

MARRIAGE: Following God's Design

Family Life #2 – Pastor Gary Combs – August 4, 2019 – Ephesians 5:22-33

Psalm 127:1 (ESV) Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

15 questions to help take the relational temperature of your marriage:

1. How often do we laugh together?
2. When is last time we had a meaningful conversation about something other than our schedules or the kids?
3. Do we ever turn on music and sing and dance and act silly?
4. How many times in the last month have we prayed together or read the Bible together?
5. Do we ever hold hands?
6. Has our physical intimacy grown cold, infrequent, or a source of too much pressure and stress?
7. When is the last time we said "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you"?
8. When is the last time we said "Thank you" for regular, ordinary task like making dinner, doing the dishes, paying the bills, fixing the car, or folding the laundry?
9. When is the last time we (cheerfully!) said, "How can I help you this week" (and meant it)?
10. When is the last time we surprised each other with a gift, a note, or a night out?
11. Have we raised our voices at one another in the last month?
12. Are we more eager to spend time with someone at work, at church, or at the gym than we are with each other?
13. When we have time together at home, just the two of us, is the television always on in the background?
14. Are there hurts or sins or fears that we need to disclose to one another?
15. How might the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit shape our life together in this season of marriage?

Ephesians 5:22-33 (ESV) ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

How to follow God's design for marriage:

1. WIVES: _____ your husbands lead.

Genesis 3:16, Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:4-5, 1 Peter 3:1-2, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Galatians 3:28

2. HUSBANDS: _____ your wife.

Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7, Genesis 3:17

3. MARRIED: _____ of our oneness in Christ.

Malachi 2:14-15, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Revelation 19:7-9, John 17:20-26