

## Session 7

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# BEING A TEAM

### Getting Ready

*Here's what you'll talk about:*

- roles and chores
- decision-making
- spiritual unity

### Survey Says...

Take a quick look at the Roles & Responsibilities section of your Couple Checkup report. Notice whether this is a “strength” or “growth” area in your relationship.

### Selfie

*Taking a Snapshot of Where You Are Right Now*

Here's a survey to complete in three minutes or less. No need to overthink this; use “off the top of your head” responses as much as possible. The point isn't to come up with “right” answers, but simply to start thinking about where you stand on some of the



4. What household chore do you dislike the most? What three chores would you be willing to perform if your spouse would do the one you just named?
5. Have you ever known spouses who seemed like spiritual teammates? If so, what made them seem that way? What might that kind of teamwork look like for you and your mate-to-be?

## WeTube

### *Getting the Most from the Video*

After watching the Session 7 video on the DVD, discuss the following questions.

1. Here's a line from a song in *The Lego Movie*: "Everything is awesome . . . everything is cool when you're part of a team." Do you agree? If being part of a team is so great, why is this session necessary?
2. If the average adult in the U.S. makes about 35,000 decisions each day, how many do you think the average married couple in the U.S. makes *together* each day? Why?

3. Which of the following fictional games do you think will most resemble your marriage? Why? Will you be playing against each other? If not, how will you work as a team?

- Angry Bird Brides
- Marriage Monopoly
- Twister for Two
- Halo VII: Honeymoon Edition
- other \_\_\_\_\_

4. You heard many of the couples and the experts in the video talk about the importance of serving your spouse. Why is having a servant's mindset important when trying to divide household responsibilities and for making decisions as a team? How will you make it your goal every day to out-serve your spouse?

5. Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ..." What does this verse say about a husband's role in the marriage? What is the difference between "serving" your wife and "sacrificing" for her?

6. Ephesians 5:22–33 is the most substantial section of Scripture written to husbands and wives about their roles in marriage. The apostle Paul uses 216 words total in these 12 verses (NIV). The interesting part is that 62 words are to the wife, and 154 words are to the husband. Therefore, 71 percent of Paul's

teaching is to the husband. Why do you think Paul spends so much time addressing men regarding their role as husbands?

Discuss the following verses out of Ephesians 5:22–33 and what they say regarding a husband’s role in marriage. Circle key phrases or words that you desire to be part of your marriage:

- <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
- <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
- <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body.
- <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
- <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

7. Why is the word *submission* such a loaded word or a difficult concept in today's culture? Write down some words or phrases that come to mind when you hear the word *submit* in the context of marriage.

What is the healthy, biblical view of a wife submitting to her husband's leadership?

Talk about the following verses out of Ephesians 5:22–33 and what they say regarding a wife's role in marriage. Circle key phrases or words that you desire to be part of your marriage:

- <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
  - <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
  - <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.
8. In terms of making win-win decisions in a marriage, although the husband is the leader, this never means that he unilaterally (individually or separately) makes decisions for the couple. This would be a gross misuse of biblical leadership.

Discuss the following ideas and how they can assist you both in making decisions as a team within your marriage:

- A husband and wife were created as equals in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

- A husband and wife are encouraged to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21).
- A husband and wife are “one” and are to be unified (Ephesians 5:31).
- A husband and wife are equal, but have different roles.
  - ◆ Husband = servant leader (love, die to self, sacrifice, serve, protect, provide)
  - ◆ Wife = helpmate (respect, submit, help)
- A husband and wife have different gifts, talents, gender characteristics, personality traits. These are assets for the marriage; use them to make the best decisions possible!

9. This video segment encourages couples to find “win-win” solutions to disagreements—decisions that both people are thrilled with. Is that possible in the following situations? Why or why not?

- Neither of you really wants to spend Christmas with parents—*anybody’s* parents. But you live in California, and the rest of the family lives in New Jersey, and they haven’t seen you for three years. You can afford the trip, and you know everybody misses you.
- As a couple, you’re \$26,000 in debt because of student loans. You can go bankrupt—or pay the money back over several years by giving up movies, restaurants, your second car, and new clothes, and postponing having children.

- Your six-year-old daughter is diagnosed with a serious, painful, chronic condition. She can be treated (but not cured) at a local hospital with only one part-time specialist on the staff, or at a hospital three hours away that has more specialists and better care options.

If it's not possible to find solutions that make everybody happy in these situations, is there something wrong with the "win-win" principle?

10. Based on the video you've just seen, how would you define the following terms? How are they similar? Different? What might they look like in your marriage?
- submission
  - dying to self
  - servanthood
  - helpmate
11. How can teamwork begin when a couple is engaged? What kind of "teamwork practice" have you and your future spouse gotten so far? When it comes to teamwork, would you say the two of you are "ready to wed"? Why or why not?

## *Application*

### *Taking Things Personally*

Here's another Action Step.

PROBLEM	MEET HALFWAY	DO BOTH	DO NEITHER	TAKE TURNS	OTHER
Don't like the same church					
Spend Thanksgiving with in-laws A vs. in-laws B					
Buy new car vs. used car					
One wants to pray together daily; other doesn't want to pray as a couple at all					
Nobody wants to clean the toilets					

Care to practice a “win-win” approach to solving some problems? Here’s a list of sample disagreements. What would the options (meeting halfway, doing both things, doing neither, alternating one solution with another, or doing something completely different) look like in real life? Which might work best for you in each situation?

## Face The Book

*Going Deeper with Ready to Wed*

To learn more about—and apply—the principles you’ve just discussed, please read the following in the *Ready to Wed* book during the week:

Chapter 11, “Teammates: Ending the Chore Wars Before They Start,” by Susan and Dale Mathis