Tread: **A Study in Ephesians – wk 10 – Wax on ????**

**Paul an Apostles of Jesus (now in prison) to a church he planted in Ephesus. The challenge of how to walk w/ Jesus**

**I loved the Karate Kid growing up – outcast kid who get beats up, becomes friends with a man who teaches him to succeed in life using karate. (the crane). Mr. Miagi has him do chores around house: Wash car, sand deck, paint a fence. He gets tired of doing chores - gets mad. Mr Miagi shows him that the mundane things he’s learning are actually the basics that will make him a great fighter.**

**Paul teaches us in the same way, common mundane areas that we are faithful in, equip us to be ready to take on any battle**

**Last week – a challenge to walk in love, in light, and in wisdom.**

**Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 17 …do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.**

**With this Paul shares God’s will in marriage, family, and work – our personal life. Where the rubber meets the road - We have got to learn to walk in these 3 - more than anywhere else!**

**Today marriage & dating relationships, next week family & work.**

* **If you married, understand what the Lord’s will is for your marriage**
* **If you are single, understand what the Lords will is for your future**
* **If you are single again or in circumstances where it is difficult**

**There is tremendous pain put on people who have gone through divorce or have a struggling marriage. God is able…**

**\*What does the bible really say about male & female relationships?**

**Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is…**

**It is about to get serious in here…**

**The most important part of this, is this… Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (we do this out of worship for Christ…)**

**\*\*Healthy relationships begin with mutual submission**

**This is at the core of our walk with God in every area.**

**We do this as worship to the one we together serve.**

**\*\*Submission is not a sign of inferiority - This is vital to understand**

**We are equal in our nature – there is no superiority over each other**

**(Gen 1:26-28) God created men & women equally in the image of God**

**Equally blessed and equally given dominion over the earth.**

**Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**\*\* We are equal in Christ, but we are different in our design**

**(I Pet. 3:7; Prov. 31:10-31, Matt. 20:25-28)**

**God created men & women equal, but very different (you noticed)**

**We function best when we function in God’s design.**

**God created men and women with diff gifts and innate abilities**

**Think about this: Women have 4X as many neurons connecting the left and right hemispheres of the brain. Ability to process simultaneously things that involve both the left (logical) side of the brain and the right (creative) side. Capacity to deal w/ complex problems of relationships**

**But - constant cross-brain communication can often make it difficult to focus and sometimes become easily distracted**

**Men primarily use the left side of brain. With less brain communication men naturally have ability to focus on single problems – tunnel vision**

**Our differences actually tell us how much we need each other - 1 Cor 11:11 But among the Lord’s people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women. 12 For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God.**

**\*\* We are equal in Christ, but we are different in our roles**

**Regardless of our personal capabilities and personalities, we are never to replace God’s created design and roles.**

**Roles transcend personality types: Single, married, everyone; how many of you are more naturally dominant? Who here is more naturally passive? The passive are going, “Should I raise my hand?” We are diff, but our roles still apply.**

**\*\* Our roles are designed by God to complete areas we lack**

**Gen 2 - Adam needed help. He was lacking, it was not that he was alone - so God gave him a woman to help him. She completed him. We need each other.**

**For example, Nikol has super powers of discernment. I could be talking to a guy who just cut his mom up and put her in a refrigerator. I’m like, “You need a hug - He seems like a nice guy”. Nikol is like, “No, there is something going on.”**

**We work as a team, our differences complete each other**

**Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Submit to one another - we like that part – the next part is confusing…) 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. (Some are bothered by this already…)**

**\*\*Take a moment as tell your neighbor what you think it means**

**I will be honest, sadly this verse has been used to mistreat women**

**2 reasons women often resist this is because they’ve been around**

**Distorted and Poor leadership:**

* **Controlling Men – abusive, dominant, manipulative - even so called “Christian men”. That’s not Godly leadership – they / you - will answer to God for this. Then there is a flipside of this control…**

**Domestic violence awareness month – OCT**

* **Passive man – no backbone or willingness to stand for anything, doesn’t make decisions, abdicates leadership to wife, content to sit back like a 12yr old, play video games, or watch sports all day**

**It’s no wonder when a woman hears “submit” – it is offensive.**

**Eph 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**

**Everything???? Really??? It will make since in minute.**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (we see this again and again – love just as Christ – our love is not based on what our spouse does, but on what Christ does) 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**

**Paul elevates marriage love to the highest level possible -**

**to see a godly marriage is to see a snapshot of heaven.**

**28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church - 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”**

**One of the most quoted verses thru the bible (even Jesus) - one man, one woman- God’s plan from the start, and still today. The plan and the roles in marriage. Are we going to be rooted in human-defined culture or God-defined creation?**

**32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**

**This amazing plan, this union is to be reflection of our relationship w/ God. Want to know how we should love, look at Jesus love for us- and want to see Jesus, see a godly marriage**

**We are equals in Christ, but diff roles. What are the roles in marriage?**

**Remember God says in our equality, there different roles we play in our home – This is not about business, work, politics, or life.**

**These are Marriage job descriptions - Husbands – Your Role**

* **Men you are to lead your home**

**Men, God has ordained you and called you to lead in your home.**

**This does not make you the boss or that you make all the decisions - that is not leadership, but dictatorship**.

**Think about this way: Christ is the head of our church, as the pastor of our church - more than anybody else here I will stand before God and answer to him for what goes on here. Would it be wise for me to make every single decision? No! That is not leadership but control - It does not free others or allow anyone else to lead I their gifts.**

**As the leader, one of the most important things we do is point**

**1932 World Series, game 3. Babe Ruth steps up to bat, points to center field - the pitch – POW – home run to center field. His hit did not win the game – it was a team. But he led the team. MEN – we are called to Point! Here’s the direction - this is what we stand for – what we are going to be about - that is leadership – from there flows teamwork.**

**We are to cast a clear vision – Proverbs, “Where there is no vision, people cast restraint” - The people perish – wander aimlessly.**

**Where there is no vision in marriage – when 2 people try to go in 2 different directions – they perish - Men – Lead – Point!**

**Sit down with your wife – talk out - what has God put in you?**

**Luke 11:17-18 - Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.**

**Nikol and I have sat down many times over the years and talked about our values, finances, family values, kids, church**

**Some may say - “yeah but she won’t follow” - Sorry excuse - reality is you haven’t led her. One guy said, “Well if I had a wife like yours then I could lead - my wife does not honor and respect Me.” Well, give her something to honor and respect! Someone to follow.**

**Men don’t control! Lead. Want to know how…**

* **Men you are to lead like Jesus - humbly, patiently and sacrificially**

**Ephesians 5:25-33 defines what this means**

**Men – this is your calling! \*\* Single women – look for this!**

**\*Shows his love to her - 25 love your wives, just as Christ loved the church**

**\*Sacrifices self for her - and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy,**

**\*Spiritually leads her - cleansing her by the washing with water thru the word**

**\*Humbly honors her - 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church…**

**\*Takes care of her - 28 …love their wives as their own bodies…**

**\*Serves her - 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church…**

**Women, would that offend you to see that man lead your home?**

**Men you are called to be a humble, patient servant leader. Be a man of God, stand up, lead strong, learn to use the sword, be a man of prayer, integrity, purity, serve her, lay down your life for her. Do what is in you, God put it there. Lead and watch her follow you anywhere.**

**These are Marriage job descriptions - Wife – Your Role**

* **Women help your husband to lead**

**Eph 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit (military term – means to fall in line - to follow their lead)**

**Let me clarify - Women are dynamic leaders!! In business, science, education, medicine, justice, social work, politics, ministry - AND in the home. Sometimes even better than men. But in marriage you are called to help him to take the lead. Behind every great man, is a dynamic woman.**

**Gen 2 – God created Eve because Adam needed help – so God gave him a wife.**

**Wife let him lead – and help him lead - This honors the Lord.**

**Like friends on our ministry teams. Diff roles at diff times. I think of my mother and in-laws. I respect their role in my life and they respect and submit to my role in their life. They are able to do this by their maturity.**

**\*\* Similarly, in the home equal respect with diff roles**

**My wife is a dynamic leader in our home – a counselor, teacher, helper corrector, decision maker… and she lets me lead.**

**You’re in a three-legged race and some of you refuse to hear the voice of your partner – we must start w mutual submission and an acceptance of our different and unique roles.**

* **Women you are to help him like Jesus - with encouragement, respect, and submission**

**Ephesians 5:25-33 defines what this means**

**Wives this is your calling – single men look for women like this**

**\*Encourages – build up, lift up, words are powerful to us – you got this!**

**\*Respects – this is every man’s spirit fuel – to be honored and trusted**

**\*Submission - Follow his leadership, let him lead, don’t take it from him**

**This does not mean you don’t disagree or talk out differences. But when all is said and done… let him lead.**

**Jesus modeled this - Just as Christ is equal to the father in every way as God fully – He willingly submits in his role to the Father. (Phil 2:5-9, 1 Cor 15:28, John 6:38, Hebrews 5:8) Becoming a servant of all. Humility.**

**Men lead like Jesus / women submit like Jesus = the result is we both are humbly serving each other**

**Biblical leadership & mutual submission- Is not about me it’s about we**

**The relationship between husband and wife should be so bathed in humility and submission that his authority becomes almost invisible, and the submission of the wife is seamlessly acting in the spirit of gracious love.**

**When we walk outside of these roles in our home – resentment follows**

**Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise… 17 ...do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.**

**Wedding - pastor mistyped one simple word – one letter was misplaced. “and the two will be untied...” Instead of united it was untied - same letters with one out of place – The “I” - When the I is in the right place we are united, when the I is in the wrong place we are untied.**

* **Are you single? You do not need to submit to your boyfriend or other men – however you want to look for a man that is taking the *servant lead*. If he struggles with humbly leading – help him learn.**

**Young Adults - Focus on being - rather than finding - Do this... Make a detailed list of what you’re looking for (looks, personality, etc) Now take this list and ask yourself - Why in the world would this person marry you? Are you becoming the person they want to marry?**

**Young man proposing to girlfriend. Had ring in hand, “Sweetheart, I love you so much... I don’t have a car like John Mason, yacht like JM, or a house as big as his. I don’t have the money of JM, but I love you with all my heart, will you marry me.” She looked into his eyes and said, “I love you too… but... could you tell me more about this John Mason? – JK**

**Want to know how to find the right person – the #2**

**Run towards your one (Jesus) with all your heart - then look to the side, if there is anybody cute of the opposite sex running to God at the same speed - if you like them & they’re fun - grab their hand and run together!**

**Psalm 34:3 Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.**

* **Struggling marriage? What do you do if your marriage is hurting?**

**If they are willing - take their hand – kneel before God – and pray**

**Psalm 34:3 - Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.**

**Pray that you will be as one, to serve the one, who gave His life for you together to be one. God is for you. Start over if needed.**

**Paul brings it home with this - Eph 5:33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

**These are unconditional commands**

* **Husband love your life – no matter what = it will lead to respect**
* **Wife respect your husband – no matter what = it will lead to love**

**Marriage assignment: Love & respect series on Rightnow med.**

**The challenge: Find God and find the sweet spot of God’s anointing in the roles he designed**

**Prayer – \*\*\*Invite cards – at the door on**