

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE MARRIED TO ME?

Joanne Tramel's Sermon from March 1, 2015 – Listen at HaysChristianChurch.org

TWO TEXTS (Both NIV):

“Do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12).

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

QUESTION #1: What keeps us from doing a better job of obeying the golden rule in our marriages?

1. Scorekeeping
2. The “I’ve got my rights” mentality
3. Taking our mates for granted
4. Not taking time and caring to learn our mate’s views, feelings
5. Imposing our own preferences as legislative for the family
6. The “Can’t I at least be myself at home?” syndrome
7. The “I can’t help it; I was provoked” syndrome
8. The “Misunderstood hero of my inner story” syndrome

QUESTION #2: How can we use the golden rule to transform a struggling marriage into a wonderful marriage?

1. Develop generosity of spirit
2. Seek things to compliment or be grateful for in our mates, and then tell them so
3. Invent pleasant surprises
4. Act each day as if you were trying to win the heart of your mate all over again
5. Ask about and really listen in order to find out your mate’s views and feelings
6. Never go to bed angry – forgive and seek forgiveness quickly
7. Submit to one another in Christ, the true head in every Christian marriage

CONCLUSION: A short cut: Ask “What’s it like to be married to me?” and then change everything you regret in the answer.