

EQUATIONS

LIFEgroups

June 10, 2012

Maximized Marriage

Colossians 3:18, 19

Context

Colossians gives us a concise, but comprehensive view of who Jesus is. And with this, an understanding of how the truth of who He is can profoundly impact our personal lives. This New Testament book shows us that he's the supreme factor in every equation of life.

It's always helpful to read an entire book of scripture before digging into each chapter and verse. If you haven't yet, it would be good to read all of Colossians before beginning this week's study.

The equation for this week's study relates specifically to marriage and the two imperatives Paul gives us in chapter three, verses 18 and 19. Ephesians 5:22-33 is a good parallel passage to read.

Questions for Study

1. If you're part of a married couples LIFEgroup, spend time sharing how you met. If you remember, share with the group what your first impression was of your husband/your wife. How long did you know each other before you got married?
2. What was the first unexpected thing you learned about each other after you got married?
3. The most recent statistics indicate that marriages of believers are falling apart at about the same rate as marriages between unbelievers. Why do you think this is true?
4. The biblical roles of husbands and wives teach us about Jesus Christ himself. How do you think your parent's marriage may have influenced your view of God?
5. In verse 18 wives are told to submit to their husbands. How would you say this is lived out in your marriage? In what ways is this done? If you're part of a married couples LIFEgroup, share an example of how you've done this in 2012. How is this a part of your daily life?
6. How does what Paul wrote in Ephesians 5 add insight to what it means to submit to your husbands?
7. Where would you say you find this most challenging? How are you dealing with this challenge?
8. In verse 19 husbands are told to love their wives and not be harsh with them. How does what Paul wrote in Ephesians 5 add insight to what it means to love our wives? How would you say you are living this out in your marriage? If you're part of a married couples LIFEgroup, share several examples of how this is part of your daily life.
9. How do the first seventeen verses of chapter three speak into how we fulfill our roles as husbands and wives?
10. What truth about Jesus Christ in Colossians gives us the confidence that we can live out what we're told to do in these two verses in chapter three (verses 18 and 19)?