

1:: Abortion

Warm Up

- > How do you define a person's worth? How do we differ from animals?
- > Why do you think people have abortions?

Study

SERIES INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Discussion Groups is to discuss relevant life issues using the Bible as our point of reference. The goal of this series, "Hot Buttons", is to examine controversial topics in an honest yet respectful manner.

1:: THE DEBATE

The debate rages on between Pro-Life and Pro-Choice camps, however the hot topic has shifted from whether life begins at conception, to when a biological life becomes a real "person". Some would argue that we become a "person" when we become independent and rational, and since a fetus can neither care nor think for himself, he is not a real person and therefore, does not have the same rights as others.

But reducing the value of a life to its productivity has huge implications, especially when we consider those who have a mental or physical disability.

2:: DEFINING HUMAN LIFE

Thankfully, the Bible defines being human differently than being productive. The distinctive quality of a human is that we are made in God's image.

Genesis 1:26 — "Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves.'"

Since we are a direct reflection of God, we discover who we are when we find out who He is. So, who is God? In Genesis 1:26, God refers to Himself as, "us". This refers to the concept of the Trinity, where God is three Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), with one Nature.

This means that relationship is at the very essence of who God is. So as beings who are made in God's image, relationship is at the very essence of who we are. As the theologian Emil Brunner said, "The image of God is fundamentally relational."

So we are human to the degree that we promote loving relationships. This is why we call someone "inhumane" when they act in a

manner that does not respect or value others. This is also why every human virtue has an element of self-sacrifice in it, for God designed us to value relationship over selfishness.

3:: BECOMING HUMAN

When "being relational" is the definition of "being human" we can see how we all must grow in our humanity. We are all like a fetus, which has the potential of being relational, but has not yet fully matured. God designed our lives, then, to be a journey of moving from being selfish to being relational.

When does this journey toward relationship begin? It begins at conception.

Jeremiah 1:5 — "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart."

Not only do we have a powerful relationship with our mother before birth, God initiated a relationship with us even before we could respond to Him! This is what makes abortion wrong, for the abortion of a baby is the abortion of relationships. For this reason, such an act must be considered "inhumane".

4:: THE NECESSITY OF RELATIONSHIP

Typically, a mother says she must abort her child out of "necessity", where she does not have the ability to support her child, internally or externally. This implies that an aborted child is the result of other broken relationships: externally, with an unsupportive birth father or community, and internally, in terms of a broken relationship with God. This makes abortion a symptom, not a root.

What is the root issue? It is the ease with which we abort difficult relationships. Instead, we must reject selfish solutions to our problems and believe that God enables us to be "pro-relationship" in every circumstance. To be truly human, to reflect God's image, we must promote relationships that can support life. This is our duty and joy.

Personal Application

- > What is our responsibility toward unborn children and pregnant women in distress?
- > We have all "aborted" difficult relationships. How do we do this? What does it mean to live a life that is "pro-relationship"?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?



2:: Homosexuality

Warm Up

- > How does society view homosexuality? What motivates that viewpoint?
- > Discuss how “genetics” versus “environment” affect our development.

Study

1:: IS HOMOSEXUALITY WRONG?

The Bible unashamedly asserts that homosexuality is a sin:

Leviticus 18:22 — “Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.”

God calls a behavior “sin” when it breaks relationship with God or others. So why would a sexual preference be considered alienating when it can feel so natural? The answer comes in understanding God’s design of relationships.

2:: OUR RELATIONAL NEEDS

Genesis 1:27 — “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

God made us as relational beings — as male and female — to reflect His relational nature. This means that there is something unique about the opposite sex that fulfills us as human beings, where we find intimacy as complementary beings, and purpose through the ability to produce new life.

Sadly, men who practice homosexuality are alienated from women because they do not look to the “otherness” of a woman to find intimacy and purpose. A man is also alienated from other males when they use each other as a female. This emasculates a man, depriving him of the affirmation and respect he needs from other men (just as femininity is lost in lesbian relationships).

Finally, homosexuality alienates us from God because we replace His image of us with our own. Such rebellion leaves us lonely and unfulfilled, for only our Creator knows who we are and how to experience loving relationships.

3:: FREEDOM FROM LONELINESS AND UNFULFILLMENT

Last week, we described abortion as a symptom of the ease with which we abort difficult relationships. Here, homosexuality is a symptom of the ease with which we pervert God’s design for relationships.

Romans 1:21,24,25 — “...they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused... So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself.

When we pervert our relationship with God and others to suit ourselves, like using a hammer to cut wood, everyone gets misused. So how can we return to God’s original purpose for our relationships?

- New Nature.* While we have yet to find a “gay gene”, most people who struggle with this or other such issues, describe impulses they can’t suppress. It is true that we are born with a sin nature that enslaves us to feelings we can’t control. We need God to give us a new nature, one that enables us to enjoy God’s design for relationship (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- New Relationships.* Statistically, most people who struggle with their sexuality have had some form of abuse from their parents or others. God invites us to replace those relationships with new, loving relationships that reinforce our God-given identity.

Rather than condemn those with a particular temptation, we must see how we all need a new nature and new relationships to change our orientation from self to God. So let us pray for God’s mercy, and hope in His grace, that we can all grow in experiencing God’s design for our relationships.

Personal Application

- > Are homosexual sins worse than heterosexual sins? What drives them both? What frees us from both kinds of sins?
- > Why is it important to relate to God, men and women according to God’s design instead of our own desires and expectations? Why are our thoughts and feelings an untrustworthy moral compass?
- > What is the difference between a temptation and a sin, a desire and a behavior? How does that influence how we deal with the thoughts in our minds?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?

3:: Pre-marital Sex

Warm Up

- > Does having sex help or hurt a dating relationship?
- > What can the opposite sex provide and not provide for us?

Study

1:: PRE-MARITAL SEX AND MARITAL HAPPINESS

This series has been highlighting how God designed us for relationship, yet all too often we either abort or pervert our relationships. This is particularly true in our relationship with the opposite sex, as supported by a 500% increase in divorce from 30 years ago.

A key factor in marital discord is pre-marital sex. Studies show that the divorce rate for those who cohabitate before marriage is double the norm, compared to a 3% divorce rate among couples who marry as virgins.¹

2:: WHY IS PRE-MARITAL SEX HARMFUL?

Pre-marital sex undermines relationships because sex outside of marriage cannot express vulnerability and trust. We all need security to give our heart away, so when a life-long commitment is absent in a relationship, so is the trust and security that is required to make sex emotionally safe. The results of having sex outside of marriage are sobering:

- *Mistrust.* Separating sex from marriage plants seeds of mistrust in the relationship: "If sex isn't about expressing trust and commitment, then why do you want to have sex with me?"
- *Selfishness.* When trust and commitment are lacking, sex becomes more about personal gratification than about self-giving love. The result is couples that are emotionally closed even if they get physically naked.

In the end, when sex is set outside a marriage commitment, it is a replacement for transparency and trust, instead of an expression of it.

3:: HOW DO WE BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS?

We build healthy relationships with the opposite sex by choosing God first. A root cause of break-ups is misplaced affection, where we look to the opposite sex for what only God can give us. As one author said, "We have been poisoned by fairytales". Idolizing the opposite sex was actually Adam's first sin, where he chose to follow Eve over God.

Genesis 3:6-7 — "[Eve] took some of the [forbidden] fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves."

Today, we get kinky, demanding, even abusive, and we still aren't satisfied, because the opposite sex was never designed to meet our deepest needs. But when God is our first source of love then our expectations of the opposite sex are healthy. This is part of the reason why the divorce rate among couples that regularly attend church and pray together is .009%.²

Then, we must choose *holiness over lust*.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 — "God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor — not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways."

It is easy to mistake sex for intimacy, and lust for love because they can feel the same. However, the Bible tells us not to base our love on feelings but on honor. We honor someone when we prioritize their dignity over our desires. The result is a pure, safe, respectful, caring, and open relationship.

We participate in abortion, homosexuality and heterosexual lust when we base relationships on our feelings instead of God's will. The result is that we perpetuate the cycle of pain and alienation that so affects us. The good news is that healing is found in a personal relationship with Jesus, for from that place of wholeness, we find the freedom and strength we need to rightly relate to others.

Personal Application

- > Describe why sex outside of a marriage commitment cannot express trust and emotional vulnerability.
- > With nearly half of teens having sex, what can motivate them (and us!) to choose honor over feelings? Why is honor a better basis for relationship?
- > Why is a healthy relationship with God the beginning of sexual purity?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?



¹ Kahn & London, 1991; Hadland, 1992, p.4; ² Ibid., 91

4:: Evolution

Warm Up

- > What is at the heart of the debate between “creation” and “evolution”?
- > Are science and faith in conflict with one another?

Study

1:: SCIENCE VERSUS RELIGION?

It is easy to contrast science with religion, reason with faith, or evolution with creation, but each viewpoint adds an important dimension to understanding life. Controversy arises however, when a discipline moves outside its limits, like if science makes metaphysical claims, or religion dismisses scientific data. Our goal must be to respect all the disciplines in a way that sees them as distinct yet complimentary. We can do this by thinking about life in “layers”.

Think of the world like a book, where nature is the paper and ink, reason is words and grammar, and life is the story. Each layer is essential, but who we believe is writing the story profoundly shapes how we understand life.



2:: WHO IS WRITING OUR LIFE PURPOSE?

Some atheists believe that life is meaningless because life has no author. Other atheists admit that life does have a purpose, but that this purpose is found purely through naturalistic means. Richard Dawkins is an example of those who believe that evolution is ultimately about “selfish” genes that are striving to secure immortality through natural selection and gene survival. This makes selfishness the purpose of life, even at a molecular level.

Since a naturalist cannot argue with these laws of nature, they are left with selfishness as their code of conduct. The moral implications of making personal benefit our most basic human instinct is huge. Not only do we lose the ability to judge right and wrong, it makes even faith and love self-serving. In the end, selfishness is no better than the meaninglessness it replaces.

In contrast, Christians believe that God is the author of life, and that He created the universe as an “enchanted” stage upon which a love story is unfolding. It begins with God creating a world that can support love and relationship. History then records humanity’s struggle between love and selfishness. Love wins in the end, but it is not without great cost to God and His creation.

We must not lose sight of life’s storyline — to evolve from selfishness to love, chaos to peace, and alienation to relationship — or our use of science and reason become misguided.

3:: CAN WE KNOW OUR CREATOR?

Some see God as a human invention, something we created to cope with our reality. But perhaps this “projection theory” is not describing those who believe in God, but those who don’t. For those whose life purpose is selfish, the idea of Divine moral accountability is thoroughly unattractive.

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) “I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption ... The liberation we desired... [was] liberation from a certain system of morality.”

The Bible agrees that our belief in God is shaped as much by our morality as it is by our intellect (Romans 1:18-21). So just as selfishness blinds us from seeing God, love and faith give us eyes to see, for He is not hard to find.

Acts 17:24-28 — “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... From one man he made every nation of men... and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'”

How comforting it is to know that our ultimate salvation is found in a Person, not in a new idea or scientific achievement. For it is in an intimate relationship with God that we find the love, beauty, trust, hope, justice, peace, freedom, compassion, and meaning for which we hunger.

Personal Application

- > How do our morality and intellect influence each other?
- > Toward what life direction does a purely atheistic evolution take us?
- > There are two ultimate causes of life: selfishness and love. What must happen in our hearts and lives to shift from selfishness to love?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?

Warm Up

- > What comes to your mind when you imagine hell?
- > What problematic issues does the existence of hell raise?

Study

1:: WHY HELL?

Hell is a hot (no pun intended) button because it is very hard to imagine how a loving God could send people to hell. At best, it seems like God is overreacting; at worst, He is downright sadistic. So why, then, is hell just and right?

2:: UNDERESTIMATING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Anytime we sin, we break relationship with the person against whom we sin: lying, stealing, etc., always alienates. However, breaking relationship with a friend has fewer consequences than breaking relationship with God.

Deuteronomy 32:39 — “There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life.”

When we underestimate who God is, the consequences of breaking relationship with Him seem unreasonable. But when we see that God is our Creator, to break relationship with Him is to alienate ourselves from the only source of eternal life. Breaking relationship with God has very serious implications.



3:: UNDERESTIMATING OUR CHOICES

Revelation 20:12,15 — “I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books... And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Hell is a choice we make, by how we live on earth. Those who want a relationship with God and follow His way of love receive exactly that. Those who reject God to follow their own way receive what they want. Hell is not for “bad” people so much as it is the just and logical outcome for anyone who decides to reject God.

Isaiah 59:2 — “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”

Hell is terrible simply because it is void of God’s presence; it is defined by our selfishness and rebellion instead God’s love and leadership.

We might want to lessen the impact of our choices, but even though the reality of hell is terrifying, so is the thought of removing our freedom of choice. Removing freewill does not remove hell, but heaven, for mindless obligation is as hellish a place as rebellion and anarchy.

4:: UNDERESTIMATING HEAVEN

Rather than remove our freedom to choose, God sacrificed his own Son to pay for our sin and restore us to a relationship with Him.

Romans 5:8 — “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

While God pays for our crimes, we still must choose to repent or follow Him.

2 Peter 3:9 — “[The Lord] is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

God is doing all He can to help us respond to Him, yet free will requires we make a choice. Look at the result of choosing a personal relationship with God:

Revelation 21:3-4 — “I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

Hell is not a party with all our friends for it is void of all the qualities that healthy relationships require. Heaven is amazing because our relationship with God and others is free of sin and full of everything that God is.

Personal Application

- > Describe why heaven and hell are logical outcomes of our daily choices.
- > The only way to get to hell is to reject a relationship with God. Do you have any reason to reject God’s love and leadership in your life?
- > Would you like to be certain about your eternal destiny?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?

6:: Miracles

Warm Up

- > What is your experience regarding miracles?
- > What does it take to “believe” in miracles?

Study

1:: THE PROBLEM OF MIRACLES

Problems with miracles abound, but they can be divided into two main camps. Camp X doesn't believe in miracles. David Hume represents this camp by saying that miracles are impossible because the testimonies are never strong enough to overthrow scientific consideration. So Biblical miracles, for instance, are merely pre-scientific explanations of natural events.

Camp Y oversells miracles. They see them as proofs of God's existence, as the only way God heals, and as a certainty if you have faith. The guilt and naivety in this camp are as notable as the skepticism of Camp X.

2:: THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

So what is a miracle? In defining miracles, we must be careful to acknowledge that God is always active in creation, not just in miraculous events.

Psalm 19:1-2 — “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.”

Romans 1:20 — “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Creation continually displays God's nature and power, but miracles are an extraordinary demonstration of God's work in creation. They don't violate God's natural laws; they are a supernatural act of God, to which nature seamlessly adapts. Nature is used to responding to input, for when we decide to say, lift our finger, the physical world adjusts accordingly.

God heals for a simple reason: He loves us. In the midst of human sin and suffering, God gives us extraordinary gifts of love. The result is like receiving new glasses that help us “see” our world through His love and power. These glasses become a window that shows God's ultimate will for us.

Revelation 21:4 — “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

While Camp X struggles to explain the “why” to life, and Camp Y is trying to prove something, miracles clear the fog to reveal God's heart toward us.

3:: THE PREREQUISITE OF MIRACLES

From Jesus' earthly life we see that God's will for us is to be spiritually and physically well (Luke 5:12-13; 7:22-23). So how do we receive God's will?

Mark 1:15 — “‘The time has come,’ [Jesus] said. ‘The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!’”



Regarding miracles, “repent” means to agree with God that sin and sickness are not His will, and “believe” means to trust that He has the love and power to heal. In other words, miracles happen when we want and expect them.

So, does our wanting and expecting guarantee miracles? No! (Mark 6:4-6). But rather than doubt God's will or ability, or condemn ourselves for a lack of faith, we must oppose those powers and attitudes that oppose God's will.

The result is a life that welcomes God's love and power, anticipates the fullness of His will on earth, and even embraces suffering as means toward that end (Matthew 6:10).

Personal Application

- > Does it take faith to believe and not believe in miracles?
- > If you are sick, is seeing a doctor an act of doubting God for healing?
- > Will you repent and believe – will you agree with God that sin and sickness is not His will, and that He has the love and power to heal?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?

Warm Up

- > What do you know about Islamic beliefs?
- > Do you value religious tolerance? Are all religions basically the same?



Study

1:: TWO RELIGIONS

Christianity and Islam have many points of similarity. Both worship one Creator God who is merciful and just, who spoke through Abraham, Moses and Jesus, and whose moral law is basically similar. Jesus is born of a virgin, and the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the dead are core teachings.

On other key points, however, they diverge greatly. In the Koran, Allah doesn't love sinners, and Jesus isn't God. "Muslim", means "submission" to Allah's will, and his will is to establish a global community-state ruled by Allah's law. War is a religious duty, and is open-ended and universal: "Make war on them until idolatry shall cease and God's religion reign supreme" (8:40). The pleasures of Paradise (including "bashful virgins") are only guaranteed for fallen soldiers, and unbelievers are offered three options: conversion, subjugation, or the sword. Women can be beaten, males receive twice their inheritance, and "temporary marriages" are permitted.

The differences between these two religions are most clear in terms of salvation. Faith and good works are emphasized in both, but in Islam, faith refers to making the confession, "There is no god but Allah. Mohammed is the messenger of Allah", and good works are how we shift Allah's favor toward us (although in the end, entrance into Paradise is based purely on Allah's whim).

In Christianity, faith refers to receiving Jesus' payment for our sin through His substitutionary death, and good works are an expression of love instead of an attempt to earn God's favor. In essence, sin is paid not weighed.

Behind these radically divergent beliefs is a completely different foundation: Christianity is built on love; Islam is built on law.

2:: WORLD PEACE

Given these irreconcilable differences, how can we ever hope to achieve world peace? One approach believes in "tolerance", where all religions are thought to be different paths that lead to the same source. Not only does this view rob humanity of our passion and purpose, it requires a level of mental gymnastics that leaves us intellectually twisted.

Another approach believes that unity is achieved through following a common set of beliefs. Not only does this model erase diversity, not

all beliefs have the capacity to sustain peace, as Soviet communism and Islamic law have shown.

The problem with both approaches is that they do not address the heart of conflict, which is sin. Intolerance, diversity, or ignorance is not the root issue.

James 4:1 — What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"

3:: LASTING PEACE

True and lasting peace is found in a Person: Jesus Christ. He is unique in His approach to peace in that He deals with our sin. First, He pays for our sin, for peace cannot be upheld without justice.

Hebrews 9:22 — Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Second, He provides us with the power to turn from sin and love others.

2 Peter 1:3 — By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.

Third, He practices love and peace in how He leads.

Isaiah 9:6-7 — [Jesus] will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end.

Jesus satisfies the requirements for peace: He pays for our sin, provides the power to love others, and practices loving authority. In contrast, Allah does not pay for sin, provides no supernatural help, and rules in fear. And other deities and rulers are no better. Only Jesus can give us true and lasting peace.

Personal Application

- > Why is sin the ultimate cause of all division and alienation?
- > Why are all three elements – loving leadership, payment for sin and power to love others – necessary for peace? What happens if one is missing?
- > Think of the strife in your life. What do you need from Jesus?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?

8:: Gender Equality

Warm Up

- > How do male-dominated homes affect the family members?
- > What is the effect on homes where male leadership is absent? How do we avoid both extremes?

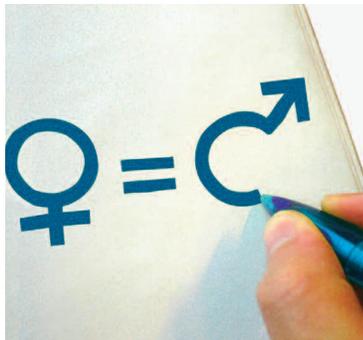
Study

1:: GENDER EQUALITY

Biblically, gender equality is a given. Eve was taken from the rib of Adam (not the head or foot), and Christ opposes cultural, economic and gender inequality:

Galatians 3:28 — There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Men and women stand equally before God, all leading, submitting, serving, and freely pursuing every talent and opportunity. So we must be vigilant to defend equality, for any act of discrimination degrades us all. If our value is based on gender, status, usefulness, or culture, then human worth is no longer inherent. And if human worth is conditional, we are all in danger of being victimized by hate crimes.



2:: THE PROBLEM WITH AUTHORITY

Unfortunately, believing in equality does not erase all tension, for equality does not mean sameness. The Bible teaches that men and women are equal in worth, but are unique in design and function. Specifically, God instituted in the home a form of leadership called, male “headship.” Jesus models this form of leading, as well as how to follow this kind of leadership:

1 Corinthians 11:3 — But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Regarding following, Jesus, “being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped” but obeyed Him without reserve (Philippians 2:6). Jesus freely engaged in a hierarchical relationship, not because He was inferior in any way, but because of His trust in God, and the purpose at hand.

Regarding leading, Jesus used His authority to die for our sin.

Ephesians 5:25 — For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her.

Even though it is easy to see authority as the problem, it is the misuse of authority that is the true enemy. In fact, mob rule is as abusive as a dictatorship. So when is authority abusive? When it is used for selfish purposes. In contrast is Jesus’ use of authority:

Matthew 20:26,28 — Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant... For even [Jesus] came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

When leading and following are both viewed as serving roles, the need for rebellion against authority is unnecessary.

3:: GENDER COOPERATION

What does male authority provide? The answer comes in understanding that homes require two kinds of leadership, which can be likened to the two main centres of military leadership – headquarters and the battlefield. Both perspectives on the war are critical (and communication is vital). Likewise, men lead by providing resources and overarching purpose, and wives lead by receiving that input and adding practical detail. Together, they create a healthy home.

Relationships that grasp for equality are characterized by power struggles, negotiation, independence, suspicion, insignificance, and rule keeping; leaving the couple divided and useless. Conversely, a healthy functioning hierarchy is incredible. Not only can they achieve so much more than can a hyper-democratic model, their relationship is built on trust and trustworthiness.

While the level of risk is higher in this form of marriage, so is the level of impact and freedom. Imagine relationships that are built on trust and trustworthiness! When our homes replace suspicion with trust, and self-serving leadership with servant leadership, something revolutionary would happen in our society, the effects of which would last for generations.

Personal Application

- > How does servant leadership remove the need for mistrust and rebellion?
- > How do we build relationships on trust and trustworthiness, instead of fairness and hyper-equality? What would be the result?

Prayer

What can we pray for in your life?