



We live in a culture obsessed with Pinterest weddings, shows about quick weddings, and finding love on television. On the contrary, the Biblical standard for marriage is much different than what our culture presents to us. God established the marriage relationship in Genesis, but the beautiful picture of marriage was quickly marred when sin entered the world. In Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus he gives us detailed instructions for a thriving marriage. Paul provides an outline for couples to follow in the marriage relationship that can bring us back to God's original plan. Paul longed to see married couples have longevity and be a witness to those around them. Paul's instruction involves mutual submission and an extra serving of love.

1. Neal started the sermon by sharing about what football players are taught by NFL coaches. Each player is to do their best to help move the ball down the field. Are you trying to do your best to help your spouse succeed in your marriage?
2. Read Ephesians 5:21. The Biblical command is for the husband and the wife to submit to each other because of their relationship to God. What are some practical ways that spouses can submit to each other as to the Lord? (see James 4:7)
3. Paul instructed wives to submit to their husbands (read Ephesians 4:22-24). How come the word submission has such a negative connotation in our culture? Read Colossians 3:18 and 1 Peter 3:1 to talk more about submission in a positive light.
4. The Biblical instruction for men is to love their wife (read Ephesians 5:25-32 & Colossians 3:19). How can a man love his wife in the same way that Jesus loved the church? Read John 3:16 for one example of how Jesus loved the church.
5. Men are told to help lead their wife spiritually. What are some practical ways that men can lead their home spiritually? (see Proverbs 18:22 & 1 Peter 3:7) How can women support and encourage their husband in spiritual leadership?
6. Read Ephesians 5:33. How come Paul told men to love their wife and the wife to respect her husband and not the other way around? Wouldn't it make sense the other way since women tend to love better and guys understand respect?
7. Neal invited every married couple to either find a mentor couple or invite a younger married couple to their home. What steps are you taking to invest in your marriage?
8. Close your time in prayer. Talk about who you will invite to Coastline next Sunday.