

Date.

**week 2**

Preacher.

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Series.

# Relationship: *Marriage*

This week Pastor Bernard introduced us to Robert Sternberg's theory of Love, which includes, Passion, Intimacy, and Commitment. Passion is the biological/physical side of Love, and Intimacy is the deep friendship and emotional connection, where we truly are vulnerable and deeply united with another person. And Commitment is the safe guard and the glue that hold the relationship together through the different feelings, seasons, and trials of any relationship.

And in this talk we focused primarily on "Intimacy" the deepening friendship, which can lead to a long term enriching and fulfilling relationship as God intended. We looked at some ways we can make the intentional effort, putting in the relational hard work of acknowledging AND appreciating our partner's differences. We talked about how men and women have very different needs and express and feel "emotional connectedness".

*The key to marriage is a mutual understanding of each other's needs, personalities and strengths and weaknesses.* We are to mutually accept each other, forgive, grow and serve one another from a place of reverence (devotion) to Christ.

## **Philippians 2: 3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

## **Ephesians 5: 21-25, 28-29**

<sup>21</sup> And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup> As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her…….<sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup> No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you from Sternberg's theory of love? (See diagram below)
2. What kind of "love" best describes your present relationship or a relationship that you had in the past and why?
3. What are some practical ways that you can build a deeper friendship with your partner?
4. Please read Philippians 2:4-5 above. What are some practical ways that you could look out for your partner's best interest and have the same attitude of Christ?
5. Reread Ephesians 5: 21. This is oftentimes a verse that gets overlooked. Why is mutual submission such an important aspect of marriage?
6. What are some practical ways we can (learn) to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ?
7. Spend some time praying for marriages (or future marriages) in your group.

