



Walking in the Gift of Marriage

INTRODUCTION: There are many trials that we go through in life which test our faith and challenge us in many ways. One such way that many are struggling today is in their marriage. Satan has issued an all-out attack on Christian marriages. In the message, Sunday, we were encouraged to get back to God's plan for the home and to recognize that marriage is a gift from God.

READ: 1 Peter 3:1-7

DISCUSSION:

1. Share with the group a time when you received a gift that someone made and designed personally just for you and answer the following questions:
 - What was the gift?
 - Who made it for you?
 - What do you remember most about the gift?
 - What did their efforts show you?
2. In a similar manner, God gives us marriage as a gift. Why is it important that we view marriage in this way? How does the world contradict this view? What steps can we take to make sure that we protect this view?
3. In your own words, what does it mean to be submissive?
 - Why is it important for the wife to be submissive to her husband?
 - Why is it important for the husband to be submissive to Christ?
 - Who is the greatest example for what submission is to look like?
4. What are some ways that a wife can demonstrate chaste and respectful behavior?
5. What attributes does that world suggest are most important for a woman to obtain?
 - According to 1 Peter 3:3-4, what does God say is important?
 - How does this spirit differ from the woman described in Proverbs 21:9, 19; 27:15?
6. Husbands are commanded to live with their wives in an understanding way.
 - How are the messages and pressures of the world hindering men from obeying this?
 - Read Ecclesiastes 9:9. How does God describe the marriage relationship?
 - What are some ways that a husband can seek to better understand his wife?
7. Pastor Matthew used an expensive glass to illustrate what it means to be a "weaker vessel". What does the illustration teach us about how a husband is to treat his wife?
8. What are some ways that a husband should strive to show honor to his wife? What reason does Peter give for making this a priority?
9. Clearly, if we don't live in a harmonious way in our marriage it will hinder our prayers.
 - Why does this specific earthly relationship have such a dramatic impact on our relationship with the Lord?
 - In what ways can we allow our marriage to hinder our relationship with the Lord?
 - In what ways can our marriage help us in our relationship with the Lord?
10. Read Colossians 3:12-15. What impact would it make if we applied these verses to our marriage? Is there any one of these actions that God is calling you to do today?

TAKE IT WITH YOU: Surrendering to the Lord and honoring Him, will lead you to honor each other.

READING LIST: Monday: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 / **Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 / **Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 7:8-16 / **Thursday:** Matthew 19:1-9 / **Friday:** Ephesians 5:21-33 / **Saturday:** Colossians 3:12-19 / **Sunday:** Ephesians 6:10-18