



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Principles in Marriage

Song of Solomon 3:6-11; Ephesians 5:22-31

February 12, 2017 • Jesse Smith

**We continue our series, “Biblical Romance” based on the Song of Solomon. This week we focus on God’s design for a Christ-centered marriage.**

1. Marriage should reflect the love between Christ and the Church. Have you known a couple that has modeled the attributes of sacrifice, humility and selfless love? Describe their relationship.

#### **Read Ephesians 5:22-24**

2. In our society, the word submission often has a negative connotation. How does our society misunderstand or even distort the concept of submission?
3. Jesse noted that godly submission nurtures a beautiful and healthy sense of self-worth. What is God’s intention in calling the wife to submit to her husband? In a healthy, God-honoring relationship what does submission look like? What are some examples of unhealthy submission?

#### **Read Ephesians 5:25-31**

4. Husbands are to honor and love their wives as Christ loved the Church. What does that mean practically? What impact does this kind of love have on a wife?

#### **Break up into gender specific groups for the remainder of the discussion.**

5. **Men:** The role of the husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, fully sacrificing himself for her. For those in your group that are husbands, what steps can you take to be a more sacrificial servant-leader in your marriage? For guys who are not now but may someday be married, how can you prepare now to be the kind of husband that is prescribed in scripture?

**Women:** Wives honor and glorify God by submitting to their husbands as to the Lord. For those in the group that are wives, what steps can you take to submit to your husband in a healthy, God-honoring way? For women who are not now but may someday be married, how can you prepare now to be the kind of wife that is prescribed in scripture?

6. What is one area in your life that would make you a better spouse? Take time to pray for the marriages represented in your group as well as for all the marriages in our church family.



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**MESSAGE NOTES**

**WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?**

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord: What does this really mean?

Husbands love your wives with a:

1. Sacrificial love (v25)
2. Purifying love (vv26-27)
3. Caring love (vv28-30)
4. Unbreakable love (v31)

**WHAT IS GOD ASKING ME TO DO?**

**For Further Study:** Watch “The Song” by Kyle Idelman, an award winning film on the Song of Solomon available in the River City Christian library on RightNow Media. For a free membership go to [rivercitychristian.org](http://rivercitychristian.org) and click on the resources tab.

**For Next Week:** Read Ephesians 5:22-32