



iMarriage 2 – *Putting Your “I” Out* {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Expectations in marriage create a debt/debtor relationship that resembles more of a contract between two parties than a covenant between two people. The result of this is that your spouse feels like they never measure up and they are never good enough. Your marriage becomes devoid of love and joy. So what are you to do? You can't deny your expectations—after all, they started out as God-given desires. Instead you must learn to transform your expectations back into desires. You must get to a place where you decide that your spouse doesn't owe you anything and that you owe them everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” Ephesians 5:21-33

1. Have you ever been guilty of throwing Christian darts in your marriage, that is, attempting to use the Bible to manage your spouse's behavior? How did that work out?
2. What does it mean to “submit to one another”? Is this your natural tendency?
3. What is our motivation for submitting to one another? How does this make it easier to submit?
4. What does it look like specifically for a wife to submit to her husband as to the Lord?
5. What does it look like specifically for a husband to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her?



6. How do you submit/love your spouse even when they don't "deserve" it?
7. Are you guilty of parenting your spouse (trying to manage their behavior)?
8. What are the fears associated with freeing your spouse from their "obligations" to you and deciding that they don't owe you anything?
9. What are the benefits of freeing your spouse from your expectations?

THINK ABOUT IT

From now on will you attempt to manage your marriage through expectations, or will you decide that your spouse doesn't owe you anything? Do you really trust your heavenly father with your spouse, or is it up to you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What do you owe your spouse? How will you begin to give these things out of your gratefulness for what God has done in your life?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:21