

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 this Matthew Henry 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?

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.



➤ Wives, _____ your _____ to _____. (Ephesians 5:22-26 MSG)

Could Paul's directions for unbelieving spouses be applied to a believing spouse? See Option Matrix

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

⁸... [The Lord] told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. ¹⁰Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, ...I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 MSG

*⁸Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning."
Matthew 19:8 NIV*

➤ Husbands, _____ your wife with _____ 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, _____ your wives _____.
(_____ -with _____ you have)

⁷Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground. 1 Peter 3:7 MSG

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5:25–33 ESV

Daily Strategic Renewal for 2023 (DFS)

I want to give her...

- my demonstrated devotion (be devoted to romance, companionship, and service)
- my affection (cherish anything that communicates to her my love and how much I value her)
- my protection (like me, she has fears and weaknesses)
- my openness (she is curious about my heart)
- leadership
- respect (reaffirm her value)
- my help for a demanding life
- appreciation
- fun
- pastoral guidance

Husbands, _____ your wives to _____.
(_____ her to be _____ 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, _____ your wives to _____.
(_____ her _____-see Psalm 23)

⁷... husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman...
1 Peter 3:7 ESV

³⁻⁴...I'm so grateful for our union ⁵and our enduring partnership that began the first time I presented to you the [Good News]. ⁶I pray with great faith for you, because I'm fully convinced that the One who began this glorious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you and will put his finishing touches to it until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ! Philippians 1:3–6 TPT

- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love
- Love Her _____ — _____ Love

William Boekestein

²¹...Enjoy the wife you married as a young man! ¹⁹Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose— don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted! ²⁰Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills...²¹Mark well that God doesn't miss a move you make...
Proverbs 5:18–21 MSG

Bottom Line:

When you _____,
you _____!

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.