

groups.

— Notes | February 16, 2026

Holiness: God's Heart For Your Marriage.

The way the world defines marriage is very different from how Christ defines it. We often believe that going into marriage, but so often worldly values creep in, and we become focused on all the wrong things. Before we know it, we are hiding our hearts from our spouse and focusing on happiness over God's heart for marriage, which is holiness.

Key Scripture | Ephesians 5: 25-28

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing[b] her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

— James 4:1

Icebreakers:

— Q: What's a small thing that irrationally annoys you?

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Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Culture says, "Find someone who makes you happy." Scripture says, "Find someone God can use to make you holy."

Q: Why do we assume conflict means something is wrong in the relationship?

Q: How is holiness different from happiness?

Q: When conflict happens, what do you normally do first: Defend yourself? Blame? Withdraw? Attack? Own your part?

II. Conflict does not create dirt. Conflict exposes the dirt.

Q: What is a recent fight with someone that exposed dirt in you?

Q: Why is it hard to own our dirt?

Q: Why is it easier for you to focus on the other person's flaws and not your own?

III. Marriage brings out the worst in you, and that's its glory. So will you let God use CONFLICT to wash you clean?

Q: What is one repeated conflict pattern in your life (marriage, work, friendships)?

Q: Do you believe you are pursuing happiness or holiness in your marriage?

Q: How does knowing that God uses conflict to cleanse you change your approach to conflict?

Get Practical

For some reason, it's so much easier for us to focus on the problems someone else has rather than our own. Start with your own stuff, not with your partners. Pray every day, God, show me my dirt, then tell your partner what God told you. If you want to dive deeper into this, text Groups to 37748 and find a Re|Engage group! You can also reach out to a pastor and see if there is a couple in your congregation that could pour into y'all!