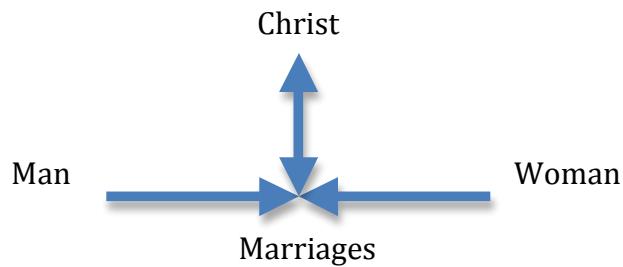


*Ephesians 5:31-32
Where Marriages Meet
For this reason a man shall leave his
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Ephesians 5:31-32 Where Marriages Meet

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Video

Review of weeks 1 and 2

Our Key Marriage Conference verse: 'Where Marriages Meet' is: **Ephesians 5:31-32** 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Remember the Three slow killing poisons in our Marriages, to Christ and to our Spouse

#1-Self Centeredness, whether towards Christ or our spouse

#2-Not serving our marriage partner, whether Christ or our Spouse

#3-Doing Marriage like the World, and we covered briefly how....

Christians often forgive **as** the world forgives, not **as** God in Christ forgives

Christians often live an unsanctified lifestyle and destroy their marriages **as** the world does

Christians often define love **as** the world does: primarily as a feeling and for self fulfillment

And tonight:

Christians often view communications and intimacy that is fulfilling **as** the world does: as a means to personal, self-satisfaction

A couple of keys from week one: **Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified life**

Do we understand *The Seven Pillars of Grace*? If we do we will be able to apply our key verse for week one: Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even **as** God in Christ forgave you.

Do we understand the difference between forgiving and comforting yet allowing time, testings with observation to prove and establish or reestablish trust and faithfulness?

A couple of keys from week two: **Loving as a Bondservant**:

Do we understand that Jesus came in the form of a Bondservant? It was the best position to take as a human who is also God to carry out the Father's plan of redemption for us and to love us?

Do we understand that we are to take on His mindset, be a bondservant who loves much, because we are forgiven much.

Remember the key characteristics of a Bondservant:

1-Little blessings are big to a bondservant, who knows there is nothing that they have that was not given to them.

2-'I deserve' is only said by a bondservant in regards to hell!

3-Heavenly minded bondservants are consistently earthly good

- 4-Bondservants are easy to please and their first desire is to be pleasing
- 5-Bondservants give and give and therefore they make the best spouses to Christ, servants to the church, the best friends, the best earthly marriage partners.
- 6-Bondservants are harder to offend, less sensitive to self, quick to forgive and the first to ask: 'is it I Lord, is it my fault?'
- 7-Bondservants mature quicker and exercise their senses instead of letting their senses exercise them.
- 8-Bondservants are most like Jesus, but they will say they are a long way from perfecting this list.
- 9-A bondservant has a balanced understanding of the fear of God: Equal parts terror of God mixed with the Love of God. Too much terror and we will not commune or approach God. Love without any terror and we will not submit to, respect or humble ourselves before Him.

Notes on Introduction:

Week Three Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling

Speaker regarding our Marriage to Christ is John Winder

Guest Speakers on our Marriage to our Spouse are Dave and Mindi Love

Our Marriages (Marriages: Marriage to Christ & our Marriage to our Spouse) grows with:
Understanding Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified life

Understanding Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified life in our Marriages leads to...

Loving as a Bondservant

Loving as a Bondslave in our Marriages leads to....

Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling

Key Verses: **Luke 10:39, 42 & 1Corinthians 7:5**

In Marriage to Christ: Luke 10:39, 42: 39 And she (*Martha*) had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.....42 But one thing is needed *Martha*, and Mary has chosen that good part (*we get 'merit' from this Greek word here translated 'part'*), which will not be taken away from her."

In Marriage to our Spouse: 1Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Hint: Apply this verse both to your intimacy with Christ and in its primary meaning with your spouse!

What does Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling look like in our Marriage with Christ?
What is our model for intimacy between ourselves and Christ?

- 1st The Father and the Son model the communications of the perfect incarnate Son on earth with His Father, while the Father was in Heaven.
 - A-Four times we are told that He went up into the mountains to pray. Once he took 3 of His disciples with Him while He talked with His Father
 - B-Also in **Luke 5:16** we read: So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
 - C-The Logistics of His communicating with the Father was exactly as it is for us:
 Jesus was on earth and the Father seated in Heaven.
 - D-Did Jesus Worship the Father? Yes. **John 4:22** You worship what you do not know; **we** know what **we** worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

-Also: **Hebrews 2:11-12:** 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He (*Jesus*) is not ashamed to call them *us* brethren, 12 saying: "I (*Jesus*) will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I (*Jesus*) will sing praise to You."

E-Remember Jesus, though equal with the Father, willingly put Himself under the Father as the God-man, in the form of a Bondservant (though without sin).

F-He is our Father due to our new birth from Heaven; due to the redemption He set in motion thru His Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

G-He is Jesus' Father by divine arrangement before He ever became a man: **Hebrews 1:5** For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You (referring to creation of His body)"?

H-Yet we see the eternal Son, who became 'The Man' leading the praise and worship of the Father as an example to us.

2nd We see examples of this communication and worship in the realm of a Loving Bondservant toward Christ: Mary at Jesus' feet **Luke 10:39-42:** 39 And she (*Martha*) had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Note: The signs of a lack of good communications and intimacy with Christ are worry and being troubled about many things.

3rd There is a passion, a moving of the human emotion when intimate with the Lord.

We cannot take as hyperbole **Romans 5:5:** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out, *overflowing* in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

4th How is our communication and intimacy with Christ manifested?

1-**He speaks** thru His Word, we learn His voice thru His Word. **We speak** in prayer and worship. Jesus quoted from the Old Testament 45 times from 24 different books.

A-However Jesus acquired the knowledge of God's Word or if it was just there because He is God, He knew the Word of God and it spoke to Him and He spoke it to others.

2-Worship: 1st used in the O.T. **Genesis 22:5** And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and **worship**, and we will come back to you."

A-Here the most widely used word for worship means to bow down, face to the ground. It is done willingly out of great respect, fear and love.

5th Which sinner/Bondslave who loves Jesus Christ is probably the greatest example of having Communications and Intimacy with Jesus Christ that was fulfilling?

A-That would be David. Learn communications and intimacy with Christ by reading his Psalms following David's heart for God. No wonder God says *only* of David: A man after my own heart!.....

B-....Acts 13:22: And when He had removed him (*Saul*), He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

C-David is the most mentioned O.T. name in the N.T. And generally in a very good light in the NT

The word for Worship in the NT is most typically: προσκυνέω (pros-ku-ne-o): To face and kiss (as in kiss the hand in respect and submission): to express in attitude or gesture one's complete dependence on or submission to a high authority figure, to (*fall down and*) worship, do obeisance to, prostrate oneself before, do reverence to, welcome respectfully.

A-We are given a vivid picture of this in: **Luke 7:38-39** and (*she, the forgiven sinner*) stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she (*having bowed down to his feet*) began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil.

This comes from a bondservant who because she was forgiven much, loves much!

Five tips for more intimacy with Christ:

- 1-A faith in Him that is pleasing and is driven by Love
- 2-Knowledge of the Word that leads to the knowledge of Him and conversation with Him
- 3-Humility, the humble in heart (The fruit of the Love of a Bondservant)
- 4-Prayer and worship corporately, individually
- 5-Obedience in thought, attitude, voice, and actions

What do these five have in common? When from the heart they are pleasing to the one we love!!

He starts by talking to us, reaching out to us, wooing us.

We respond!

Here is what our response to His love, His wooing us sounds like:

Listen to this great love song by Janny Grein (**let me read the words out loud before we listen to the song**)

All of My Heart

By Janny Grein

All of my life I searched for you
All of the ways that people do
Lookin' for love that would be true
Finally I found it all in you
All of the strength you've given me
Is all that I will ever need
And in the deepest part of me
Jesus you are the breath I breathe

All of my love I give to you
All of my life I pledge it too
All of my heart I give to you
All of my heart, I give to you

All of my doubts and fears are gone
All of my the darkest ones I know
Deeper in love with you I've grown
Jesus its you and you alone
All of my love I give to you

All of my life I pledge it too
All of my heart I give to you

Notes on Intimacy with Christ

What does Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling look like in our marriage with our spouse?
Dave and Mindi Love will apply these teachings to our Marriage to our spouse.

Discussion Topics particular to Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling in our Marriages:

- 1-Mary chose the better part, sitting at Jesus' feet. Communications and Intimacy with her Lord
- 2-Martha also loved him, but chose just one more chore, one more task. She ended up once more frustrated and mad.
- 3-God communicates thru His word and we learn thru His Word to distinguish His voice from all others.
- 4-Did you ever accuse God of not listening?
- 5-How is your Worship life? Is it passionate, are you moved by your worship?

Notes on Dave and Mindi's Discussion of Intimacy with our Spouse