



SOLVING THE RELATIONSHIP RUBIK'S CUBE SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 2

1. What five things did Pastor Rick say the leader of a family must be committed to? What does each one mean? Which one do you think is the hardest to do? Why? The easiest? Why?

Answer – Pastor Rick said that a family leader must be committed to:

1. God and Spouse
2. Raising godly children
3. Their personal spiritual condition
4. Maintaining the right attitude
5. Praying for their family.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

2. In verse 21 of the above passage, what does it say we should do? What do you think this means? Read Philippians 2:1-5. Do you think verse 21 refers to the same thing as the Philippians passage?

Answer – As believers we are to submit to each other, which as the Philippians passage says, means that we should put the needs of other Christians above our own. This especially true in marriage, the wife must be willing to put the needs of her husband before her own and the husband is to put the needs of his wife before his own. The picture of a Christian marriage is you have two people falling over themselves in their attempt to put the needs of their spouse before their own.

3. In the above passage, what does it say a wife should do in regard to her husband? Why does it say she should do this? What do you think this means? How is this different from what it said in verse 21? The family is the first form of government that God created. In what way is a marriage like a government or corporation?

Answer – In the passage it says that a wife should submit to her husband. This is different from verse 21 in that it is talking about how God created a marriage with an authority structure. Just like in a government or corporation, there is a CEO – the husband. God holds the husband responsible for how his marriage goes; does he carry out all five of the responsibilities mentioned in question #1?

4. What does this passage say the husband is to do in verses 25 – 30 in regards to his wife? What does it say Jesus does for the church as its head? How would the husband do for his wife what Christ does for the church? If a husband loves his wife the way this passage says he should, would the wife need to be afraid of her husband trampling on her if she submits to him?

Answer: The husband is to love his wife as much as and in the same way that Christ loves the church. He should be willing to sacrifice his own well-being to see that her needs are met. Christ cleanses the church through the word of God so that it will be holy and blameless in God's sight. It is the job of the husband to lead his wife and his children spiritually, it is his responsibility to see to the spiritual wellbeing of his family. If a husband loves his wife unconditionally, then she can freely submit to his authority without fear.

5. What did Pastor Rick call this kind of leadership? What do you think it means to be this kind of leader? How did Jesus demonstrate this type of leadership?

Answer – Pastor Rick called this Servant Leadership. Jesus said that he did not come here to be served, but to serve humanity by dying for their sins. A servant leader puts the well-being of those whom they serve above themselves, even to the point of dying for them.

6. What do you think it means for a wife to respect her husband? Why do you think it tells a husband to love his wife as much as Christ loves the church and at the same time tells the wife all she must do is respect her husband?

Answer – This distinction shows the one of the differences between men and women. God created males to have the need to feel like they are being useful to their family. This gives them their feeling of self-worth. God created females with the emotional need to be loved and accepted. This provides them with the security they need in marriage. This shows that males and females are not the same as we are being told in society today.