

THE JESUS DIFFERENCE

True or False

1. You need to be married to be complete.
2. Being married will make you happy.
3. Being married to someone you love will make your marriage successful.
4. Being a Christian guarantee – a God blessed marriage.
5. God designed marriage.

Series maxim: If Jesus isn't making a difference in any relationship or area of life it is because He is absent in it .

- **Jesus always makes a difference!**

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing[a] 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, husband's ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:22-23

Background

Women were regarded as chattel

Chattel – an item of property other than real estate.

The Jesus Difference in marriage: Redeems and makes better!

Genesis 1 & 2
Man and woman were created as co-regents over creation
- **Male-Female Mutualism** –
Different and equal
both in the Image of God

And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.

Genesis 3:16b (NLT)

Redeemed –

So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28

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

Ephesians 5:22

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25

Christian Marriage

I put you 1st – You put me 1st

Non-Christian Marriage

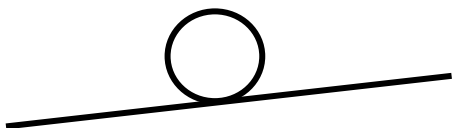
I put me 1st – You put you 1st

The Jesus Difference in Marriage

1. Put Jesus 1st

My marriage is a reflection of my (current) relationship with Jesus.

2. Practice forward



- What am I doing to move the relationship forward?
- When you need help – get it.

Christian marriage was/is a witness to the watching world.

For discussion:

1. Share just how radical – The Jesus Difference – was in Jesus time
2. How radical would it be if we lived out in marriages today?
3. How have you seen the forward principle play out in your life positively and negatively?
4. How are you practicing “submit to one another” command of Jesus in your life?