

WHAT HAPPY COUPLES KNOW

PART 2: IT'S MUTUAL

INTRODUCTION

We all enter into marriage with hopes, dreams, and desires. They create expectations. But when you put those expectations onto your spouse, it turns your marriage into a debt/debtor relationship. Your relationship becomes marked by the belief that your spouse owes you something. So, how do you keep your hopes, dreams, and desires from becoming expectations?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your definition of a great marriage? What do you think creating a great marriage requires of each person in the marriage?
2. Have you ever been in a relationship in which the other person felt you owed them something? If so, what happened to that relationship?
3. During the message, Andy said, “Great marriages aren’t built on a division of labor. Great marriages are a submission competition.” How does that statement challenge your assumptions about marriage?
4. Read John 13:34. What are some practical ways spouses can love each other the way Christ has loved them?
5. Read Ephesians 5:22, 25. Do you think this advice to wives and husbands is realistic? Why or why not?
6. What can you do this week to begin to treat your spouse—or lay the groundwork for treating your future spouse—as though he or she owes you nothing? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

If your marriage is a tug of war, the thought of laying down your end of the rope first is terrifying. But remember: while you were dead in your trespasses and sin, God let go of the rope. He did something for you with no guarantee that you would return the favor. Follow his lead by dropping your end of the rope in your marriage. Happy couples put each other first by going first in an effort to be last.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21