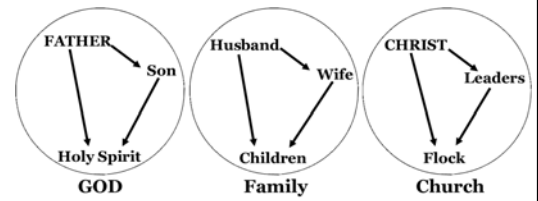




Think back to your wedding day for a moment; did you consider the fact that your marriage would be an opportunity to draw people to Christ? I confess that even as a new Christian, that was the furthest from my mind. Most Christians never consider the idea that their marriage should be *missional*—that it should draw people to Christ. Paul wrote about the “profound mystery” of God’s design for marriage in Ephesians 5. The oneness of marriage should model Christ’s relationship with the church. Both are to be earthly representations of the very nature of God. In the Godhead (the Trinity), we see Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existing in community, unity, and singleness of purpose. Our marriages should reflect those attributes; the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be seen in your marriage.



The concepts of headship, submission, and marital roles are not to subjugate or put any person group down, but to reflect who our God is. When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church and gives himself up for her and the wife submits to her husband as she would submit to Christ; the love of God is reflected to a world that desperately needs to see who our God really is. *Then*, we will be the testimony God calls us to be. *Then*, we will have a *missional marriage*. It will be a marriage that will draw people to Christ because people will see the difference. Husbands, think about it for a moment; what would it look like for you to model the Father’s love for His Son to your life? To love her unconditionally, be completely transparent and open with her, and to delight in her? Likewise, wives consider for a moment what it would look like for you to model Christ’s love for the Father? To willingly love and serve him; to seek only to do his will? Let me tell you, that kind of marriage could be world changing!

Ok, ok! I can already hear the chorus of complaints that ‘my husband is nowhere close to being anything like the Father,’ or ‘You don’t know how awful my wife is, she does not act anything like Jesus Christ.’ Did you ever consider husbands, that if you truly loved your wife as “Christ loves the church and gave yourself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless,” that perhaps, she would become more like Christ? Did you ever consider wives, that if you loved your husband as Christ loves the Father and sought to promote him and build him up rather than pointing out all of his failings, that perhaps, he would become the husband God wants him to be?

Make *your* marriage a *missional marriage*. Obey God’s word for *you*, without demanding that your spouse do his or her part. Pray together and seek God’s will for your lives and marriage *together*. Seek to love your spouse by giving of yourself for him or her just as Christ gave Himself for you. Reflect God’s love to each other when you are alone, when with your children, when with others. Friends, “let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1John 3:18) Live your life for God instead for yourself and be a testimony of God’s love for your children, your family, and all those you come in contact with.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Articles to check out:

5 Ways to Build a Missional Marriage by Trisha Priebe www.lifesong.org/2019/02/missional-marriage

Missional Marriage: 10 Practical Ways to Serve Other People by Samantha Krieger

www.startmarriage.com/2011/12/missional-marriage-10-practical-ways-to-serve-other-people