



## Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 4

### PowerPoint Notes

#### REVIEW

##### So Far, We Have Learned About:

- Healthy vs Unhealthy Relationships
- How to Practice Love
- God's Idea of Submission

As God takes the lead in loving and **sacrificing** for us, so the **husband** takes the lead in loving and **sacrificing** for his wife.

**Both** husband and wife must **respect** each other, because **without respect there can be no love**.

An attitude of **criticism** is destructive in a relationship, but that does not mean that we should not **confront**.

In a healthy relationship, **both parties lovingly confront behavior** that tears down the relationship.

- Marriage as a Godly Unit

##### We Learned How Marriage Operates as a Body

##### Head & Body are mutually dependent

Finger touches hot, communicates to head,  
head communicates back to protect finger

We Evaluated Relational Patterns and Tendencies

*Kindness*

*Selfishness*

*Abuse*

## Today's Lesson ~ Marriage Designed

- There is no greater love than what God has shown the world through creation and His great sacrifice. Marriage is a tangible way to see what His love is all about.
- Satan continually tries to destroy the most beautiful thing God created - marriage. There are many evil distortions of marriage. They do not even come close to representing God's great love for the world.
- Male and female were made in God's image. One is not better than the other. God's creation of woman was **not** an afterthought. **God is neither male nor female**.
- Interestingly, throughout the Old and New Testaments, many of the terms for God are in the **feminine** form.

- God told Adam and Eve to take dominion over the earth, **not over each other**.
- Every person God created has **equal value**. God's will is **not** for either party in the marriage to feel less valued.
- God's plan was **never** for one person to **dominate** another or for one person to **mistreat** another.
- **Domestic Abuse** is all about **one partner dominating the other**.
- **When one person tries to control another, God's love cannot be part of the relationship.**
- God is an **unselfish God** and His plan is **for all humans to be unselfish**, like Him.

The **Fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5) needs to be embodied in the **marriage** relationship... **more than anywhere else on earth**.

- God's design for relationships was **not dominance over weakness**, rather **protection and caring for the weak**.
- **Oneness in marriage is based on both partners giving and serving.**

- We don't lose our identity when we are united with **Christ**.
- We don't lose our identity when we are united with our **spouse**.

To illustrate a man and a woman becoming one:



Both pieces of paper are complete on their own.



The two become one, yet maintain their own identities.



The pink and blue don't merge and turn to purple.

**They are stronger together, united in purpose.**

domestic  
KINDNESS

## *GOALS FOR THIS LESSON*

1. **To understand God's intention for marriage**
2. **To see the dynamics of oneness in marriage**
3. **To understand that God doesn't favor one gender over another**

***A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife,  
and the two are united into one.***

***Genesis 2:24***