



## Rethink Marriage

**John 2:1-11 (NIV)** *On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."<sup>4</sup> "Woman [why do you involve me?]" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,<sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside<sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." "What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*

**"How beautiful, then, the marriage of two Christians, two who are one in home, one in desire, one in the way of life they follow, one in the religion they practice . . . Nothing divides them either in flesh or in spirit . . . They pray together, they worship together, they fast together, instructing one another, encouraging one another, strengthening one another. Side by side they visit God's church and partake God's banquet, side by side they face difficulties and persecution, share their consolations. They have no secrets from one another; they never shun each other's company; they never bring sorrow to each other's hearts . . . Seeing this Christ rejoices. To such as these He gives His peace. Where there are two together, there also He is present."** - Tertullian

**Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)** *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.<sup>21</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her<sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,<sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—<sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body.<sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.<sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

**We are not talking about SELF-CENTERED leadership, but SERVANT leadership.**

- TOGETHERNESS
- COMPLEMENTARY
- GOD-CENTERED

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)** *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.<sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

- UNCONDITIONAL

### Additional Notes...

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### scriptures that relate

Monday: Ephesians 5:21-24      Wednesday: Ephesians 5:25-33      Friday: Luke 2:10  
 Tuesday: Ephesians 5:25-27      Thursday: 1 Corinthians 11:3-10      Saturday: John 3:16

### small groups—talk it over

1. What motivations do we see in the world, other than sacrifice, that impact the relationships in marriage?
2. How does Paul compare the relationship of the husband and wife to that of Christ and the church?
3. How can we demonstrate servant-leadership in our homes?
4. What are some ways that a man can honor his wife? What ways does this affect the man?

### pastor mark's prayer requests

**Monday:** Pray for those co-workers who are unchurched.

**Tuesday:** Pray for Christians in other denominations. We're on the same side!

**Wednesday:** Pray for the students of Rocky Mountain Elementary.

**Thursday:** Pray for those guests who have found us for the first time.

**Friday:** Pray that you experience true Sabbath.

**Saturday:** Pray for the leadership of The Crossing Church.