

5) Identify and describe the purpose of the four institutions for the orderly maintenance and perpetuation of the human race established by God in the first 11 chapters of Genesis.

6) What is the Biblical definition of marriage?

7) In this message, I teach that marriage is supported by a three pronged base. Describe how each of the following parts comprise and give marriage it's strength.

Leaving:

Cleaving:

One Flesh:

8) What is marriage at its core?

9) Explain how is marriage the difference between playing singles and doubles tennis?

Message Two—Role and Responsibilities of the Husband

- 10) According to Ephesians 5, how and where is being filled with the spirit manifest first in the believers life?

- 11) In Ephesians 5:25 the husband is instructed to love his wife even as Christ loved the church. Explain the difference between the love of persons and the love of things.

- 12) Using the death of Christ for the sake of the church as an example, explain the difference between love as a feelings based emotion and an act of your will.

- 13) Why is the popular expression “falling out of love” contrary to the Bible’s definition of love in Ephesians 5?

- 14) Ephesians 5:28, says that men ought to love their wives as their own bodies. Explain how the husband’s egocentric love should be duplicated in a wife-centric love.

- 15) How does Ephesians 5:28 remove the gap between a husband and wife? Explain how this relates to the basic Biblical definition of marriage.

16) Define the following terms and explain how they relate to how a husband ought to care for his wife.

Nourisheth:

Cherisheth:

17) What insight does Colossians 3:19, offer as to the natural attitudes and tendencies a husband will possess towards his wife?

18) According to Ephesians 5:33 what is the central need of a wife?

19) Explain the following statement, “God created the husband to be the initiator and the wife to be the responder.”

20) Is it possible for a husband to dwell with his wife according to knowledge in I Peter 3:7? Explain, your answer. How might this affect your expectations as you enter your marriage?

Message Three—Role and Responsibilities of the Wife

- 21) Define the word “submission” in Ephesians 5:22.

- 22) Explain how the wife’s submission to her husband is following God’s ordained plan for marriage.

- 23) Define the word “head” in Ephesians 5:23. Where and how else is this word used to explain Christ’s relationship with the Body of Christ?

- 24) What does Christ’s headship over the church teach the husband about how he should treat his wife?

- 25) How did the entrance of sin into the world in Genesis 3, affect the marital relationship between husband and wife? What does this tell us about the natural tendency of a wife in the marital relationship?

- 26) According to Ephesians 5:24, in how many things is the wife supposed to submit to her husband? How does this demonstrate the need of a woman to choose her husband wisely?

27) According to Ephesians 5:33, what is the central need of a husband?

28) List behaviors and attitudes wives often demonstrate which cause their husbands to emotionally check out of the relationship.

Message Four—Unrealistic Expectations and Misplaced Dependencies

29) At first glance why does Ephesians 5:32 seem to not fit the rest of the context of Ephesians 5?

30) Please define the following concepts:

Unrealistic Expectations:

Misplaced Dependencies:

31) Explain how unrealistic expectations and misplaced dependences threaten the fabric of a marriage. Why does seeking to have your deepest emotional needs met by another human being lead to failed marriages?

32) After listening to this message can you identify any unrealistic expectations or misplaced dependencies that you might be carrying into your marriage? If so, what are they and what is the only solution to keep these from ravaging your marriage?

33) How does understanding that all our emotional and spiritual needs have been met in Jesus Christ liberate a marriage?

34) Use the following table to make notes about the differences between men and women.

Men	Women

35) How might your knowledge of these differences impact your expectation heading into your marriage?

Message Five—Biblical Model for Choosing Whom to Marry

- 36) Explain the weaknesses inherent in the traditional Christian thinking about how to choose a spouse.
- 37) According to I Corinthians 7:39, believers are free to marry whomever they will. What is the only stipulation given in this verse?
- 38) Why should a believer seek to marry someone with whom they have a lot in common with doctrinally? List some potential problems that might arise from compromising on this issue.
- 39) Explain the Indiana Jones illustration.
- 40) We need to value and esteem the same things that God values and esteems. Keeping this in mind, what are the most important items to consider when choosing a spouse?
- 41) In his book, *The Five Love Languages*, Dr. Gary Chapman talks about an emotional love tank. Please explain this concept and how it relates to how people show and receive emotional love.

42) Identify each of the Five Love Languages and explain how each can be a powerful communicator of love.

Words of Affirmation:

Quality Time:

Receiving Gifts:

Acts of Service:

Physical Touch:

43) Why do a lot of men assume that physical touch is their primary Love Language?

44) Where is a female's sexual desire rooted? What does this tell us about the need for a wife's emotional love tank to be full?

45) Knowing your own Love Language and that of your spouse is vital to constructive communication in your marriage. Take some time and answer the following questions first for yourself, and then, answer them from the point of view of your spouse or fiancé. Discuss your answers. How are they the same? How are they different? How might this knowledge improve the climate of your relationship?

a. What makes you feel the most loved by your spouse or fiancé?

b. What do you desire above all else?

- c. What does your partner or perspective partner do or say or fail to do or say that hurts you deeply?

- d. What have I most requested from my spouse?

- e. What do you do or say to express love to your spouse? Chances are, what you are doing for them, you wish they would do for you.

Message Six—Divorce and Remarriage

- 46) Explain how the combination of emotions, attitudes, and actions determine what season a marriage is in.
- 47) What is the Biblical definition of divorce?
- 48) Explain the following statement, “All divorces are not sinful, but sin leads to divorce.”
- 49) Using Jesus’ conversation with the woman at the well in John 4, explain how marriage is more than just sexual relationships.
- 50) According to Deuteronomy 24:1, describe the three step procedure for divorce. Why did God make Israel write a bill of divorcement?
- 51) Are there any grounds for believers to divorce one another during the Dispensation of Grace? Explain your answer in light of the so called exemption clause in Matthew 19:9.
- 52) If divorce does occur, why should the parties try to remain unmarried?

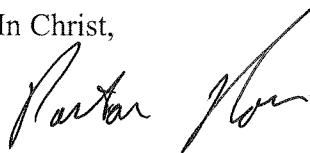
- 53) Is divorce required for people who are married to unbelievers? Why or why not?
- 54) Can a divorced believer remarry again without the stigma of wrong doing? Based on what verse?
- 55) Comment on how the following decision making formula ought to impact your marriage relationship:

EMOTIONS moderated by REASON guided by TRUTH = **CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION**

Final Suggestions

Now that you have completed the Study Guide, I recommend that you and your spouse or perspective spouse purchase a copy of Dr. Gary Chapman's books, *The Five Love Languages* and *The Seasons of Marriage*. Read through them together and discuss the material. My wife and I have found these resources extremely valuable as we go through the various seasons of marriage. I wish you all of the happiness humanly possible as you endeavor to live by grace in your marriage.

In Christ,



Pastor Ross
April 2009

