

**Introduction** - Is your marriage a "*dance*" or a "*debate*"?

- A "Great Dance" Demands . . .
  - A Choreographer
  - Mutual Submission to His "steps"
  - Clarity of Roles
  - Practice, Practice, and More Practice
  
- A "Great Dance" Develops . . .
  - An Incredible Team
  - Balance, Timing, Rhythm, and Strength
  - Personal Joy and Joint Fulfillment
  - A Thing of Beauty

## God's Design for "The Dance" of Marriage

*Ephesians 5:21-33*

- Mutual Submission to the Choreographer

<sup>21</sup>*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

vs. 21 (NIV)

- A Word to Women - Follow His Lead

<sup>22</sup>*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.*<sup>23</sup>*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.*<sup>24</sup>*Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

vs. 22-24 (NIV)

- The Command =
  
- The Reason =
  
- What Does this Mean? =
  
- What this Does *Not* Mean =

## A Word to Men - Be Worthy of Following

*<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her<sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,<sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church--<sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body.*

vs. 25-30 (NIV)

- The Command =
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- The Purpose =
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What Does this Mean? =
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What this Does Not Mean =

## A Word to the World - It's about the Dance, Not the Dancers

<sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."<sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.

<sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

vs. 31-33 (NIV)

*Conclusion* - Is your marriage a "dance" or a "debate?"

## Discussion Questions

1. What new insight did you gain concerning the roles of men and women in marriage?
2. How has our culture made it difficult to function according to God's design?
3. How have abuses in the church made it difficult to function according to God's design?
4. How could focusing on "your role" vs. evaluating your mate's role help you both "get in step" with God's plan for your marriage?

### **Resources:**

For those with unbelieving or unresponsive spouses – CD Series available at Living on the Edge: *The Awesome Power of Encouragement*, *How to be a Christian without Being Religious*, & *Love One Another*  
For more research on male/female roles - Book: *Male & Female: Enjoying the Difference* by Larry Crabb