
- Did anything bother you? What questions did you have?

Making it Personal

Review with your group the impact this week's sermon made on your personally.

- When have you seen a small moment turn into a bigger conflict in a relationship?
- Do you know any couples who exemplify Christ-like unity in their marriage? Discuss what qualities they possess and how they inspire you. Similarly, have you learned from others' mistakes?
- If you are married, do you talk to others about your spouse in positive and loyal ways? If not, what needs to change?
- How is the biblical view of marital leadership different than society's view?
- Can you think of a moment when you unintentionally triggered the crazy cycle?
- When conflict arises, do you tend to move toward confrontation or toward withdrawal? Where do you fall in the "Crazy Cycle" – with criticism, withdrawal, silence, or defensiveness?

Scripture Review

Revisit some of the scripture passages from this week and discuss the questions below.

- Ephesians 5:33 How does this verse define the roles of husband and wife in marriage? How can a wife show respect for her husband, and how can a husband show love for his wife?
- Ephesians 5:21-22 Why are believers to submit to one another?

Diving Deeper

Use the verses below to dive into other passages of scripture that relate to the primary scripture passage from this week's sermon.

Old Testament

- Song of Solomon 8:6-7, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 18:21-22, Proverbs 19:14, Proverbs 31:10-12, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Malachi 2:15-16

New Testament

- Philippians 2:3-8, Philippians 2:14-16, Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 3:12-14, James 1:19-20, 1 Peter 3:7

How do these scripture passages align with the scripture from the sermon? Do you see any contradictions between passages? If so, can you explain why this is?

Application & Action

It is important to take the knowledge you gain and see how it can become an actionable step that the Holy Spirit can use to produce transformation in your life.

Loving and respecting your spouse is an act of loving and honoring Jesus. He knows what we need most and He wants our marriage relationships to be healthy and glorifying to God. As Jesus died for us, while we were still sinners, sacrificing himself for us on the cross, we can also demonstrate unconditional love (and respect) to our spouse. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict your heart about how you need to change your words and actions towards your spouse and others.

Listening to Jesus What role does unselfishness play in a successful, healthy marriage? If you are currently married, what can you do to act more selflessly? What situations do you face on a regular basis where you can respond with greater humility? If you are not yet married, how can you demonstrate unselfish behavior to another person, possibly a neighbor, co-worker, friend, or family member?

Walking with Jesus Where is God calling you to take responsibility for your part, regardless of how the other person acts or responds? How can you pause before reacting when you feel hurt or misunderstood? Can you be the person to still show love or still show respect for your spouse even if you don't feel like you are receiving what you need or think you deserve? What role can prayer play in your marriage and change the way you respond to your spouse?

Anchoring in His Word Choose a verse mentioned in this week's message that challenges you or encourages you in how you relate to others. Pray over this verse and commit it to memory if you can.

Leaning on His People Are you in a season where you need relationship support? Are there people in your life you can walk along side and share your marriage's greatest struggles with? Who can give you godly advice, wisdom, and counsel? Are you in a season where you can be the support for another couple, or a single person? Reach out and offer your support and encouragement.

Growing in His Likeness In what ways do you sense God wanting to grow your character? Instead of reacting to what you perceive in the moment, can you instead ask questions focused on the needs of your spouse (respect or love)? How can you model love and respect to your children or others watching your marriage?

Action Step The Bible clearly shows us a husband's greatest need is respect and a wife's greatest need is love. If you are married, make it a point to clearly give this need to your spouse. Wives, let your husband know you admire him, are proud of him, impressed with him, etc. Husbands, show your wife love by listening to her, verbally affirming her, prioritizing your marriage, helping/serving her. What can you do this week to specifically show your spouse respect and/or love? How can you ensure you will do this regardless of whether they reciprocate or not?

Two-minute Takeaway

In response to this week's message, commit to taking two minutes each day to take a step closer to God.

Each day, pause before responding in a conversation and ask: Will this come across as loving or respectful?

Prayer

Close your group time together with prayer.