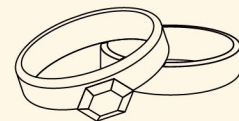




# **Marriage on Mission**

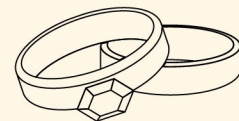
*Understanding How to  
Fulfill God's Purpose for  
Marriage*





# **Session 2**

## *Christ in Our Marriages*



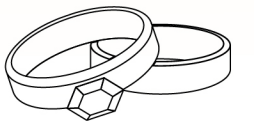
# Questions

What one word would you want to describe your marriage?



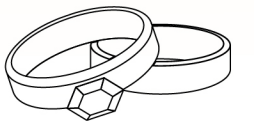
# Questions

What one word best describes your spouse?



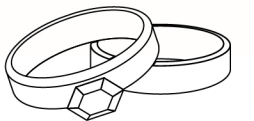
# Questions

What one word would you think your spouse would say best describes you?



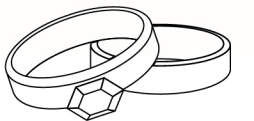
# Questions

What do you love most about your spouse?



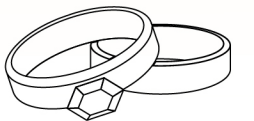
# Questions

What do you love most about your marriage?



# Questions

How would you define a good/successful marriage? How would it be characterized?





# Questions

Where did your definition of a good marriage come from?



# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Which set of words best describes  
your marriage?



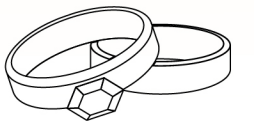
# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Set 1: jealousy, sexual immorality, impurity, enmity, strife, anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness.



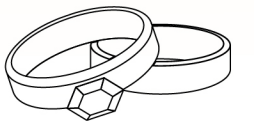
# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Set 2: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control



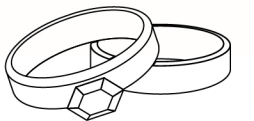
# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

*<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*



# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

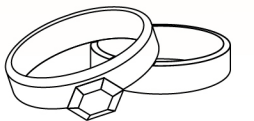
*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*



# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Paul's great summary statement in Galatians:

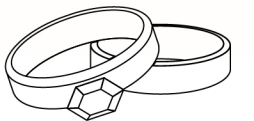
*For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. – 5:6*



# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

How can we love this way

- The power of the flesh has been crucified for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Live by the Spirit and the Spirit will bear His fruit in our lives





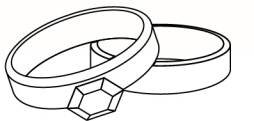
# Encouraging Spiritual Growth

*<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

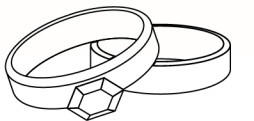
*<sup>24</sup> And those who belong to **Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.***



No definition or standards for a good marriage between Christians can omit the fruit of the Spirit or include anything from the flesh. Spirit and flesh are mutually exclusive.



*17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*



# Questions

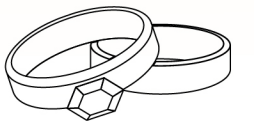
What does Paul mean by in the flesh:

- Living according to the desires, values, and standards of the fallen world.



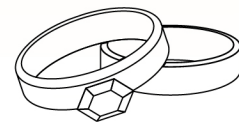
## Question

From your answers to the questions at the beginning of this section, how do your definitions of or standards for marriage align with the fruit of the Spirit?



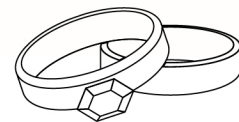
## What Can We Do

*<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*



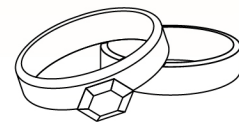
## What Can We Do

*<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,  
<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.***



# What Can We Do

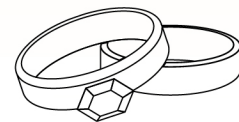
There is an essential link between a health church and healthy marriages.





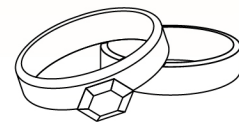
# What Can We Do

Be equipped (discipled) by the pastoral leaders in your church.



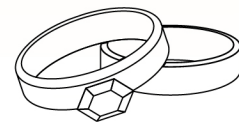
# What Can We Do

Many Christians are willing to read every book, go to every marriage conference, try every idea to help improve their marriages, **but few are willing to begin by addressing the core problem – our relationship to Christ.**



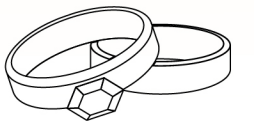
# What Can We Do

- Maximize discipleship opportunities together.
- Pray specifically for Christlikeness in our spouses, ourselves, and our marriages.



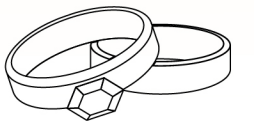
# What Can We Do: Specifics from Ephesians

Speak truth in love. (4:25)



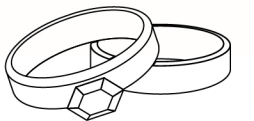
## What Can We Do: Specifics from Ephesians

Reconcile quickly and completely so that the relationship is stronger. (4:26-27)



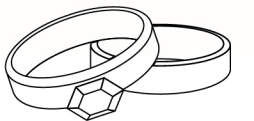
# What Can We Do: Specifics from Ephesians

Meet each other's needs. (4:28-29)



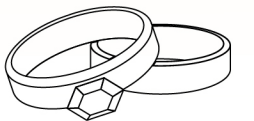
# What Can We Do: Specifics from Ephesians

Build one another up. (4:29)



## What Can We Do: Specifics from Ephesians

Be characterized by kindness,  
tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. (4:32)





## What Can We Do: Specifics from Ephesians

Flee immoral sex (5:3). Embrace godly sex.

Be characterized by gratitude. (5:4, 20)

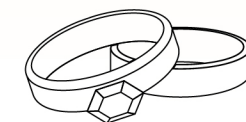
Walk in a way that pleases the Lord. (5:9-10)

Keep each other from evil. (5:5-7, 11-12)

Use time to follow God's will. (5:15-17)

Find joy in the Lord in one another. (5:19)

Serve one another in humility. (5:21)



# Questions

Given what we have looked at from Ephesians, what should we love most about our spouses?



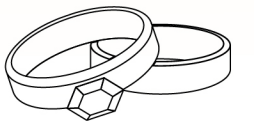
# Questions

What should we love most about our marriages?



# As Christlikeness grows

- We better understand who we are in what matters most.
- We better understand each other's real needs.
- We can support one another better and receive support better.
- We agree more on what matters most.
- We find it easier to forgive and harder to give up on.
- We seek God's direction better.
- We are better able to fulfill God's mission for marriage.



As Christlikeness grows

If Christ is the focus of our marriages  
and our lives, our marriages will  
always be changing **FOR THE  
BETTER.**

