

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- When have you observed a wife that is completely loved by her husband? What were some of observations that caught your attention? How did that impact the wife's well-being?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:16-17 MSG. What do you think are the applicable directions that can be applied not only when you have an unbelieving spouse, but an uncooperative but not abusive believing spouse? How does 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 come into play? How far can God's grace take you when it is so difficult?
- Read Matthew Henry's quote: "The woman was made out of Adam's side. She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved." What do you see as important? What might you change? How does it impact your perspective of marriage?
- Read 1 Peter 3:7 MSG. What principles does Peter, who was married, share about being a good husband? How can you apply these regardless of your marital status? What is the warning?
- Look up and read the following passages: Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 24:26, Colossians 3:19, Philippians 2:3-4. What characteristics are seen in these verses that you would also say are vital to a good marriage?
- Read Prov. 5:18–21 MSG and in another translation. What are some of the takeaways from such a passage? What process does a husband need to begin to live that passage out? Verse 21 tells us God is watching. Is that a motivator? What can spouses do to make it easier to have a Prov. 5:18-21 marriage?

Next Steps: (For this question it might be good to have men and women split into two groups.) What are the take-aways from this message if you are not married? If married, which out of the "Love Your Wife" take-aways need your attention? If you are a husband, how could you, in a non-defensive way, discover which ones you may need to address? If you are a wife, how could you share a few of these that need some attention in your marriage? If that is not possible, how will you lean on God as you pray for your husband to become aware of them? Finally, evaluate your relationship giving yourself a percentage for specific relationships. What can you do to increase?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



The woman was made out of Adam's side. She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.
Matthew Henry

➡ Wives, invite your husband to lead.

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

²³The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. ²³A husband is the head of his wife, just as Christ is the head of the Church. Christ is the Savior of the church, which is his body. ²⁴So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. ²⁶Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her...

Ephesians 5:22–26 NIV, ERV, MSG, DFS

¹⁶You never know, wife: The way you handle this might bring your husband not only back to you but to God. You never know, husband: The way you handle this might bring your wife not only back to you but to God. ¹⁷And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life...

1 Corinthians 7:16–17 MSG

The typical man remains unmoved by power plays or criticism or by a wife who disrespects him. He's moved by a wife who lets him lead and then helps him get where God wants him to be.

Gary Thomas, Sacred Influence

➡ Husbands, lead your wife with applied love.

²⁵Husbands, 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

☑ Husbands, love your wives wholly.
(With everything you have)

³In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others more than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 ERV

⁷Husbands, you in turn must treat your wives with tenderness, viewing them as feminine partners who deserve to be honored, for they are co-heirs with you of the “divine grace of life,” so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7 TPT

To delegate is not to abdicate.

☑ Husbands, love your wives to holiness.
(Empower her to be fully God's)

²⁶Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her,

²⁷dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness.

Ephesians 5:26–27 MSG

☑ Husbands, love your wives to wholeness.
(Expect her needs)

²⁸And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already “one” in marriage.

²⁹No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church. Ephesians 5:28–29 MSG

Love Her

¹⁹Let every husband be filled with cherishing love for his wife and never be harsh, bitter, insensitive toward her. Colossians 3:19 NIV, ESR, ESV, DFS

→ Love Her Heart — Emotional Love

→ Love Her Mind — Intellectual Love

→ Love Her Body — Physical Love

→ Love Her Soul — Spiritual Love

→ Love Her Relationships — Relational Love

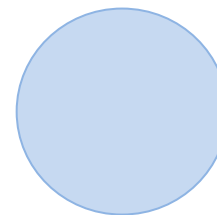
→ Love Her Humanity — Realistic Love

→ Love Her Calling — Supportive Love

→ Love Her Maker — Theological Love

Bottom Line:

When you get her or him,
you get all of her or him!



Back to Back ____%

Side by Side ____%

Face to Face ____%

Pastor Dave often uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the “Think It Over” section on the back.