

Friendship In Marriage

Sermon Series: No Greater Love

John 15:11-17 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

- Can it be like this? Can marriage be joyful – full of joy?
- What does it look like to be a friend, to lay down your life for your friend, in marriage?

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- Before the fall.
- Fight FOR the marriage not with each other. Get mad at the enemy.
- Friends learn what their friend need and then take care of it.
- “Us” more than “me.”

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- In humility, your spouse is more important.
- Be the biggest fan of your spouse. Don't put your spouse down to others.

Ephesians 5:22-33 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so 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. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Men: Need respect, honor.

- Submit: place yourself under and lift up your husband.
- Elevate and empower.

Women: Need love, pursued, cherished.

- Keep pursuing your wife.
- Love your wife as you love yourself.
- Cherish (highly value) your wife.

Together

- Evaluate the “state of the union.”
- Make a plan of action.
- Meet each other's needs.
- Forsake all others. Affairs don't just “happen.” Make your marriage affair proof.