

Marriage ... 1Corinthians 7:1-40 / 1Peter 3:7

"In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered."

... 1Peter 3:7 (NLT)

1. Honor your Wife... Fellow Image Bearer of God...

- 1Corinthians 7, 1Peter 3:7, Genesis 1:27

2. Understand your Wife... "Love" is an Action Word!

- Ephesians 5:25-33, Genesis 2:21-24, 1Peter 3:7 (ESV)

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. ... 1Peter 3:7

3. Equal in Value... Different by Design... How are we Different? ... (the Mug and the Tea Cup)

- 1Peter 3:7 (ESV), Ephesians 5:21, Ephesians 5:33

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4. Commissioned by God to Love, Lead, and Protect... The Risk of Complacency!

- Genesis 3:1-7, Philippians 2:3-4, 1Peter 3:7 (ESV)

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Group Discussion

1. Can you explain and describe what the action of Love should look like in a marriage relationship, (or in a relationship that could grow into marriage)?

- Is this how your own marriage relationship looks? If not...explain Why...

2. READ 1Corinthians 13:4-7 (ending with "Love never ends" from verse 8), and describe how each of those characteristics should look in a marriage relationship...

3. Do you speak harshly, use hurtful words, or a cruel tone, with your wife when you find yourself in a disagreement?

- In what way would you explain or justify the way that you speak to your spouse, if describing it to the Lord Jesus?

4. If giving an honest and transparent response to the question... Would your wife, (or possible wife to be), say that she feels *Cherished* by you? ...explain!

- Identify at least 3 steps/actions that you will take to better express your love and how you cherish your wife...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- How can you grow and improve in how you deal with conflict within your marriage?

5. Tonight we discussed that it is your God-given ordained responsibility to lead your family well, care for your wife in a loving and Godly way (*Ephesians 5:25-33*), and live as man who reflects the Lord in his home (*Matt 5:16, Phil 2:3-4*)...

Talk with your Group about the foundational actions/choices you can make each day, the intentional mindset that you must have, and the source for wisdom, discipline, and strength that you must rely on in order to grow in these areas...

6. Is there anything from tonight's discussion that spoke to you personally? In what way(s) does it affect your life?
How will you directly and specifically apply it in your life today?

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)