

The Vow

The Vow of Partnership (Wk.3)

LifeGroup Notes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

I promise our marriage will be about we and not about me.

Key Scriptures

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they become one flesh.
Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Ephesians 5:25 (MSG)

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.
Ephesians 5:22 (NIV)

Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ.
Ephesians 5:22 (MSG)

WE BECOME ONE THROUGH MUTUAL, SELF-SACRIFICING COOPERATION

Mistakes we make in our attempts to become ONE:

1. WE TRY TO BECOME ONE THROUGH ADDITION.

This often leads us to:

- Stop listening.
- Stop asking questions.
- Point fingers and keep score.

2. WE TRY TO BECOME ONE THROUGH SUBTRACTION.

This often leads us to:

- Stop engaging.
- Stop connecting.
- Become passive and resentful.

Start talking.

- What was the model of marriage you grew up with?
- If you have children, how might they answer that question about you and your spouse?
- What model of marriage does society suggest?

Start thinking.

- In Genesis 2:24 it says the two will become “one flesh”. How is that different than to say the two will become “the same flesh”?
- Why is “oneness” the goal of a healthy marriage?
- Which of the two mistakes is more common? Explain.

Start sharing.

- Which obstacle to “oneness” is more natural for you to gravitate toward?
- Describe a situation where you either tried to become one through addition or subtraction.
- Read Ephesians 5:21. Why does Paul make this statement before getting into specific expectations with wives and husbands?
- Read Ephesians 5:25. Men, how does that sit in you? Women, how would a man loving you like affect how you relate to him?
- Read Ephesians 5:22. Women, how do you respond to the word, “submit” in this passage? How does the Message paraphrase add a deeper layer of understanding to the verse?

Start doing.

- What is one obstacle to oneness you could work to remove this week?
- What does your spouse need your cooperation with this week?

Close in prayer.

Oneness is central to a healthy marriage. Therefore, Satan, culture, and our own brokenness will throw multiple challenges, temptations, and obstacles in the way. Attacks on marriage come in myriad ways. Stand together in prayer for the marriages in your group. Pray for forgiveness, wisdom, protection, and oneness.