

Me to We 2

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When a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car or the wife is new.

Today we go from “ME” to “WE.”

Ephesian 5:21-25 – Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
NIV

Submission – Choosing to Yield

1. CHOOSE to yield to each other
2. Wives CHOOSE to yield to their husbands
3. Husbands CHOOSE to love, lay down, and give up their lives for their wives.

Submission does not mean the husband rules over his wife, or we couldn't mutually submit to each other.

The key is that both love and submission are a CHOICE, born of love and self-sacrifice.

When submission is demanded, it becomes tyranny.

A wife is called to SUBMIT her life to the SELF-SACRIFICIAL LOVE of her husband, as the church is called to SUBMIT to the SELF-SACRIFICIAL LOVE OF CHRIST.

Love is defined by doing what is in the best interest of the other person.

Headship is a position of sacrifice, not of dominance and privilege.

- Jesus is the Head of the Church.

- He gave himself to the death of a cross.
- Who got the better end of that deal?

GOD'S ORDER for the family is that he gives grace to the husband to be sacrificial, and grace to the wife to yield to his sacrificial leadership. Love ALWAYS builds.

Four Reasons We are Destructive in Our Marriages

1. Ignorance

- Most people did not come out of a happy home.
- Most of us have been given misinformation and a poor model.
- The number one remedy to this issue is having a teachable spirit and seeking the information that can help you.
- You will never become a marriage expert, but you can always be a marriage student.
- Is God's Word going to be your "Final Authority"?

2. Past Hurts

Psalm 147:3 – He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. *NIV*

- When sacrificially loving your wife is difficult, it can often be traced back to the dysfunction you observed in your home as a child.
 - Dominant mother and a passive father
 - Dominant father and a passive mother
 - Both parents dominant
 - Absence of a parent either physically or emotionally
 - Verbal or sexual abuse, or addiction issues
- When biblical submission is difficult for a woman, it is typically rooted in past hurts that make it difficult to trust a man.
 - Alcoholic father and passive mother
 - Abandonment of a parent
 - Verbal or sexual abuse
- When your pain remains in the darkness, it is a breeding ground for the devil's lies and dysfunction.
- Shame is what the devil puts on pain to keep it in the dark.

3 Things You Must Do with Past Hurts

1. Admit your pain
2. Forgive the offender
 - Much of the anger we exhibit toward our spouse is rooted in past hurts.
 - They are the safe place to erupt, but we will damage the spirit of our marriage.
 - We are told to bless and pray for the offender, because it releases you from the prison, not them.
3. Take responsibility for your actions

3. Defensiveness

- Past hurts can produce a wall of defensiveness, which removes the possibility of resolving issues.
- Defensiveness destroys intimacy.
- Defensiveness creates a lock box for issues and renders them unsolvable.
 - EXAMPLE: Locked inside the walls of a sewage treatment facility.
- Emotionally healthy people listen without defensiveness or shutting down.
- Every functional family talks, communicates, and brings understanding.
- Every dysfunctional family doesn't talk. They either shout or go silent and foster misunderstanding.
 - In dysfunctional families there is silence and secrets

4. Bad Friends and Negative Influences

I Corinthians 15:33 – Do not be fooled. "Bad companions ruin good character." *TEV*

- You will find that adultery, addiction and divorce runs in groups.
- People get support groups to enforce destructive behavior.
- Church is not a place where people don't have issues. It is a place where we deal with our issues, and where we decide to let Jesus deal with our issues in an environment of love, grace, mercy, and support.
- You are going to be like your friends.
- Here is the difference between godly and ungodly friends:
 - Ungodly friends will encourage you to process your problems selfishly.
 - Godly friends will encourage you to process your problems unselfishly.