

#### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ to Serve My Spouse

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 - 8

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- A. Study my \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of understanding.
- B. Find \_\_\_\_\_ ways to serve my spouse.
- C. Make the necessary \_\_\_\_\_ for my spouse.

JOHN 15:13

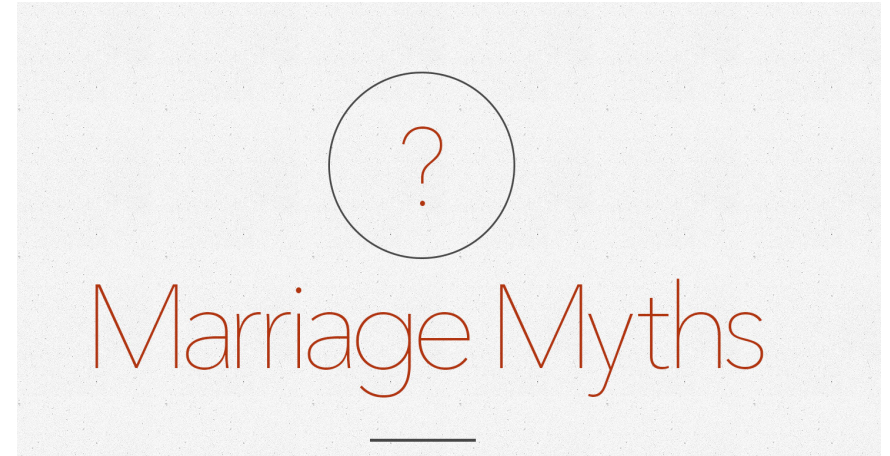
*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

1 JOHN 3:16

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

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Today's Lesson:

#### **Meet-Me-Halfway Myth:**

a good marriage is one where each partner contributes fifty percent

#### **Why we believe it:**

We come to marriage with a perspective based on a combination of selfish human nature, unrealistic expectations, and an imbalanced concept of teamwork.

#### **What the Bible says about it:**

MATTHEW 5:40 - 42

<sup>40</sup> And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. <sup>41</sup> And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. <sup>42</sup> Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

EPHESIANS 5:25

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*



Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUOTE** *“For every couple, the honeymoon ends and the hard work of building a lasting marriage begins.”—Dennis Rainey*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ in Meeting Halfway

A. Our \_\_\_\_\_ and loyalty are based on our spouse’s performance.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3  
*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

B. Our \_\_\_\_\_ hinge on and wait for our spouse’s actions.

C. We are unable to objectively \_\_\_\_\_ “halfway.”

D. Our \_\_\_\_\_ is on our spouse’s responsibility, not our own.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Selfishness

A. Focuses on \_\_\_\_\_ instead of giving.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4  
*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

B. Results in \_\_\_\_\_ instead of patience.

C. Spends \_\_\_\_\_ and resources to please self instead of others.

MATTHEW 6:21  
*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

D. Places \_\_\_\_\_ on my spouse instead of myself.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a Servant

A. Servanthood is founded upon \_\_\_\_\_.

1 PETER 5:5  
*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

B. Servanthood \_\_\_\_\_ on serving rather than being served.

GALATIANS 5:13  
*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

C. Servanthood does good without an \_\_\_\_\_ of receiving something in return.

D. Servanthood focuses on my \_\_\_\_\_ over my rights.