

Man Vs. Wife #1: "What Are We Fighting For?"

Getting Started

- 1) When you are lost, which of the following are you most likely to do?
 - a) Stop and ask for directions
 - b) Check a map
 - c) Drive around until you find the place you're looking for
 - d) Not admit to anyone that you're lost

- 2) What first attracted you to your spouse?

- 3) What was one thing that you most identified with or didn't identify with from the weekend message?

- 4) Ephesians 5:21-31 has classically been used as the model for Christian marriage. It is often recited at weddings. Sadly, early church members abused the passages on submission, selfishly omitting the concept of mutual submission (*allelous*), usually for the benefit of men. This led to abuse and oppression of women. Within the fellowship of the church, this submission (v.21) to others is reciprocal ("to one another," *allelous*). No one is to coerce another, for all voluntarily accept the discipline (submit = *hypotasso*, a voluntary submission). Hence, any delusions of superiority are banished and no one thinks of himself more highly than he should.
 - a) As you re-read Ephesians 5:21, in what ways have the fights IN your marriage been over the issue of submitting (either to one's values, to one's will, to one's desire, etc)?

 - b) Are you more focused on your responsibility to submit to one another, or on your "right" to be submitted to in your marriage, pre-marriage, or casual relationships (your part vs. their part)?

Digging Deeper

- 5) The message of the cross can be seen as one of submission. Jesus, in the garden, stated that he could command legions of angels to protect him from what was about to happen next, yet he submitted to fulfill the Scriptures. What would have been the outcome had Jesus NOT submitted to the Father's will?

- 6) In the same way, how is *not* submitting to one another in your relationships or marriage working for you? Is it bringing you closer together?

- 7) Four Reasons Marriages are Failing
 - Refusing to ask for help
 - Refusing to admit your part of the problem
 - Refusing to change
 - Refusing to learn
 - a) Which of these four do you struggle with most?

 - b) Are you willing to ask your home group or close friend to hold you accountable to dealing with the issue by asking you hard questions?

Man Vs. Wife is a marriage series. Many of the questions from this study are written from a married couples-perspective. We understand this may give our studies a strong bias away from those not in a married relationship. We encourage you to apply the questions to the life stage you are in, whether you are single, pre-marital, divorced, or widowed. The principles taught during Man Vs. Wife and the accompanying questions can be applied to nearly all relationships.