



CROSSROADS NEWLYWEDS

Love & Respect – Session #2; Her Needs – Unconditional Love

03/03/2024 – Matthew 19:24

Homework from last week's discussion in small group: Ask your spouse what you do that makes them feel loved or respected. Don't respond negatively to this ("I do that all the time!"). Listen. Then, during the next two weeks, be intentional and purposeful to do these things. Point out when you notice your spouse loving or respecting you in the way that you shared with him / her. Both of you share, listen, work on, and point out when you notice.

Matthew 19:4 - "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female?"

1. Have you ever wound up in the crazy cycle despite your heart being in the right place? How did everything end up going much worse than you intended? How could the crazy cycle have been avoided?
2. When your good intentions are misinterpreted by your spouse and the crazy cycle gets ready to start spinning, what makes it so difficult to say something like, "I'm sorry. That was not my intent. Will you forgive me for having done something that felt so unloving to you?" If the tables were turned, and your spouse asked that of you, how would you respond?
3. Put yourself in Jackie's shoes. What is it about your spouse consistently coming home later than you expected that makes it so easy to interpret the action as unloving? What are some healthy options for addressing this together?
4. Why does it not work to use unholy means or methods to achieve a worthy end? Even if the budget issue (or what- ever the issue may be) is resolved after a bit of a scolding, what other damage has been done in the relationship?
5. Emerson said that the reason God specifically commands men to love their wives in Ephesians 5 is because men do not react lovingly by default when angry. Do you agree or disagree with that assessment? Explain why.
6. "Not wrong, just different" – How can having this in your mind help you the next time you sense the crazy cycle beginning to start?
7. What was your personal "take away" from this week's session? How or what are you going to change, think, work on, etc.?