

# Discipleship Groups

Reaching · Growing · Sending

Week of April 10, 2016

A Christ-Centered Home: Marriage –  
Part 1

Texts:  
Gen 3:1-19, Eph 5:21-33

## Heartbeat

This week we are continuing in our series entitled “The Christ-Centered Family.” Pastor Daniel’s emphasis this week is the reality that you cannot have a Christ-centered marriage without Christ-centered individuals. The very dynamics that produce a thriving marriage flow from a life led by the Spirit rather than a life dictated by the flesh or the natural man. We can only give what we have and if we have not received grace, sacrificial love, and God’s priorities in our own hearts, then we cannot give those things to our spouse. The first step to a marriage aligned with the Lord’s will is a self-check to see if our own hearts are aligned with his.

## Get to Know Me [5-10 Minutes]

- If married, share how you and your spouse met in one minute or less. [Adjust the time based on the number of people in your group.]
- If single, do you desire to get married someday? Why or why not?

## Mid-Cities DNA [10 Minutes]

- If you heard this week’s sermon, what points did Pastor Daniel make about marriage that you feel every individual, married or single, should take to heart?
- Who are you targeting in your prayers for spiritual growth or salvation right now?

## Exploration [20-30 Minutes]

**Read Genesis 3:1-19.** In this text we see not only the sin of Adam and Eve, but also the resulting curses from the sin that would affect not only the human race but also the marriage relationship.

- Where did Adam and Eve fail in their relationship with God and one another in this section of scripture?
- What curses were incurred as a result of sin, and how do you see those playing out in marriages today?
- What do you think God meant when he said to Eve, “Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you?” **[Note:** Many scholars point out that the word *desire* here is the same word translated as *desires* in Genesis 4:7 concerning Cain. It implies a desire to control or dominate.]
- What kind of challenges could arise in a marriage where the wife tries to control or dominate the husband? The husband controlling the wife? [Married couples, remember you are riding home together tonight. Be careful. :)]

- God then says that the husband will rule over the wife. Is there a difference between *leading* and *ruling*? How might those two dynamics differ in a marriage?

### Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

- How does the marriage Paul describes in this text compare to the “cursed” marriage of Genesis 3?
- How can any person overcome his/her fallen nature so that he/she is willing to submit to someone else and offer up sacrificial love on a consistent basis? How does Galatians 6:7-9 relate to this question?
- **Personal Question for Reflection:** If you were to score your marriage based on the *works of the flesh* and the *fruit of the Spirit* listed in Galatians 5:19-23, where would you land? [Give yourself an A, B, C, D, or F for each work or fruit.]

## Application [20-30 Minutes]

Discuss the following questions as time allows or design your own questions about a Christ-centered marriage.

- Whether single or married, how are you doing personally on the grid of the *works of the flesh* and the *fruit of the Spirit* (Gal.5:19-23)? What areas are you succeeding in and which areas are you struggling with?
- If married, how does your personal relationship with Christ affect your ability to be a loving and effective spouse?
- What one change could you make to improve your marriage or relationships?

### Read Ephesians 5:33

- Men, how are you doing in loving your wives? Wives, how are you doing respecting your husbands? [Go home tonight and ask your spouse how he or she thinks you are doing.]
- What is one primary way you try to show love or respect to your spouse?
- If we struggle with our marriage or other relationships, what are some practical steps to grow in our ability to love others as Jesus loved us?

## Ministry Time [10 Minutes]

Here are a few ideas on how to close the night out in ministry and prayer. Adjust as time allows.

- Break up into groups of men and women or into groups of three if you are a men’s or women’s group.
- Let each person share one thing that he/she would like to do better in his/her marriage or family relationships or one thing that needs to be dealt with if a person is moving toward marriage. Let the other two pray for that issue. **This prayer is not for Jesus to change someone else, but for Him to change something in us.**
- Share one fruit of the Spirit that you really need to grow in and let one or two in the group pray for that quality to increase in your life.