



## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we learned the God has plan for marriage relationships. Fortunately, God's plan does not leave husbands and wives to simply figure this out. Instead, God has directed husbands to love their wives as themselves, and wives to respect their husbands. Sounds easy right? Not quite.

## WARM UP

The media, for better or worse, spend a lot of energy following the lives of celebrities.

Who is some celebrity couples that were perceived by the media to be happy only to break up? In your view, what about them portrayed them as happy?

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

### READ:

Ephesians 5:33

As you attempt to be obedient to Paul's instruction to husbands and wives, what causes you to struggle most?

- Why do you think the struggle is so tough for you?
- What is your typical response to your struggle? Does it solve the problem or deepen it?

### ACTIVITY:

Split up into men and women (2 groups. If each group is larger than 7 people, create 4 groups)

Here is the scenario:

You have been asked to deliver a 3-5 minute talk to a room full of couples on the brink of divorce. (None are in abusive relationships). The event organizers have made a specific request that you include in your talk, a biblical case for marriage, the reality of struggle, and hope that only Jesus can provide.

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Men: As a group, write a 3-5 minute talk that includes everything the event organizers have requested. You will be speaking to the husbands in the room. Feel free to search the Internet, use personal examples, scripture verses, movie quotes, poems etc.

Women: As a group, write a 3-5 minute talk that includes everything the event organizers have requested. You will be speaking to the wives in the room. Feel free to search the Internet, use personal examples, scripture verses, movie quotes, poems etc.

After 20 minutes of group time have each group deliver their talk to the room. (This person can read directly from their paper if desired. They can deliver it as a group or break it up in sections or whichever way else that works for them.)

- How easy or difficult was this exercise for you? Why?
- What emotions did you feel as your group was crafting your talk?
- Did you find yourself struggling for something to write or struggling to limit your writing?
- Do you feel you have provided a strong case for couples or do you think it needs some improvement?

**ACTIVITY:**

Instructions:

Men: we are to love our wives as Christ loved the Church.

Women: we are to respect our husbands

Create a list of Scriptures that your group can take home and put on their mirror, refrigerator, or somewhere else visible to remind them of the traits they should display daily. Feel free to use the Internet, Bibles etc.

Hint: A great way to categorize your list is to use the fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-Control – Galatians 5:22)



For a great sermon series on marriage check out iMarriage by Andy Stanley. It's been posted on youtube. You can check it out at <https://youtu.be/G-Z-WeQkYKk>