

# I Do

Turning what **JESUS DID**  
into what **I DO** in marriage.

Week 4

## Roles in Marriage

**OUTLOOK CHURCH**

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Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

**TOPIC : Roles In Marriage**

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**TIME TO PONDER:**

Church when it comes to marriage - THE REALITY CAN BE THOUGH - People have all kinds of opinions and ideas on marriage and love. These are often FAR away from God's idea and design for marriage. Today we are

going to look into the roles God has set out for husbands and wives.

The point of marriage is to represent Jesus by modelling the Gospel, through our marriages, to a world that has a very warped idea of relationships and marriage . How well we step into our specific roles in marriage, as husband and wife, determines whether we help promote or hinder the gospel.

We find a beautiful model for marriage in the New Testament where marriage is compared to the relationship between Jesus and the Church.

In this relationship, Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church, the Bride. By looking at this model we find the fundamental ROLES to build our marriages on.

## *Ephesians 5:22-10*

*22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

*25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their*



*body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body.*

**Question 1: Comparing your marriage to the roles laid out above, how well are you representing Him in your marriage?**

### **TIME TO REFLECT:**

Firstly wives are told to submit. Sadly, people have often misinterpreted this concept. Causing many to get offended by the word submission, as it's been portrayed as giving up control and free will.

Biblically it means to voluntarily yield yourself to a God-ordained authority. For marriages, wives it means to yield to your husband. A husband is never told to force his wife into

submission. She yields willingly to his final say.

Submission never implies that one party is lesser than the other. A wife and a husband are equal partners in marriage with different functions to fulfil the purposes of God in their lives, as a couple and as individuals.

The ultimate example of submission is JESUS. While He is equal to God, Jesus submitted himself to God. The Father and the Son are equal in deity (status), but distinct in role: equal in dignity but different in duties.

Jesus voluntarily yielded His will to the will of His Father, but in doing so He did not become less than the Father (therefore the Father exalted Him to the highest place).

How are wives supposed to submit to their husbands?

- As to the Lord - Your submission, wives, is to Jesus and that leads to submitting to your husband, whether he is deserving of it or not.
- As the church submits to Christ - the church follows the lead of Jesus . We are to follow his example as the church! A wife's role is to submit and follow her husband's lead as he follows Christ.

**Question 2: Wives on a scale of 1 - 5 with 1 being never and 5 being always, how submitted are you?**

## TIME TO DISCUSS:

Now husbands as we read in the Ephesians passage your role is to love your wife as Christ loved the church. Christ's love for the church is unconditional, so should your love for your wives be. Even if they are being unlovable.

Christ gave himself for us while we were still sinners. He chose to love us unconditionally by laying down His life for us.

Husbands, when was the last time you sacrificed something for your wife? When did you give something up for her?



How can a husband show his wife unconditional love? By caring for her as he does his own body.

*1 Peter 3:7*

*7 In the same way, you husbands must give honour to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

Older versions say husbands are to cherish their wives. This means to put her needs first.

**Question 3: Husbands, if you had to consider Jesus' love for the church, how**

## **do you think your love for your wife compares?**

Fundamentally, a husband's ROLE is to sacrificially love his wife as Christ loves the church. A wife's ROLE is to respectfully submit to her husband as to the Lord.

### **ACTION STEP**

Practically how do we get better at fulfilling our marriage roles?

- Remind yourself that Marriage is God's idea!
- Marriage is a God given MISSION not just a perceived way to be happy!

- Stop basing your actions on your spouses. Do what you are called to do and trust God.
- Marriage is about giving, not getting.
- Love each other enough to do things God's way.
- Allow your spouse to do things for you.
- Make time to talk rather than finding time to talk - reality is we live busy lives!
- Pray for each other, contend! - Pray for God's will in each other's lives.

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