

***D GROUP – Discipleship: relationships for the purpose of becoming like Christ**

OUTLINE

Titus 2 for Women: How to Like Your Spouse part 1

THE ROLE OF WOMEN - OPENING DISCUSSION:

- #1 How is “love” defined in a marriage by our culture, and how is it different from what God says in His Word?
- #2 What effect does our culture have on love in a marriage both positively and negatively?
- #3 How does a marriage grounded in biblical love affect the family? The church? The lost?

The **ROLE OF WOMEN**, focusing on *How to Like Your Spouse* **The CONTEXT of Titus 2... The Curriculum for older women to train the younger** 4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husband, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

The most crucial **TRUTH**: 1 Corinthians 11:3 *I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. Functioning in our roles is the only way men and women can glorify the Trinity.*

DO I REALLY NEED TO “LIKE” MY SPOUSE? Liking your spouse and remaining likable to your spouse is not as easy as it sounds. How do we go from pampering our Newlywed spouse to begrudgingly doing “our half” of the household chores? Why is it we can initially develop a strong love relationship, then, over time, even stop liking our spouse?

What are the things that erode our enjoyment of the person we have committed our life to? As you look ahead to marriage, evaluate your marriage now, or reflect on a broken relationship, what things decay the bonds of friendship? Statistics indicate that **certain choices tend to deteriorate the bond between husband and wife.**

What are the **MARRIAGE ERODERS?**

- 1) Over commitment and physical exhaustion;
- 2) Excessive debt or conflict over how money is spent;
- 3) selfishness (are you a giver or a taker?);
- 4) interference from in-laws (are you fully emancipated from your parents?);
- 5) entering into marriage with unrealistic expectations;
- 6) addictions (alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling...);
- 7) sexual frustration or loneliness; and
- 8) either business failure or business success. These are just a few of the most common “marriage strainers or marriage killers”. **Which one are YOU [not our spouse] most prone to?**

HOW DO YOU DEVELOP A SOLID MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME? How do you beat the odds? Remember, lasting marriages are those in which the partners have learned how to live with the unique kind of love that Paul describes for Titus. **This kind of love is crucial for all Christian women to develop for their husbands.** The Book of Titus is about genuinely living what you believe so that others will be attracted to what you believe. The first instructions God gives to younger women is to “love their husbands”, which comes from the Greek word **philandros**. “Philandros” is used only in Titus 2, and not anywhere else in the Bible – it had a special meaning in Greek culture, one of the highest compliments a man could give his wife. It is the love of friendship, the loving that is liking, the love of relationship. **If the Church is to be an effective witness to the lost, it needs to be filled with women who “love their husbands”.** But how is this possible, given all of the obstacles? How does a single woman pursue being the kind of woman that will love her future husband? How does a young man know what kind of woman he should choose to marry? How can older, single, widowed or divorced women develop this godly quality without a husband? How do fathers encourage their daughters, wives, sisters and mothers to become a likable person and a spouse who will love biblically? **Regardless of your age or marital status, if you have a teachable heart, you will hear God speak to you as you look deeply at Titus 2 and the LOVE THAT LIKES.**

FOUR KEYS TO LIKING YOUR SPOUSE AND BECOMING A LIKABLE PERSON:

KEY #1 FOR TODAY

#1 – UNDERSTAND GOD’S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE - Let’s get RADICAL!! Let’s examine God’s purpose for marriage “from the beginning”, in Genesis 1, where God reveals the blueprint that exposes His meaning in Titus 2:4 for women to “love their husbands”.

1st – God made male and female uniquely different. God made man and woman for His own good purposes. In a loving, amazing, creative act, the almighty God conceived the mysteries of male and female, masculinity and femininity, to bring joy to our lives. The person who refuses to rejoice in the basic differences between male and female will never taste the divine goodness God planned for marriage.

2nd – Marriage was designed by God to meet the first problem of the human race: loneliness. Our loving Creator provided the perfect solution for the loneliness of the first Man, Adam – a woman. She was totally suitable for the man, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically. Marriage always begins with a need that has been there since the dawn of time, a need for companionship and completion, a need that God understands.

3rd – Marriage was planned to bring happiness not misery. The World's first love song – *"This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man"* (Genesis 2:23). This phrase became a favorite Old Testament saying to describe an intimate, personal relationship. Marriage was designed by God for our joy.

4th – Marriage must begin with leaving other relationships in order to establish a new permanent relationship between one man and one woman. *"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother"* (Genesis 2:24a). Marriage begins with leaving – leaving all other relationships. Marriage requires you to leave mom and dad, and certainly requires that all lesser ties be broken, changed or left behind. Practically speaking, "leaving" means that all activities are secondary to cultivating a true love relationship – the husband/wife relationship must be priority over work, hobbies, ministries, housework, TV, friends, family...

5th – Marriage requires an inseparable joining of a husband and wife throughout their lifetime. *"and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh"* (Genesis 2:24b). "Cleave" means an unswerving loyalty, a gluing, a continual love that will not let go no matter what. Practically speaking, a wife and husband commit to never say or do anything that would drive a wedge between them.

6th – Marriage means oneness in the fullest possible sense, including intimate physical union without shame. *"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed"* (Genesis 2:25). In the divine pattern of marriage, sexual intercourse between husband and wife includes both intimate physical knowledge and a tender, intimate, personal knowledge of each other. ***So leaving, cleaving and knowing each other results in a new identify in which two individuals merge into one – one in mind, heart, body and spirit.*** This is why divorce is so devastating. In the early Church, God exhorted women to love their husbands in part due to the cultural tradition of arranged marriages. Today, with promiscuity, feminism, machismo, spousal abuse and a high divorce rate, we are as much or more in need for this exhortation for wives to love their husbands.

Questions for D group : take notes and fill in the rest, bring this back next week

#1 Which one of the marriage ERODERS listed above is your greatest struggle? Which ERODER is not a weakness in your marriage?

#2 Which one of the purposes of marriage listed above is your weakness [not your spouses – but your weakness]?

#3 Without addressing physical differences, discuss how are you and your husband are different and why those differences are such a wonderful blessing?

#4 What will you do in coming weeks, to learn to LIKE your spouse even more?