

Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 3 ~ A Godly Unit

Read all parts of the lesson (in black print) aloud in the group. Don't read answers in red unless there are no other appropriate answers given by group members. Start with question numbers circled in red.

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?
They need to work together and never hurt each other
- ②. Read John 13:14 and Luke 22:27. How does Jesus as head treat His body, the church?
Washing feet – serving ... not acting as a dictator
3. Verse 23 - Jesus saves His church, His people, His body.
Verse 29 – Jesus cares 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?
Marriage is a relationship, not an organization
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?
Christ is one with His body, as husband and wife are one. This would cause us to want the other person to enjoy life as much as we want to enjoy life.

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?

Read the following:



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