

Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 3 ~ A Godly Unit

In our first lesson we learned that love is better than spiritual gifts or great works and we learned how to practice love. Last week we looked at God's idea of submission and looked at the differences between a relationship with equality and one with power and control. We were challenged to practice submission in a close relationship. Share how this went.

Today we will look at marriage as a godly unit. We will also learn to recognize some of the subtleties of abuse, as well as the symptoms of selfishness that can lead to abuse.

1. Read Ephesians 5:23-32. A husband and wife are referred to as a body. The head of a physical body doesn't make demands – the head makes choices in partnership with the body to do what is best for the body. The head wants the body to be comfortable and safe, never fearful. What does this show us about the dynamics between the husband and the wife?
2. Read John 13:14 and Luke 22:27. How does Jesus as head treat His body, the church?
3. Verse 23 - Jesus _____ His church, His people, His body.
Verse 29 – Jesus _____ for His church, His people, His body.
In what ways does Jesus save and care for the people who are connected to Him?
4. We must not confuse the head of a body with the head of an organization. Why would it be harmful to think of them in the same way?
5. One person controlling another in a relationship causes the one controlled to lose their sense of value. This was never what God intended for relationships. Have you observed this dynamic in any relationship? Explain.
6. How does Ephesians 5:30-31 compare Christ and the church with marriage? How would this understanding cause spouses to treat each other?

7. Read these healthy and not-so-healthy ways to relate in a marriage. Most of these are also applicable to other relationships. In the chart below, mark any areas that concern you in your closest relationship.

	KIND	SELFISH	ABUSIVE
Communication	Two-way Communication Listen & talk; compromise	Some Two-way Transmissions Not a conversation	One-Way Broadcasts Loud and/or insulting words
Respect	Respectful Value each other's culture, beliefs, opinions	Inconsiderate Not caring about the other's feelings & opinions	Disrespectful Intentionally disregarding or contrary to the other
Trust	Trusting Earned based on demonstrated reliability	Suspicious Actions, sayings, & intentions are questioned	Accusatory Asserts poor & wrong motives to acts & words
Honesty	Transparent (Honest) Only good secrets	Selectively Sneaky Some lies & mean secrets	Declines all Accountability Denies events or blames the other
Thoughtfulness	Wants best for family Makes decisions together	Wants best for Self Seeks their own way	Takes whatever they want By intimidation, tricks or force
Sexuality	Mutual agreement and enjoyment of sex Time & ways agreed by both	Pressures sex types & times Not listening to concerns of the partner	Forces sex types & times What I want, when I want; rape
Separateness	Provides for & respects space Me-time OK now & then	Us-time encroaches time with others Smothered or unavailable	Kept away from friends & relatives Controls who & where

8. Which area above concerns you most? What **can** you do about it? What **will** you do about it?



Your church's Domestic Kindness Action Team (DKAT):

- Equips the whole church with DK instruction in Godly living and
- Connects the oppressed and the repentant controllers to expert help.

If you can be anything, Choose to Be Kind