

Compatibility and Love

Chapter 5

Audio Lesson: FAM05



Objective: To further explore the evidences of compatibility in marriage and to introduce the dynamic of *agape* love.



Husbands, love your wives, in the same way Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, he who loves his wife loves himself... each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband.

—Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

—Proverbs 31:30-31

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

—1 Corinthians 13:13

The spiritual dimension of a marriage relationship is the foundation of oneness God has designed for us; communication is a tool that helps couples cultivate and maintain their oneness; compatibility is the evidence of their oneness; and love is the great dynamic and expression of the oneness God intended when He said “the two shall become one flesh.” But one of the biggest problems in marriage is selfishness. When we learn to treat our spouse unselfishly—to put our spouse at the center and meet his or her needs—we begin to love as Jesus does. And that is the true expression of a couple’s unity and oneness as God intends.

As we look at the issue of compatibility in marriage, we see that love is the foundation for a husband’s and wife’s roles and the primary way they are to relate to each other. God’s Word tells the husband to be considerate as he lives with his wife and to respect her as a co-heir of the gift of life so that his prayers will not be hindered. And it tells the Christian wife to find her value in completing her husband, be a man maker. One of the best descriptions of *agape* love is in 1 Corinthians 13, which not only helps us understand divine love but shows us how we should love others. If we have the Holy Spirit in us, we have the ability to love our spouse and other people with divine love. Without this ability, the oneness of marriage cannot truly be fulfilled and experienced; but with it, marriage can be everything God intended it to be.

1. True or false? Most problems with compatibility in marriage have to do with the physical side of the relationship.

2. True or false? The marriage relationship is to be a reflection of the relationship between Jesus and His church.



3. True or false? The Bible tells the man how to fix the woman and the woman how to fix the man.

4. True or false? The Bible tells us that men and women have identical roles in marriage.

5. True or false? The Bible says women are inferior to men and treats them as less important than men.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. How does the Bible instruct husbands to treat their wives?

- a. Honor and respect them
- b. Dominate them
- c. Submit to everything they say
- d. Own them as property

7. On what does Scripture base the worth of a woman?

- a. Her ability to perform the same role as a man
- b. Her physical beauty
- c. Her spiritual attitudes and ability to complete her husband
- d. Her ability to make money

8. Which of the following attributes is at the heart of defining a man's and a woman's roles?
- Submission
 - Talents and skills
 - Appearance
 - Love
9. Which of the following is the greatest spiritual quality to have?
- Knowledge
 - Hope
 - Faith
 - Love
10. When we read about love in the Bible, how should we first apply what we learn?
- We should tell other people how to love us.
 - We should feel guilty about all the ways we do not love others.
 - We should be encouraged to love others the way Jesus loves us.
 - We should make sure we understand it before we offer it to others.
11. Which of the following words describe true, biblical love? (*choose all that apply*)
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| selfish | trusting |
| patient | impatient |
| rude | kind |
| envious | vengeful |
| proud | humble |
| rejoicing | selfless |
| hopeful | dangerous |
| persevering | protective |



Husbands, how can you get to know your wife better? What can you do to show that you respect and appreciate her?

Wives, where are you seeking your value? What can you do to be a better completer of your husband?

How do you think your marriage and other relationships would change if you focused completely on other people and showed them the kind of love that Jesus shows us? What can we do to grow in our ability to show that kind of love?



Thank God for His unfailing, selfless love toward us. Ask God to show you His love in deeper and deeper ways and to help you grow in your ability to love others selflessly. Ask God to change your attitudes and relationships, especially your marriage, as you learn to demonstrate His love.



Going Deeper

1. How compatible are you and your spouse in your values? _____

2. What model do both Peter and Paul hold up for marriage? _____

3. What role does this model prescribe for the man? For the wife? _____

4. How do you and your spouse see your respective roles in your marriage? Are you in agreement on this? _____

5. In what ways does our culture flow against the Scriptural law of marriage and family? _____

6. What is the greatest single problem in marriage? _____

7. What kinds of stress can two careers put on a marriage? _____
