



Aha!

Marriage is a profound mystery.

In Ephesians 5:32 Paul calls marriage literally, a “mega-mystery” The word *mystery* is sometimes translated *secret*. This mystery, however, can be solved.

It’s entirely possible for you to know, feel and act on the secret to a great marriage God reveals in his Word.

For the past decade, the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) Commission on Adult Discipleship has produced a new marriage enrichment event each year. Thousands of couples have found new strength to live and love in marriage. Make it part of your marriage.

Keep up to date on WELS Marriage Enrichment events; friend us on:

www.facebook/welsmarriage.



Agenda

FRIDAY

7:30 pm **Discover the mystery of marriage, p. 3**

SATURDAY

8 am *breakfast*

9 am **Access the power for marriage, p. 9**

Break

Live in the covenant of marriage, p. 13

Noon *lunch*

1 pm **Pursue the purpose of marriage, p. 17**

3:30 pm *break & date night*

SUNDAY

8 am *breakfast*

9 am **Fulfill the roles of marriage, p. 26**

Worship, p. 32

noon *checkout*



Discover the mystery of marriage

1. Marriage the way it is today

The history of marriage

Historical

“When God in love created the world, he made man and woman in his own image and bonded them together in marriage. Through this blessed union of husband and wife, God established the family, provided for the physical and spiritual welfare of children, and fostered the peace and stability of society.”

Order of Worship for Christian Marriage
Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal, p. 141

Modern Era

- For personal emotional fulfillment
- For personal sexual fulfillment
- For personal self-actualization
- For our mutual growth
- Not as much for public good as for personal good

John Witte, Jr.
*From Sacrament to Contract:
Marriage, Religion and Law in Western Tradition*

Observations?



Draw _____ about marriage today from the information on the next page.



Changes in actions

The divorce rate is nearly twice the rate it was in 1960.¹

In 1979, 89% of all births were to married parents but today only 60% are.²

In 1960 over 72% of American adults were married, but only 50% in 2008.³

In 1960 virtually no one lived together before marriage, today 25% of unmarried women between 25 and 39 are currently living with a partner and by their late 30's over 60% will have done so.⁴

Age at marriage has been on the increase for more than four decades. *In 1960, the median age for a first marriage was 22.8 years for men and 20.3 for women. In 2005 the median age for first marriage was 27 years for men and 26 years for women.*⁵ (2013: 28.5 for men and 26.5 for women)

Changes in perceptions

A 24 year old male posted in a Yahoo! Forum that he would never marry. Most liked it. He concluded 70% of his married friends are miserable. A young woman agreed, "7 out of 10 of my married friends are miserable as hell (sic.)" She added, "I'm getting married next year to my fiancé whom I love but if things change I won't hesitate to divorce him."

Monogamy, a movie by Dana Shapiro. Since many of his married friends were breaking up, Shapiro collected 50 in-depth interviews with people who had seen their marriages dissolve. (He did no research on happy, long-term marriages. When asked why not, he quoted Tolstoy, "All happy couples are the same. Which is to say they're just boring.") A *Times* reporter reviewed the movie, "The film, in the end, takes a grim if not entirely apocalyptic view of relationships. The movie depicts two people who love each other very much but who simply 'can't make it work.'"

"A pornographic media culture may contribute to unrealistic expectations of what their future soul mate should look like. Influenced by the sexy images of young women on MTV, the internet and on the runway in televised Victoria's Secret specials, men may be putting off marriage to their current girlfriend in the hopes that they will eventually find a combination soul mate/babe."⁶

Some facts about marriage

85% of the U.S. population will marry at least once. (U.S. Census, 2006)

A 1992 study of retirement data shows that individuals who were continuously married had 75% more wealth at retirement than those who never married or who divorced and didn't remarry.

Married men earn 10-40% more than do single men with similar education and job history.

Children who grow up in married, two parent families have 2-3 times more positive life outcomes than those who do not.⁷

"Unhappily married adults who divorced were no happier than unhappily married adults who stayed married...The benefits of divorce have been oversold."⁸

"Longitudinal studies demonstrate that 2/3 of those "unhappy" marriages will become happy within five years if people stay married and do not get divorced."⁹ (source information on next page)



Agree on _____ about marriage today.



¹ W. Bradford Wilcox, *The State of our Unions: Marriage in America, 2009* (The National Marriage Project, University of Virginia) p. 78 pdf online via web search

² *The Marriage Index: A Proposal to Establish Leading Marriage Indicators* (Institute for American Values and the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting, 2009) pdf online via web search

³ *The Decline of Marriage and the Rise of New Families*, Pew Research Center, November 18, 2010

⁴ Mindy Scott, et al., *Young Adult Attitudes about Relationships and Marriage: Times May Have Changed, but Expectations Remain High*," in *Child Trends: Research Brief*, July 2009

^{5,6} Popenoe and Whitehead, *The State of our Unions*, The Marriage Project, access pdf via web

⁷ Wilcox, *The State of our Unions*, 84

^{8,9} University of Chicago sociologist Linda J Waite, *Does Divorce Make People Happy? Findings from a Study of Unhappy Marriages* (American Values Institute, 2002)

**Name one trait someone might think would make for the perfect “ _____
_____”.**

[My single friends] are afflicted with what I call the Flaw-O-Matic. You can think of the Flaw-O-Matic as an inner voice, a little whirring device inside the brain that instantly spots a fatal flaw in any potential mate:

- "She mispronounced 'Goethe.' "
- "How could I take him seriously after seeing 'The Road Less Traveled' on his bookshelf?"
- "If she would just lose seven pounds."
- "Sure, he's a partner, but it's not a big firm. And he wears these short black socks."
- "Well, it started out great...beautiful face, great body, nice smile. Everything was going fine -- until she turned around." He paused ominously and shook his head...."she had dirty elbows."

The New York Time Magazine
THE BIG CITY; Picky, Picky, Picky
By John Tierney
Published: February 12, 1995



2. Determine the biblical secret for living together in marriage

No two people are _____.

1. Marriage itself _____.

One way marriage has _____ me for the better:



Find three more reasons no two people are _____.

2. Genesis 3:11-12 -- And [God] said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

3. Romans 7:18 -- I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

4. Mark 7:21-22 -- ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "



From these passages, create two lists: 1) things

_____ **and 2) _____ we receive.**

- a. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5ff

- b. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. Romans 6:5

- c. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Pe 1:3–4

- d. We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” Romans 15:1-3

Things Jesus has done

Benefits we receive



Use Ephesians 5:22 & 5:25 to describe the relationship

between the _____ and _____.



The mega mystery

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² **Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.** ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a **profound mystery** (Greek: *mega-mysterion*)—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:21-33



Determine one result of the gospel on a marriage when ...

One spouse fails to _____ as he or she should

One spouse experiences Jesus' love for _____.



Access the power for marriage

1. Better appreciate the work of the Holy Spirit



**Privately, write two things your spouse does to _____
you:**

- _____
- _____



(after one minute)

Ephesians 5:18-21

Be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



Use the verses above to write a one sentence summary of the

_____ of the _____.



2. Determine the hardest and most important function of being a husband or wife



Find one principle for the _____ all these verses have in common:

- If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:1-4
- We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” Romans 15:1-3
- ¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

One principle in common: _____

Are these two actions more _____ or more _____?

*I willingly allow something to go
someone else’s way instead of insisting
on my own way*

*I willingly set aside my own
interests for the good of another
person*



“One way I think I may have been thinking of _____ more than _____ lately is _____. And I’d like to change that.”



3. Face my own self-centeredness

The opposite of _____ is _____.

1 Co 13:4-5 -- Love is...

Self-centeredness is...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Patient | _____ |
| Kind..... | _____ |
| Does not envy | _____ |
| Does not boast..... | _____ |
| Is not proud | _____ |
| Is not rude | _____ |
| Is not self-seeking | _____ |
| Is not easily angered..... | _____ |
| Keeps no record of wrongs..... | _____ |



Agree on 3 reasons we are often the _____ to see our own self-centeredness.



4. Find power in the fear of the Lord

...out of reverence for (_____) Christ. Eph 5:21

Fear:

“The natural reaction of being in the presence of something that is to be seen as _____ in some respect (_____ or _____).”

Terror – God is _____

or

Awe – God is _____

Identify the meaning of “fear” in each verse as either _____ or _____.

- Worship God acceptably with reverence (**phobe -- fear**) and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29
- Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear (**phobe**).¹⁸ For you ...[were redeemed] ... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:17-19
- An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid (**phobe**). I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:9-10
- Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—...continue to work out your salvation with fear (**phobe**) and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13



Live in the covenant of marriage

1. Demonstrate that your marriage is a covenant



List things a person _____ when he or she gets married:



Use these 4 Bible passages to write one definition of _____.




1. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16
2. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³This is love for God: to obey his commands. 1 John 5:2-3
3. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:10-11
4. Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Covenant

The good of the _____ takes precedence
over the immediate needs of the _____.



Draw an arrow next to each passage to show the covenant relationship:

- **between people** 
- **between people and God** 
- **only from God to people** 

- Jonathan made a **covenant** with David because he loved him as himself. 1 Samuel 18:3
- After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”...He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ... On that day the LORD made a **covenant** with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land.” Genesis 15:1-18
- Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my **covenant**, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession... you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ Exodus 19:1-6
- “The time is coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new **covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the **covenant** I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my **covenant**, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the **covenant** I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34



Marriage covenant

- For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and **be united** to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Covenant arrow:

- “The adulteress ...has left the partner of her youth and ignored the **covenant** she made before God. Pr 2:16-17

Covenant arrow:





Determine _____ between these two common elements of a wedding service:

Chris, do you here in the presence of God and these witnesses declare your commitment to Jennifer and choose her as your wife with whom you promise to spend your life? Do you give yourself to her and accept the gift of self which she gives to you? Do you pledge to endure all the difficulties which life may offer, even as you look forward to sharing the joys to be experienced together?

I, Christopher Michael Paplow in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, Jennifer, to be my wife. I promise to be faithful to you for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.



Determine 2 benefits of the  nature of a marriage _____ and 2 benefits of the  nature of your marriage _____.



The power of promises



In one minute, write five ways you are not the _____
_____ as you were on your wedding day (*physically* is only 1!)



Turn to your spouse and

1) tell each other what you've written

2) agree on one blessing of living in _____

2. Determine actions that show you live your _____

“Love is the _____ of love.”



Two things you do that show me you put our _____

before yourself are...



Pursue the purpose of marriage

1. Define spiritual friendship

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.
I will make a **helper** suitable for him." Ge 2:18*



Use these Proverbs passages to write a definition of "_____."

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. 17:17

Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts. 19:6

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. 18:24

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel. 27:9

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. 27:5-6

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. 27:17

Friendship is...

***the deep oneness that develops as two people _____
toward the same destination; helping each other through the _____ and
_____ along the way.***



Use these New Testament passages to determine three of the most important things a _____ does.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. Romans 15:14

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today. Hebrews 3:13

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. He 13:16

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 2 Corinthians 9:13

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

- 1. 2. 3.

_____ friendship:

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. 1 Jn 3:2-3

Spiritual friendship is...
the deep oneness that develops as two people _____
toward the same destination: standing _____ with _____ --
helping each other through the _____ and _____ along the way.



The priority of your friendship



You might be _____ to your

- A. children if...
- B. career if...
- C. parents if...



2. Determine what you will do to pursue spiritual friendship with your spouse

Speaking the **truth** in **love**, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, **Christ**.
Ephesians 4:15

The power of _____

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me... When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law. Romans 7:15-22



Choose one “_____” that your spouse has helped you see in yourself.

- Worry
- Pride
- Inflexibility
- Demanding
- Impatient
- People-pleaser

- Abrasive
- Undisciplined
- Clueless
- Disorganized
- Miserly
- Ungenerous

- Unreliable
- Distracted
- Perfectionist
- Insensitive
- Critical
- Indecisive



The power of _____



List 2 specific _____ a spouse can do to speak each “language”

Words of Affirmation 1.
2.

Quality Time 1.
2.

Acts of Service 1.
2.

Physical Touch 1.
2.

Receiving Gifts 1.
2.



The 5 Love Languages

Would you like to say or do just the right thing to make your spouse feel loved? Learn to speak your spouse's "love language" – which may not be your love language. It's not what you get; it's what you give. Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. Here's one way to serve each other:

#1: Words of Affirmation

Actions don't always speak louder than words. If this is your love language, unsolicited compliments mean the world to you. Hearing the words, "I love you," are important—hearing the reasons behind that love sends your spirits skyward. Insults can leave you shattered and are not easily forgotten.

#2: Quality Time

For those whose love language is spoken with Quality Time, nothing says, "I love you," like full, undivided attention. Being there for this type of person is critical, but really being there—with the TV off, fork and knife down, and all chores and tasks on standby—makes your significant other feel truly special and loved. Distractions like face-booking on a smartphone, postponed dates, or the failure to listen can be especially hurtful.

#3: Receiving Gifts

Don't mistake this love language for materialism; the receiver of gifts thrives on the love, thoughtfulness, and effort behind the gift. If you speak this language, the perfect gift or gesture shows that you are known, you are cared for, and you are prized above whatever was sacrificed to bring the gift to you. A missed birthday, anniversary, or a hasty, thoughtless gift would be disastrous—so would the absence of everyday gestures.

#4: Acts of Service

Can vacuuming the floors really be an expression of love? Absolutely! Anything you do to ease the burden of responsibilities weighing on an "Acts of Service" person will speak volumes. The words he or she most want to hear: "Let me do that for you." Laziness, broken commitments, and making more work for them tell speakers of this language their feelings don't matter.

#5: Physical Touch

This language isn't all about the bedroom. A person whose primary language is Physical Touch is, not surprisingly, very touchy. Hugs, pats on the back, holding hands, and thoughtful touches on the arm, shoulder, or face—they can all be ways to show excitement, concern, care, and love. Physical presence and accessibility are crucial, while neglect or intimidation can be a total turn off.



Complete the following Love Language Instrument, adapted from “The Five Love Languages,” by Gary Chapman. Choose ONE statement in each pair - the one that best represents your desire – and circle the letter after it. (Only circle one of the two letters for each pair.)

The Love Language Instrument

1. I like to receive love notes from my spouse. A
I like to be hugged by my spouse. E
2. I like to spend one-to-one time with my spouse. B
I feel loved when my spouse gives practical help to me (dishes, yard work, etc.). D
3. I like it when my spouse gives me gifts. C
I like long trips with my spouse. B
4. I feel loved when my spouse does things to help me (laundry, errands, etc.).. D
I feel loved when my spouse touches me. E
5. I feel loved when my spouse puts his/her arm around me. E
I feel loved when my spouse surprises me with a gift. C
6. I like to go almost anywhere with my spouse. B
I like to hold hands with my spouse. E
7. Visible symbols of love (gifts) are very important to me. C
I feel loved when my spouse tells me she/he loves me. A
8. I like to sit close to my spouse. E
I like for my spouse to tell me I am attractive. A
9. I like to spend time with my spouse. B
I like to receive little gifts from my spouse. C
10. Words of acceptance, especially from my spouse, are important to me. A
I know my spouse loves me when she/he helps me. D
11. No matter what we do, I like being together with my spouse. B
I like it when my spouse speaks supportive comments to me. A
12. What my spouse does for me, even little things, affects me more than what he/she says. D
Hugs make me feel connected to and valued by my spouse. E
13. My spouse’s praise means a lot to me. A
It means a lot to me when my spouse gives me gifts I really like. C
14. Just being around my spouse makes me feel good. B
I feel closer to my spouse when she/he touches me often. E



15. My spouse's reactions to my achievements are encouraging. A
It means much to me when my spouse helps me with something I know he/she hates. D
16. I like to be touched as my spouse walks by. E
I like it when my spouse shows genuine interest in the things I do. B
17. I feel loved when my spouse helps me with jobs or projects. D
I still get excited when opening a gift from my spouse. C
18. I like my spouse to compliment my appearance. A
I like it when my spouse listens to my ideas without judging or criticizing. B
19. I can't help but touch my spouse when he/she is close by. E
I really appreciate it when my spouse runs errands for me. D
20. I appreciate the many things that my spouse does for me. D
I like the thought that my spouse puts into gifts for me. C
21. I really enjoy the feeling I get when my spouse gives me undivided attention. B
Keeping the house clean is an important act of service. D
22. I feel loved when my spouse celebrates my birthday with a gift. C
I never get tired of hearing my spouse tell me how important I am to him/her. A
23. I know my spouse is thinking of me when she/he gives me a gift. C
I feel loved when my spouse helps with my chores. D
24. I appreciate it when my spouse listens patiently and doesn't interrupt me. B
I never get tired of receiving gifts from my spouse. C
25. I like when my spouse sees that I'm tired and offers to help. D
I enjoy taking trips with my spouse, no matter where we go. B
26. I love making love with my spouse. E
I enjoy surprise gifts from my spouse. C
27. My spouse's encouraging words give me confidence. A
I like to watch movies with my spouse. B
28. Gifts from my spouse are always special to me. C
I can't keep my hands off my spouse. E
29. I feel loved when my spouse enthusiastically helps me despite being busy. D
I feel loved when my spouse tells me how much I am appreciated. A
30. I love hugging and kissing my spouse after we've been apart for a while. E
I love hearing my spouse tell me that she/he missed me. A



1. Count the number of A's, B's, C's, D's and E's and record your totals here:

A: _____ B: _____ C: _____ D: _____ E: _____

Key

A = Words of Affirmation

B = Quality Time

C = Receiving Gifts

D = Acts of Service

E = Physical Touch

2. Complete this chart by using your scores and the key:

My primary love language is: _____

My secondary love language is: _____

My third love language is: _____

My fourth love language is: _____

My fifth love language is: _____

3. Color in the appropriate number of boxes on your "Love Language" card.

Then exchange cards with your spouse! The whole point of this is not that you know *your language*; it's that you better know and speak *your spouse's* language.

4. Tell your spouse about a time recently when she/he spoke your primary language to you.



The power of _____ + _____

To FOR-GIVE means you...

Give _____

Give _____

Give _____



Prepare a _____ to show what each step might look like when one spouse forgives another for _____ _____.



I would like you to say, " _____ " when I ask you to forgive me.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Co 4:16–18



Fulfill the roles of marriage

Whose responsibility is it to...?

	The way your parents did it				The way you do it			
	Man	Woman	Both	Neither	Man	Woman	Both	Neither
Reconcile the checkbook?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take out the trash?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pay the bills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash the car?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fix breakfast?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fix lunch?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fix dinner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change the baby's diaper?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be the primary disciplinarian?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash clothes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fold & put away clothes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain the lawn?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash & put away dishes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain the cars? (change oil, fluids, etc.?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



List 3 benefits of “_____” and three ridiculous examples of “_____.”



1. Husbands

*The husband is the head of the wife
as Christ is the head of the church,
his body, of which he is the Savior. Ephesians 5:23*

Abram and Sarai

Genesis 12:1-5 – “The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.”

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.



A good leader....

Does NOT:

Does:



“As Christ is the head...”

Christ

- Is the spiritual _____
- Is proactively _____
- Demonstrated self-_____
- Showed unconditional _____
- Treats us with tender _____



Match each passage below with a characteristic of Jesus above.

- a. Ephesians 5:25 -- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
- b. 1 John 4:10 -- This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- c. John 14:6 -- “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- d. Luke 24:25-27 -- “How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.
- e. Romans 5:8 -- God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



For each description of Jesus acting as our head, list one specific

action a _____ can do to be a spiritual head.

- ▶ Is proactively engaged with his wife
Action:
- ▶ Demonstrates self-sacrifice to his wife
Action:
- ▶ Shows his wife unconditional love
Action:
- ▶ Treats his wife with tender kindness
Action:



2. Wives

I will make a helper as his complement. Genesis 2:18 (HCSB)

Abram and Sarai

Genesis 12:1-5 -- “The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

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1 Peter 3 -- ³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. ⁵For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master.

Submit --

Not:

But:

Genesis 21: 10, 12-13 -- Sarah ...said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” ... God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”



Philippians 2:5-11 -- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
 did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.
 8 And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!
 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
 and gave him the name that is above every name,
 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

“As Christ submitted...”

— _____
 — _____
 — _____



Match words from Philippians 2 with these 3 descriptions of how Jesus _____.



For each description of how Jesus submitted for us, list one specific action a _____ can do to put her husband ahead of herself.

- ▶ Voluntarily
Action:

- ▶ Joyfully
Action:

- ▶ With honor
Action:



Husbands:

Actions a _____ can do to help her _____ fulfill his role.



Wives:

Actions a _____ can do to help his _____ fulfill her role.



One thing about my role as husband or wife

**that I want to work on is _____ and you can make
it easier by _____.**



Worship

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.” Psalm 63:3

There is a love
that's better than life to me,
jealous and strong,
pursuing and claiming me,
seen in the Son,
in Jesus who rescued me;
this is love.

There is a love
that's speaks of amazing grace,
stooping to serve
and taking the sinner's place,
humble in death
and suffering my disgrace;
this is love.

Refrain

*Oh your love is better than life to me,
heaven's highest treasure,
wonderful and free,
binding me to you for eternity,
your love.*

All sing

**There is a love
securing my destiny,
filling my heart,
to counsel and comfort me,
stilling my fears
and trading my pain for peace;
this is love.**

Refrain twice

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A husband's oath

My church will be served by me.

My wife will be served by me.

My wife will be loved by me.

My family will be served by me.

The Bible will be open in our home by me.

My wife will be prayed over by me.