

**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.

- What are some typical expectations going into a marriage or relationship that most have found to be unrealistic to meet? Have you had any of them? What happened?
- Talk about a time when you used one or more of the 4 Cs—convince, convict, control, coerce—to try to fulfill your expectations in a relationship.
- When you run into conflict in a relationship, is your tendency to win, compromise, stuff, or leave? How has that worked in the past?
- Read Ephesians 5:21-33 MSG. What stands out to you about this passage? What can we learn in this passage about mutual submission? How is Christ our greatest model of submission?
- Why do you think mutual submission is so difficult for most couples and relationships (church life)? Do you think marriages/relationships are about compromise? Why or why not?
- Review the Submission Competition section and discuss. How possible is it to really have the mind of Christ? What does a person need to do to hold on to it? How can a Community Group help?
- Read Ephesians 5:1–2. Does the idea of “giving yourself up” to another person - with the mindset of Christ - seem reasonable? Why or why not?

**Next Steps:** What does your spouse (or future spouse) or any relationship owe you? Nothing. Healthy relationships operate with the mind of Christ. We take our cue from Jesus' all-encompassing command: “As I have loved you, you are to love one another” (John 13:34). What will you specifically do to take on more of the mind of Christ?

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



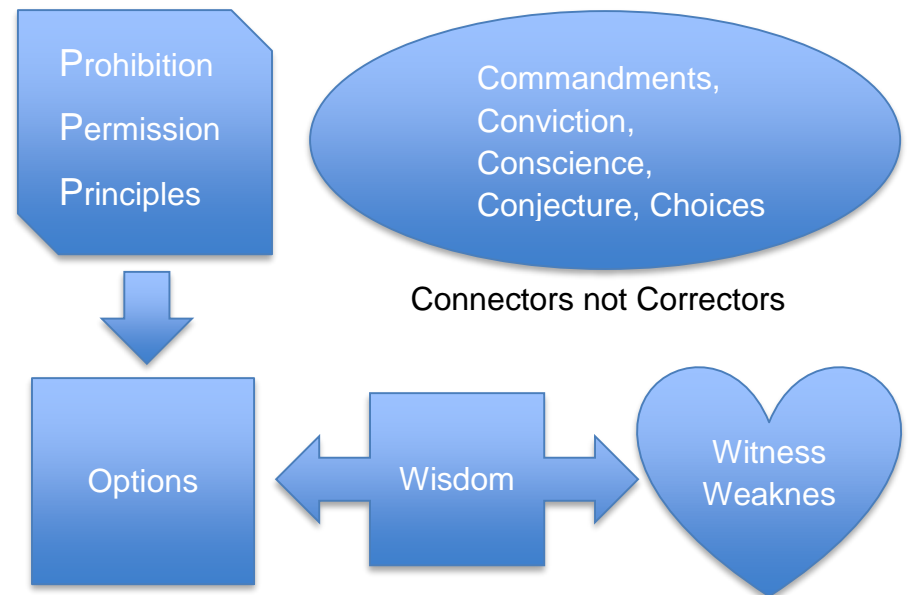
If you missed a message, visit [www.scc.website](http://www.scc.website) or request a CD at Guest Services.



## The Option Matrix

Review: 10/30/2022 - Can't Touch This - Part 6: Feeling Lucky at the 32-minute mark ([bit.ly/OptionMatrix](http://bit.ly/OptionMatrix))

➔ What are my options in the area of \_\_\_\_\_?



## Overall Bottom Line:

Go to the Bible and then go with the Bible.

Most issues in relationships and marriage occur when expectations aren't met.

*<sup>1</sup>Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. James 4:1 MSG*

➔ What most people do when there is an expectation gap:

➤ Win

- Convince
- Convict
- Control
- Coerce

➤ Compromise

➤ Stuff

➤ Leave

➔ What God says to do when there is an expectation gap:

*<sup>21</sup>Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another. <sup>22</sup>Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. <sup>23</sup>The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. <sup>24</sup>So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Ephesians 5:21–25 MSG*

## Submission Competition

*In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:28 NIV*

➤ Submit = I will put their needs/wants/expectations above my own.

*<sup>3</sup>Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. <sup>4</sup>Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. <sup>5</sup>Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. Philippians 2:3–5 MSG*

Without a Christ-like mindset, expectation will become a score-keeping game.

Without a Christ-like mindset, expectation keeps us from appreciation.

*Philippians 2:3–4 MSG*

➤ The most powerful principle in any marriage and friendship is mutual submission.

*Ephesians 5:21–25 MSG*

*<sup>26</sup>Christ'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 5:26 MSG*

Bottom Line:

Not sure of what to say or do?  
Love like God through Christ  
who loved you!

Andy Stanley

Resources for this message include a message by James Emery White at Mecklenburg Community Church, Northpoint Church, and Christ's Church of the Valley.

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