

The Passage

Ephesians 5:25-33, ESV

Gospel vs. Good Works Marriage

- ✓ The Gospel Marriage = love and respect is given unconditionally
- ✓ The Good Works Marriage = love and respect are earned and, therefore, conditional.

3 Commitments of a Gospel Marriage

1. Commit to giving unconditional love and respect.

Ephesians 5:33, Colossians 3:19, Ephesians 6:1, Ephesians 5:26, I Peter 3:1-2, I Corinthians 13:4-8

- ✓ Reveals one another's weakness
- ✓ Reveals one another's needs
- ✓ Reveals the power to bring about change

2. Commit to resolving the conflict.

Ephesians 4:26-27, Ephesians 4:31-32, Acts 3:19, James 5:16, Ephesians 4:32, Ephesians 5:1

Repentance + Forgiveness = Reconciliation

- ✓ The wife can say... "*that came across as unloving to me, is there anything I've done that's disrespectful?*"
- ✓ The husband can say.... "*that came across as disrespectful to me, is there anything I've done that's made you feel unloved?*"

3. Commit to pursuing oneness in the marriage.

Ephesians 5:31, Genesis 2:25, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:6-9, Ephesians 5:25-26, I Corinthians 7:5

- ✓ Emotional connections
- ✓ Physical connections
- ✓ Spiritual connections

THE COUPLES CHALLENGE
START A WEEKLY **DATE NIGHT** ROUTINE

Communion

If you've placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, we invite you to partake in Communion wherever you happen to be worshipping. Here are some steps that we encourage you to follow:

1. Prepare a small piece of bread (cracker or similar) and a small cup of grape juice (or something similar) that can serve as the elements of Communion.
2. Take a few moments and read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.
3. Spend a few moments in prayer (silently or aloud) confessing your sins to him and thanking Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life he offers you today.
4. Partake in the elements of Communion as you are ready.

Talk It Over

Ice Breaker - Have someone share about their honeymoon. For a little fun and real-life humor... ask what went good, what went bad? - encourage the couple not to throw the other under the bus, but to have some light-hearted fun.

1. Ask for a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:25-33.
2. What stands out to you about the passage.
3. Why do you think God's word challenges the husband to love and the wife to respect. What's this look in your marriage?
4. What stood out to you about the message the most and why?
5. What's one thing you feel like is important for you to put it into action.