

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## HOW TO BUILD A PREVAILING MARRIAGE

Colossians 3:18-19

Stand-Alone Sermon

**ICEBREAKER:** When a store has both types of checkout lanes available, which one do you prefer — self checkout or a lane with a human cashier?

**OVERVIEW:** February is the month of love, and that makes it a good time to study what the Bible says about it. Marriage can be hard, as evidenced by the large number of divorces every year. Thankfully God has not left us in the dark, but has provided us with in-depth instructions about marriage in His word. In this discussion we will go deeper with God’s plan for building a prevailing marriage.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Why do so many marriages end in divorce?
3. How has your life been impacted by divorce?
4. What would you say to someone who is contemplating divorce?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7 and answer the following questions.
  - a. What are the similarities and differences between this passage and Colossians 3:18-19?
  - b. What instructions are given to wives?
  - c. What instructions are given to husbands?
  - d. What is most challenging thing about this passage?

6. Read Colossians 3:18-19 and answer the following questions. What are the nine aspects of a biblical marriage? Why is it important to clearly define marriage?
7. What are the two essential building blocks of a prevailing marriage mentioned in Colossians 3:18-19?
8. What does submission NOT mean for a wife?
9. What does biblical submission look like for a wife?
10. What does it look like for a husband to love his wife the way God wants him to?
11. How can husbands avoid being bitter/harsh toward their wives?
12. In your mind, what is the key to a prevailing marriage?

**The Last Word:** “The most dangerous thing in marriage is not an imperfect mate, but an imperfectable mate — a mate who refuses to change.” Tommy Nelson

