

Walk This Way - Part 6

Walk In Love

Today we will discuss walking in love in the context of marriage. It is no secret that men and women are different in many ways. God knew that these differences would need direction to exist together in harmony so He put specific instructions in the Bible on how to have an incredible relationship.

Read: Ephesians 5:21-26 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Basically, this passage is about two incredible and powerful marriage building principals:

- Wives are challenged to respect
- Husbands are challenged to love

Reflect: What do the terms love and respect mean to you? How would you define them?

Wives, Read: Ephesians 5:22

“For wives, this means being supportive[a] to your husbands like you are tenderly devoted to our Lord.”

Sometimes with the way we are wired it is easier for a woman to love than to give respect. But God gives the command to respect to the woman and to love to the man. Respect to a man is like superglue in a marriage. Respect involves two major components: heartfelt submission and honor. The bottom line is communicating value and worth. When the Bible talks about wives supporting and yielding to their husbands - it's identifying what really creates a bond in the heart of the man.

Husbands, Read: Ephesians 5:25

“And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, his bride.”

The Bible commands men to love their wives. This kind of love has nothing to do with feelings, but it is a decision that is made. When a husband sacrifices for his wife a miracle happens in the wife's heart! Romans 8 describes love in four guiding principles:

- Real love seeks the highest good of your wife - Romans 8:31
- Real love gives extravagantly - Romans 8:32
- Real love expresses total acceptance - Romans 8:33
- Real love is committed - Romans 8:35

Reflect: Why do you think we are commanded to give one thing but need to receive the other?

Summary

Respect is not just what a man wants, it is what he needs. When a husband does not feel respected he tends to not be loving. This works both ways! Love is not just what a woman wants, it's what she needs. When she does not receive love, she tends to not be respectful. Keep in mind that respect and love should flow both ways, the Bible is simply addressing how we are hard-wired.

Prayer

Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.