Introduction: What’s a woman to do?

1. The evolution of the American female

2. The mother-absent family

3. The impact of changing roles
   - Men: ____________ income family
   - Women: ________ jobs
   - Children: ________ little attention

4. The fundamental question:
   - Are women’s lives, marriages, and families __________________ or __________________, since the “PC” experiment?
Womanhood in our marriages and homes

1. It always begins with mutual ___________________________.

   . . . and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.   Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

   • The metaphor of “The Dance”
   • The meaning of “submission”

2. A great dance/marriage requires clarity of _________________.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.

Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (NIV)

Related Passages: 1 Peter 3:1-6; Colossians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3
3. Wives are to “________________ - _____” and support, affirm, and encourage their husbands with strength and respect to lead their families in righteousness.

**What does this mean?**

- Wives must understand that marriage is not an __________________________ fifty/fifty proposition.

- Wives must __________________________ support their husbands from the heart as an act of obedience to Christ.

- Wives must believe that submission (“stepping in” vs. “stepping over”) is a woman’s _______________________ ________; the key to bringing about positive change.

**What this does not mean**

- It doesn’t mean you are to be ______________________ or feel __________________._

- It doesn’t mean that you _______________________ only when you think he’s right.

- It doesn’t mean that you _______________________ Scripture, reason, or morality to support your husband.

- It doesn’t mean you’re a ________________________.

- It doesn’t mean you use “submission” as a _______________________ to get your way.
Application/Discussion Questions:

1. What new insight did you gain concerning the roles of 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. (Women) What specific steps do you need to take to become the woman God wants in your home?

5. (Men) What specific steps do you need to take to help your wife be the woman God wants her to be in your home?

Marriage that Works
Personal Commitment – Week 3

From this day forward...

- I will “step-in” and support, affirm, and encourage my husband with strength and respect in order to lead our family in righteousness.

  Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord... as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (Ephesians 5:22a, 24b NIV)

Signed ___________________________  Date ___________________________

I commit to pray for...

- Husbands and wives to be subject to one another in Christ.
- Wives to support, affirm, and encourage their husbands.
- Wives to be willing to trust God in areas they fear “letting go.”

  ...hear my voice when I call to You. May my prayer be set before You like incense… (Psalm 141:1-2 NIV)