



Calvary Chapel Tustin Couples Fellowship

Love & Respect

Session 5: Chapters 15-18

This session opens your study of C-H-A-I-R-S, six principles to help a wife learn the important aspects of respecting her husband. As the wife discusses the six parts of C-H-A-I-R-S with her husband, she will learn more about how to respect him (and he will learn how to encourage her to do it even better!).

Note: The following questions and discussion topics are primarily for you to answer and discuss privately as a couple. Some of these topics may also be discussed in a group setting at the next meeting. In the group sessions, the following ground rules apply: (1) Do not share anything with the group that would embarrass your spouse; (2) You may pass on any question you don't want to discuss.

Chapter 15: "C-H-A-I-R-S: How to Spell Respect to Your Husband"

1. To get started, the six words represented by the acronym C-H-A-I-R-S are listed below. Next to each word is a brief definition. Under each word, write what it suggests to you. Does your definition match the one given?

Conquest: His desire to work and achieve.



My definition:



My definition:

Hierarchy: His desire to protect and provide.



My definition:



My definition:

Authority: His desire to serve and to lead.



My definition



My definition:

Insight: His desire to analyze and counsel.



My definition:



My Definition:

Relationship: His desire for shoulder-to-shoulder friendship.



My definition:



My definition:

Sexuality: His desire for sexual intimacy



My definition:



My definition:



Which of these words piqued your curiosity as a husband or as a wife? Which seems most important to a happy marriage? Why? When the study of C-H-A-I-R-S is complete, come back to this question and see if your opinions have changed and talk about why they may have changed.

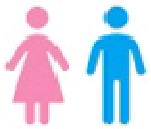
2. On the opening pages of Chapter Fifteen, Emerson reviews something he said earlier: for many wives the words “unconditional respect” seem like a foreign term, even an oxymoron. According to Emerson’s research and experience with thousands of couples, a wife may buy into the idea of giving her husband unconditional respect, but have trouble with how to go about it. Take a moment to put down your honest thoughts about “unconditional respect” from your pink and blue perspective:



I think “unconditional respect” is:

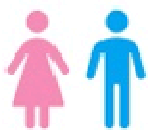


I think “unconditional respect” is:



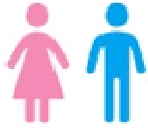
Be sensitive to each other as you share your answers. You may want to pass on discussing this now. If you want to try, it might be of help to go over the testimonial letters from wives on pages 184 and 185. What worked for these women as they tried to start giving their husbands unconditional respect?

3. “How to Use the “Respect Test” with Your Husband” (pages 185-187) includes Emerson’s description of one of the most effective tools he has developed to help wives tell their husbands, “I respect you!” Read this section carefully, then record your honest response. Could the Respect Test work in your marriage? Are you willing to try it?



Because you are studying together, obviously it will be impossible for a wife to “surprise” her husband by telling him, “I just want you to know I respect you.” Suggestions for wives: write him a “respect note” sometime in the next few days. It doesn’t matter if he knows the note is coming. What it says, surprise or not, is what will count. Suggestion for husbands: it is important that you receive and read this note without sarcasm or even teasing such as, “You just wrote this because Emerson told you to.” All a husband need remember is how he would feel if he tried to do something loving that is suggested in *Love & Respect*, and his wife responded with, “You’re just doing that because you read it in the book.” Obviously the whole idea behind saying or writing a message of respect is that the wife wants to do it, even if she isn’t sure what will happen.

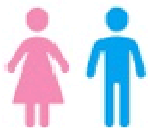
4. Read the rest of the chapter, from “Be ready with Reasons That You Respect Him” to the end (pages 187-92). Emerson stresses that when a wife tells her husband, “I respect you,” she must be ready with good reasons why, because he will want to know! A key problem for many wives, especially those just getting acquainted with the concept of respect, is that they can’t think of what to say. Look over Emerson’s suggestions and make some notes on what could work.



You may agree to leave this question strictly for the wife. If the Respect Test or writing a Respect Note has any favorable results at all (and it usually does) husband and wife will have lots to discuss afterward. As Emerson says on page 189, the typical good-willed husband wants a happy marriage, and “...wives who try the Respect Test can be amazed at what will happen. Men are starving for respect.” For examples of what can happen when wives start practicing respect, see the letter on pages 189-91.

Chapter 16: “Conquest-Appreciate His Desire to Work and Achieve”

1. Read the opening of Chapter Sixteen on pages 193-94, especially the part about what not to say to a man who has lost his job. Why would it probably be nonproductive, even harmful, for a wife to say, “It’s okay, honey; we have each other”? What does a man’s job have to do with his sense of self-respect? Because his job is so important to him, does that mean his wife is unimportant? Write your thoughts:



Talk together about how important work is to a man. Keep in mind that in this day and age work may be quite important to a woman as well. Later in Chapter Sixteen, Emerson observes that many wives work, but the typical woman likes to have the option of being able to leave the workplace if she so chooses (see page 199).

2. In “From the Start, Adam Enjoyed His Work” (pages 194-196), Emerson shares insights from Genesis about the first man and his career path. What does this section tell you about men and their work? Emerson claims that working---being involved in adventure and conquest out in the field of life---is not an option for a man but rather, “it is a deep-seated trait.” Write down some of your thoughts about why you agree or disagree with this idea?



Share your reactions to Emerson’s opinions. Be sure to discuss what Scripture says about the woman being a “helpmeet” to the man. How this play out in does today’s world where many women work out of necessity or choice, and sometimes earn more than their husbands?

3. Read the last two sections of Chapter Sixteen: “Have You Ever Said, ‘Thanks for Working?’” and “He Wants a Woman Who Believes in Him” (pages 200-03). Then take the True or False test that pertains to you:



Mark each statement T for True, or F for False.

- I have told my husband numerous times, “Thanks for working.”
- I sometimes think my husband works too long and too much.
- My husband is much more than a “meal ticket” to me.



Mark each statement T or F.

- It would be (is) nice to be told, “Thanks for working.”
- I know I work too many hours, but I feel I have no choice.
- I sometimes feel I’m just a “meal Ticket.”



Compare your answers and discuss them. Be sensitive to each other, particularly concerning “working too many hours.” Note Emerson’s comment on page 202 of *Love & Respect*: “If he is a good-willed man who is neglecting his family by working too much, he will realize it, and you can talk it through and work it out.” (For more on a man working too much see *Love & Respect* Appendix E, page 315.)

4. Go over the tips on page 203 (“Your Husband Will Feel You Appreciated His Desire to Work and Achieve When...”) Choose two or three you think could benefit your marriage. When do you see these being tried?

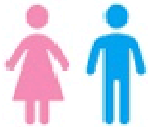


Compare notes on what each of you chose. If the husband’s feelings about how his work is perceived did not come out in Question 1, they may be clearer as the two of you talk about it here.

Chapter 17: “Hierarchy-Appreciate His Desire to Protect and Provide”

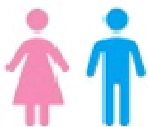
1. According to the dictionary, hierarchy means “a body of persons organized or classified according to rank, capacity, or authority.” When you read the phrase, “hierarchy in marriage,” what immediately comes to mind? Check the answer that comes closest to your honest first response, or write your own.

- a. Politically incorrect.
- b. Men think they are superior.
- c. God’s plan is good, but men abuse it.
- d, I think:



Compare your answers. Did either of you check or write a definition that interprets “hierarchy in marriage” negatively? Discuss what Emerson says on page 205 of *Love & Respect*. Does he think the Bible supports chauvinism and the “superiority of the male”? Write down the gist of what you believe Emerson is saying:

2. According to the section “What Is the Real Meaning of ‘Biblical Hierarchy’?” (pages 206-8), what kind of hierarchy has God planned for marriage? (See also Ephesians 5:22-24.) What does God call the husband to do? What does He call the wife to do?



Talk about a husband’s responsibility to love, protect, and provide for his wife. Take a second look together at the letter from a wife on page 207. How did she first interpret her husband’s firm, even a bit gruff, efforts to lead and protect her? What changed her mind about his leadership?

3. According to Emerson (pages 207-208) an evil-willed man might abuse his position as head of the family but a good-willed man would not take advantage of his wife or children because “that is not his nature. He will not use his position as ‘chair’ of the family against those he is to love and protect.”



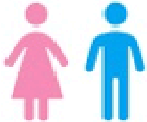
Do you think Emerson is right? How do you see your husband in his role a “head” of the family? Which statement comes closest to describing him? Or if you prefer, write your own:

- a. I am comfortable with my husband as “head.” He does a good job.
- b. I agree he should be the “head,” but I wish I could have more input.
- c. I am not completely comfortable with my husband as “head.” He thinks he is being biblical, he puts the children and me down at times.
- d. I think:



How do you view your God-given position as “head” of the family? Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about having this responsibility?

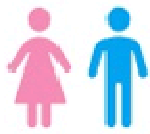
- a. Uncomfortable. I never asked to be the “head, “ but when I try to do what the Bible says, I don’t get a lot of support from my family.
- b. Comfortable. As far as I know I do not lord it over my wife and kids.
- c. I’m willing to be “head,” but I could use some help sometimes.
- d. I think:



Compare what you checked or wrote: this could be a sensitive question, for either of you. Before discussing your answers, agree with God that you want to show each other love and respect. Both of you need to be humble and willing to accept feedback from each other, even if it smarts a bit.

Following are some questions for a good-willed husband to help him evaluate how he feels when his wife chooses quietness rather than being verbally contentious. As a husband, which of the following comes closest to what you might think? (As a wife, which of the following would you say your husband would choose?)

- a. Her quietness is an endorsement of my position and no further discussion is needed. I get what I want.
- b. I’m afraid her quietness is short term and insincere; she will verbally attack me if she doesn’t get her way.
- c. Her quietness gets my attention and calms me down. I often feel convicted about where I have been unreasonable and want to make amends.
- d. I think her quietness is one of two things: weakness and fear, or rebellion and anger. Either way, when she won’t talk to me I get irritated.
- e. Her quietness? That would be nice. I have not encountered what Emerson describes.
- f. I think:

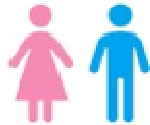


This can be sensitive. Remember that both of you have goodwill and want to treat each other with love and respect. The good-willed wife may want to assure her husband that she never uses quietness as a ploy or a weapon. The good-willed husband may want to reassure his wife that as she seeks to obey God, he will seek to respond in good faith as well. (For more examples of how a wife's quiet respectfulness can influence her husband, go to <http://www.loveandrespect.com/pearl/>)

4. "How to Deflate a Husband with Seven Words" (page 209), find the remark a wife made that deflated and disrespected her husband. Fill in the blanks:

"You need _____."

Why would this remark hurt a husband so badly? List some reasons here:



Compare your answers and discuss what happened in the incident described on pages 209-210. Was the husband too sensitive? Did the wife have any clue about what showing him respect might mean? In earlier session you covered the question that any Love and Respect spouse can ask to guard against being unloving or disrespectful. For husband or wife, the question begins: "Is what I am about to say or do...." How does this question end for the husband? For the wife? (If you need help, see "Always ask yourself" Appendix A, page 305.)

Chapter 18: "Authority-Appreciate His Desire to Serve and to Lead"

1. Read "Who's the Boss at Your House?" (pages 216-17). Then indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements and write a brief reason for your answer.

a. Men and women are totally equal, and husbands don't have any more responsibility and authority than their wives do.

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

Explain:

b. The good-willed husband who acts responsibly and lovingly as leader of his home always works out compromises that are mutually pleasing.

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

Explain:

c. If a wife is a better decision maker and has better judgment than her husband. She should demand equal say regarding what they buy, where they go, what they do.

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

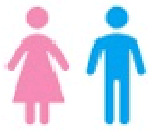
Explain:

d. The good-willed wife who is more competent than her husband needs to demonstrate her abilities by her respectful speech and deferential attitude, with the confidence that in time her husband will prize her giftedness.

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

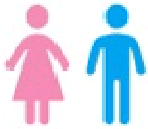
Explain:



Compare your answers to these statements. This could be a sensitive area, particularly if the wife is inclined toward the feminist view, which claims that men and women should have equal authority and responsibility. A good goal is not to cater to what society and culture are saying about husbands and wives but work to understand what Scripture says. Many wives are like the young woman in the opening of Chapter Eighteen (page 215) who said: “I want him to be the head. I want him to be the leader. I just want to make sure that he makes decisions in keeping with what I want.”

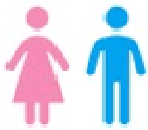
2. Read “Does Scripture Teach Mutual Submission?” (pages 217-19), where Emerson discusses the concept of “mutual submission” which says husbands and wives should submit to one another with neither one being owed any special deference. What impressions or opinions do you have about “mutual submission?” Choose from the statements, or write your own assessment.

- a. ____ Mutual submission sounds unworkable. Ultimately, someone has to be responsibly in charge.
- b. ____ These mutual submission people may have something. I need to get more info.
- c. ____ I prefer the Love and Respect approach.
- d. ____ I think:



As you compare your answers, be aware that for some couples this could be a sensitive question. Biblical feminists have argued in recent years for a certain kind of “mutual submission,” which they base on Ephesians 5:21: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (NIV). Those proposing this particular mutual submission approach interpret Ephesians 5:21 to mean that the wife owes no special submission to her husband. However, Ephesians 5:22 clearly says: “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord” (NIV). The Love and Respect approach to marriage is based on Ephesians 5:22, which does not give a husband a mandate to treat his wife poorly. On the contrary, he is to defer to his wife’s need for love in all situations. This is his goal, even though he is certain to fall short at times. Review page 218, especially the discussion of how to deal with honest stalemates.

3. Read “Husbands Are Responsible to ‘Make the Call’” (pages 219-21). How does a Love and Respect couple reach a decision when there is an honest stalemate, a difference of opinion where husband and wife both have good points and reasons why they believe their way is best? List some steps they can take to keep Love and Respect working in their relationship. According to page 220, if the husband has to “make the call” and his wife does not agree with it, how does she cope with the temptation to feel unloved at the moment? How does she show him respect?



Compare your answers and talk about how you deal with stalemates in your own marriage. Wife, do you agree with Emerson’s advice on page 220 to remain respectful and quiet? Husband, do you accept your responsibility to “make the call” when necessary if a decision is needed and you can’t agree with each other?

4. The following paragraphs are excerpted from the section “Authority Must Come with Responsibility” (pages 221-23). Mark your reaction to each paragraph and put down a brief reason why.

a. “...because God has made your husband responsible (review Ephesians 5:25-33), he needs the authority to carry out that responsibility. No smoothly running organization can have two heads. To set up a marriage with two equals at the head is to set it up for failure.... God knew someone had to be in charge, and that is why Scripture teaches that, in order for things to work, the wife is called to defer to her husband.”

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

Explain:

b. “If you want to work with your husband to reach mutually satisfying decisions most of the time, follow this principle: GO ON RECORD WITH YOUR HUSBAND THAT YOU SEE HIM AS HAVING 51 PERCENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY AND, THEREFORE, 51 PERCENT OF THE AUTHORITY. Once you go on record about this authority, he will not feel you are trying to be the boss. As you submit (which simply means recognizing his biblically given authority), you will not be a doormat. In fact, you will get your way far more often than you would if you ‘stood up for your rights,’ which usually means being disrespected.”

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

Explain:

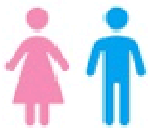
c. “...among good-willed couples, if there are one hundred decisions over a three-month period related to the family, the wife will have a strong opinion on ninety-nine of them, and her opinion will usually be respected and have strong influence.”

AGREE _____

DISAGREE _____

Explain:

:



Compare your answers and discuss as many of these statements as you can. If you have definite disagreement on a certain paragraph, you may want to focus on that.

My current thoughts about our marriage: