

# MAN VS. WIFE

## Man Vs. Wife #5: "Come out Fighting"

### Getting Started

- 1) Have you ever traveled to a foreign country where you couldn't understand the language? Or, have you ever worked with someone whose native language wasn't yours? How did you communicate with that person, or in that country?
- 2) When you and your spouse first dated (or you're dating right now), what were or are some of the things you talked about? How would you describe being the listener in the conversation?
- 3) What are three happy memories from the days when you and your spouse first fell in love?

### Getting in the Word

This week we highlight two passages of Scripture. One is from the New Testament, summarizing Paul's address to the couple relationship, *Ephesians 5:33*. The second passage is from the Old Testament, describing the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden, *Genesis 3:16-17*.

#### Commentary on Ephesians 5:33

"The final word in this section is a practical one. Whether or not Paul's readers have fully understood his allusions to the "profound mystery" (v.32), they should at least get hold of the essential instructions he has been endeavoring to convey.

The wife for her part is to give her husband the respect (*phobetai*) that is due him in the Lord (v.22). As v.21 has made plain, such respect is conditioned by and expressive of reverence (*phobos*) for Christ. It also assumes that the husband will so love his wife as to be worthy of such deference.

#### Commentary on Genesis 3:16-17

"The judgment against the woman relates first to her sons and then to her husband. She would now bear sons (children) in increased pain or toil ("issebnek). Her "desire" (teshuqath ek) will be for her husband, and he will "rule over" her. The sense of this judgment within the larger context of the book lies in the role of the woman that is portrayed in chapters 1 and 2. The woman and her husband were to have enjoyed the blessing of children (1:28) and the harmonious partnership of marriage (2:18, 21-25). The judgment relates precisely to these two points. What the woman once was to do as a

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blessing—be a marriage partner and have children—had become tainted by the curse. In those moments of life's greatest blessing—marriage and children—the woman would sense most clearly the painful consequences of her rebellion from God.

Just as v.18 was intended to show the reversal of the state of the "land" before and after the Fall, so v.19 intends to show the same for the condition of man himself. Before the Fall man was taken from the ground and given the "breath of life" (2:7). As a result of the Fall, however, man must return to the ground and the dust from which he was taken (3:19). The author's point in showing such a reversal was to stress that the verdict of death, warned of before the Fall (2:17), had come about."

- 4) What are some of the consequences God has outlined you have seen specifically as it relates to marriage?
- 5) Why are we commanded to love and to respect our spouses (compare our pre-Fall and post-Fall conditions)?

### Digging Deeper

- 6) Talk about a time in your marriage when you felt completely crushed or deflated. What was the circumstance? How did you react? How did you resolve the issue?
- 7) In your marriage, how have you been tempted to forsake your commitment to love your spouse?
- 8) How far are you willing to go to understand your spouses deepest needs? What are you willing to put aside that you can spend the time and energy on your marriage?
- 9) Discuss amongst your group – wives what do you need specifically to feel loved by your husband? Husbands, what do you need specifically to feel respected by your wife?