**Life Team Notes – week of 10/14/18**

* What do you think the idle couple / marriage looks like? Why?
* Do you think your expectations reasonable? Why?
* Is it true that God has only perfect mate for you and it’s your job to find them? NO
* If that statement is true what happens when you pick the wrong person?

**The Head Line**

**God created men and women equal but uniquely and wonderfully different**

* What are some ways that men and women are different?

**Ephesians 5:21-33**

* What do you think that passage means?
* What are the most confusing or disturbing parts of that passage? Why?
* That passage describes the roles of men and women in marriage. Do they apply to areas outside your marriage? Why / why not?
* Does this passage mean that it applies to couples that are dating? Why/why not?

FYI – they are designed for marriage only - not other areas, ever dating.

* Does that mean that wives are supposed to do whatever their husband says and that women just need to adapt and deal with it? Why / why not? \* Answer is no.

**God’s Plan**

**Husband lead your home as Jesus has modeled for us with us**

* How does Jesus love us and lead us?

**Wives follow your husband as Jesus has modeled for us w/ the Father**

Philippians 2:5-9, 1 Corinthians 15:28, John 6:38, Hebrews 5:8

* How does Jesus submit to the father?
* Are they equal? Yes. Then why did he submit to the Father?

**\*\*\*Ephesians 5:33 - summarizes what Paul has just written, read it again.**

* The topic of love and respect often comes up when talking about meeting the biggest needs of men and women. What actions, things, words, etc. make you feel the most loved or respected?

**According to this verse there are two keys to a great marriage.**

**1. Wives: RESPECT your husband even when he doesn’t deserve it.**

Ephesians 5:33, 1 Peter 3:1-6

* Does this mean you do everything he says or have to obey him – NO
* How can this bring healing to a marriage?
* What should you do when the husband is abusive in any way? **Seek Help!**

**2. Husbands: LOVE your wife even when she is being unloving.**

Matthew 20:25-28, John 13:3-5, 1 Peter 3:7

\* Your role is to SERVE HER, not to be SERVED BY HER

* Men how do we the above? What does that look like?

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**Explain and discuss how the following graphic** and how it might energize a marriage. It represents the Ephesians 5:33 challenge.

* How might this affect your marriage or future marriage?
* Sacrificial love puts the needs and interests of others first. Often we’re unwilling to put others first, especially those closest to us, when we feel they are undeserving or aren’t living up to their end of the bargain. What do you think we should do during those times?

**Our loving submission to others comes easier when we’ve submitted to Jesus.**

One of the biggest roadblocks to this is our reluctance to give up our “freedom” to do what we want to do, when we want to do it.

**John 8:31-36, John 13:12-17, Philippians 2:-3, Galatians 5:13**

* How do the above passages depict freedom?
* What “freedoms” do you think people are the most reluctant to give up?

**The Take Home**

* How the following descriptive of the blessings and curses of relationships?

Proverbs 12:4, Proverbs 18:22, 31:10-11, Proverbs 21:9, 21:19

* How the following verses a recipe for success in our relationships?

Rom 13:1-4, 1 Pet 2:13, Heb 13:17, Acts 4:18-20, 17:11, Exodus 1:15-21

**Singles**

* Who’s the most difficult person in your life to submit to?
* How would the people closest to you rate your willingness to be submissive to others?
* Are there any people in your life you need to work on being more submissive to in the next few weeks?

**Marrieds**

Husbands

* How/when does my wife feel the most loved?
* What am I doing to make her feel loved?

Wives

* How/when does my husband feel the most respected?
* What am I doing to make him feel respected?

Husbands and Wives

* What could I do in the next week to make sure I’m meeting my spouses need for love or respect?

An important part of love and respect is to discuss with your spouse the ways they feel loved and respected and do more of that.