

Love and Respect: The Crazy Cycle

May 10, 2019

Announcements

There are several sign ups available on the Services APP to serve the surrounding community for the cause of Christ. Please take time to sign up and participate as we display the Beauty of God to the world through serving others. If you don't have the Services App - Please stop by the Next Steps Table in the gym on Sunday before or after the service. Here are your chances to Serve God by serving the community:

1. Serve at the **Mount Pleasant Christian School Auction** on June 1.
2. South Norfolk Soup Kitchen.:May 30th, August 1, and November 7.
3. JC Camp is coming in August. You can also choose from a host of ways to donate to the camp by using the sign up feature on the Services App.

As always, when serving at The JC on Sunday AM, we ask that you sign up to serve so that we can know that we are prepared for the upcoming Sunday. It is vital to sign up for our whole team to be ready to serve!

Love and Respect: The Crazy Cycle

There is an old saying: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

To better love the way God has called us to, we must try to "decode" the way we communicate and understand how we deeply love.

1. We are looking at marriage in order to better understand and develop relationship skills we can use with everyone.
2. What we are looking for is Wisdom.
3. Specifically, the wisdom to love and respect our spouse so that we are able to live out the Real Life that Jesus gave His life for us to have.

Real Love = Agape

1. Real Love is putting others first.
2. Real Love ought to be the pursuit of marital partners, the goal is a deep and powerful unity.
3. Real Love wants the best for others at the heart and soul level.

Marriage is God's idea. God ordained Marriage.

Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. Your new life is not like your old life. Your old birth came from mortal sperm; your new birth comes from God's living Word. Just think: a life conceived by God himself
—1 Peter 1:22-24 The Message

The Real Life you have been called to requires action on your part to love one another.

The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their needs. There are husbands who, indifferent as they are to any words about God, will be captivated by your life of holy beauty. What matters is not your outer appearance—the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes—but your inner disposition.

—1 Peter 3:1-4 The Message

True beauty radiates from the inside out and gives evidence of God.

The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as

equals so your prayers don't run aground.

—1 Peter 3:7 the Message

Men tend to have more physical power.

This primary power made men the usual purveyors of power in everything else: Politics, finance, ownership, etc.

Men have power, but they don't always have the "internal strength" to honor his wife.

God's ideal from the beginning was that they were "co-heirs" with Christ.

Most of us have good intentions, it is not our intention to be divisive, destructive, and unloving.

The unloved woman disrespects, and the un-respected man removes love. There is a Crazy Cycle.

***To love the way God has called us to, we must "decode" the way we communicate to understand and demonstrate Real Love. ***

Decoding the woman you love:

1. Pray and Breathe.
2. Be ready to forgive.
3. ask yourself: Why is she feeling unloved? What can you do to help her feel loved?

Bottom Line: Men are to unconditionally love their wives .

Not be manipulated or controlled, but a man who grows in internal strength honors his wife.

Decoding the man you love:

Pray and Breathe.

Be ready to forgiveness.

Ask yourself this question: what has happened that might make him feel like he is being disrespected?

Bottom Line: Wives are to unconditionally respect their husbands.

Not be a doormat, or an enabler, or a victim , but the woman who

radiates God's beauty.

Reflection:

How can you begin to see the world through the eyes of the one you love?

Can you ask God to give you insight and strength to do this?