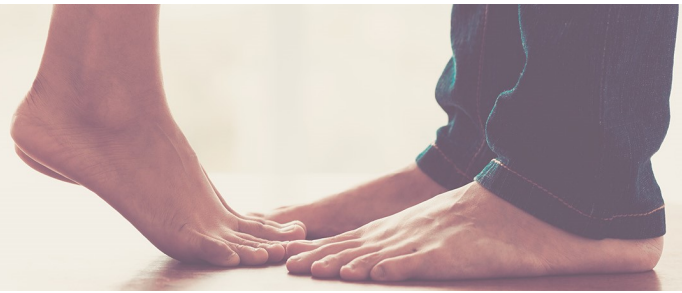


Love, Sex, & Marriage



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | Ephesians 5:1-2 - A Spiritual Foundation

WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ How does secular culture define love?
- ◆ Who do you see as a role model for genuine love?

DISCUSSION

1. What falsehoods do the media and society convey about love, sex and marriage?
2. Pastor Chad talked about 2 pyramids that reflect the dating process from the world's view and from God's view. Each of these has the same components, but in a different order. The world: physical, emotional, social and spiritual. God: spiritual, social, emotional and physical. Compare the two paradigms, including how you've seen or experienced the results of each approach to love. Why is God's way the best way?
3. **Read [Ephesian 5:1-2](#).** In order to imitate God, we need to know who He is. How much time do you spend in God's Word, meditating on who He is and studying what He says? In what ways do you already seek to imitate Him?
4. How is our relationship with God described in these verses? How do they describe a life of love? What gives us the ability to love the way God calls us to love? What role does Jesus play in our relationship with God and others?
5. How would you describe your relationship with God? What does it mean to you to be God's dearly loved child? How do you think God would define love? How have you experienced this love in your life? How can you express this love to God and others?
6. **Read [Ephesians 4:17-5:20](#).** (Have each person in your group read a paragraph.) What are some of the ways we are called to live?
7. What do verses 4:30, 5:1, 8. say about your identity? What are some other things you know about your relationship to God, your heavenly Father? How might knowing who you are and that you are loved and accepted, help you to follow the instructions given in the passage and to love others more effectively? (see also [1 John 4:19](#))
8. **Read [2 Corinthians 6:14](#).** Why is marriage to someone with the same identity so important? Compare the foundation of an unbeliever to the foundation of a believer in Christ. Compare the differing directions the two tend to travel. What potential issues do you see? How would a marriage between two people with a strong spiritual foundation be a catalyst for lasting love?
9. Once spiritual foundation and relationship with God become your priority, He is also able to help you heal from emotional baggage that will help you "be" the person you need to be in a relationship with another person. How have you seen this principle play out in your own life or someone you know?
10. If you are married or in a relationship, how much time do you invest as a couple talking about spiritual things, praying and reading God's Word together? How open are you to growing emotionally? How often do you spend time with other friends socially? Why would these activities be important for a lasting relationship?
11. Whether or not you're married or in a relationship, with whom might you share the principles of the pyramids? Who in your life needs to know God's values for relationships and how to find and stay in love?

PRAYER

- ◆ All of us have re-ordered the relationship pyramid in one way or another. Ask your group to pray that God would help you re-center on His love and grace and truth, and to pray that God would help you to seek forgiveness where you need to and get back or stay on track, putting Him first.