

REAL MARRIAGE



CITY GROUP GUIDE
WEEK OF APRIL 29TH 2012

MEN AND MARRIAGE

Introduction:

When a country starts to collapse, who is to blame? The ruler. When a company goes under, who must take responsibility? The CEO. When a sports team has a bad season, who is chastised? The coach or owner. Similarly, when marriages have issues, who should be deemed responsible? The head/leader. In Ephesians 5:23 Paul refers to the man as the “head” of the covenant of marriage and therefore responsible for the health of the relationship.

In our culture, this reality of men being responsible for health of their home is difficult concept based on a so called “extended adolescence.” In 1 Corinthians 13:11 Paul says, “*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*” It seems that our world is growing with physically mature men who refuse to give up their “childish way” and live responsibly before God. This week in our City Groups we would like to divide into men and women and further discuss the implication of the phenomenon.

In order for us to make the most out of our time together, we ask that people would be honest with Jesus, themselves, their spouse and their community.

Group questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you feel like you have given into the cultural norm of extended adolescence?
2. In what ways have you failed to honor your wife (future wife) physically, emotionally, verbally, financially, and technologically?
3. In what ways is God calling you to repent of your childish ways and accept the gift and responsibility of being a man?
4. How does your understanding of the Gospel affect you as a husband or future husband?
5. What does it look like to respond to what Jesus had done rather than instill more rules in your life to become the husband your wife (future wife) needs?
6. Pray

Break up into Men and Women:

1. How can you encourage your husband and support him in leading your family?
2. What are some practical things that you can do to help clear the way for your husband (future husband) to be more of a real man? Are there behaviors that you have come to rely on that tend to emasculate him (nagging, criticizing, manipulation, etc.)?
3. Why is it important for Jesus to be the center of hope for your marriage? Are you ever tempted to put all of your hope in your husband (or future husband) rather than God?
4. How can you as women encourage one another to receive the gospel and find hope (and even joy) in the work the Holy Spirit is doing in us, whether or not our husbands are leading our family well?
5. Please spend some time in prayer for your husbands and the role that God has called them to.