

It's complicate^d

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 2

We continued the series entitled “**It’s Complicated.**” The theme is from Romans 1:21-25 - They knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like...Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools...They traded the truth about God for a lie. (NLT) In this series Pastor Curt wants us to redefine our relationships based on what God says we need to do.

Last week focused on three rights we lay down in this covenant relationship we call marriage. We give up the rights of: *Priority, Ownership and Privacy*. This week we are focusing on three responsibilities we pick up or take up. We must: **Love Unconditionally** (like God does for us), **Honor Respectfully**, and **Submit Mutually**. If your marriage is complicated, uncomplicate it. How? Put off following the world’s contract style marriage and put on a godly covenant marriage. **In order for relationships to work, let the One who designed them define them.**

Discussion Questions

- The PC taught us that in a contract: We protect our rights and limit our responsibilities – But, in a covenant: We give up our rights and pick up our responsibilities. What are the practical differences?
- Ephesians 5:22-33 compares God’s relationship with His bride the Church to the human relationship between a husband and wife. What did God do for His bride? What might that look like for you?
- PC gave us three responsibilities we need to take up. What are these three responsibilities?
- What do the three responsibilities look like in your marriage? Do you find one area to be more of a struggle? Discuss this.
- What next step are you willing to take to live out the marriage covenant in your life? If you aren’t married, what steps can you take in your relationships to honor God?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to point out the relationships you need to nurture. If you're married, ask Him to be at the center of your marriage and to guide you in strengthening your relationship with your spouse. If you're single, declare that God is first in your life, and ask Him to continue His work in you as you represent Him in all of your relationships.

Next Steps

If you're married, identify specific ways to strengthen your marriage. Be intentional about treating your marriage as a covenant rather than a contract, and develop a servant's attitude toward your spouse. Make time to engage in meaningful conversation with your spouse. Together, agree to make Jesus the center of your lives and your relationship. Everyone-married or single-can choose to love other people because we have first received God's love.

Leader Tip

Encourage your group members to consider how they can take steps to build covenant relationships and show God's love to others. Lead your group in praying for the health of all the marriages represented in your group.