



MIXTAPE It's Mutual

#npmixtape

Week 2
2 of 4

October 14, 2018

Bottom Line: Great relationships are built on mutual submission.

Icebreaker: "I hate/you love": Go around the group and have each finish these statements, one at a time. The worst movie I ever saw, the food I hope to never eat again, favorite TV show of all time, favorite breed of dog, type of pet I would never have. Likely, something one loves, another will hate.

Key Verse: *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Ephesians 5:21

SUBMIT: Accept or yield to the will or desires of another.

ONE ANOTHER: Each other

REVERENCE: Deep respect and honor

MESSIAH: Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One

Many arguments and debates about what this verse means have been made (endured ☹️) over the centuries, as if it was hard to understand. A simple trip to the dictionary tells us in plain English: "Accept or yield to the will or desires of each other out of deep respect and honor for Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One."

That's so simple. The yielding, the cooperation, the submission is two-way; mutual. It's not based on what I deserve or what the other one deserves. It is based upon what Jesus, our Savior, the one who gave everything for us to make our lives more than we ever dreamed and restore us to relationship with God, deserves. So simple.

But not easy and not natural. Everything in us bucks at that and wants to find exceptions to the rule. We believe our situation is different, our spouse is less deserving. That could be true. But according to Paul and the Word of God recorded for us over the centuries as the guide for successful, fulfilling living, it doesn't really matter. It never was about our spouse anyway. It was about Jesus, who is worthy of all respect, honor, and submission. If I look at it through the lens of what someone else deserves, I will always find a loophole. If I look at it through my relationship with Christ, I will find the motivation and power for mutual submission. It's always a choice.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"In great marriages, the spouses understand that they owe each other everything but are owed nothing in return." Discuss. Agree/disagree

"Mutual submission is the most dynamic formula in all relationships." What does this mean?

"When we daydreamed when we were single, we never dreamed about being the right person for someone—it was about someone being right for us." How have you found this to be true? How has it affected your expectations and choices?

"Submission is leveraging all my resources and who I am for your good." Give a practical illustration of how that plays out in everyday life.

"Only when you put someone's needs above your own can you say it is true love." Discuss.

LOOK IT OVER >>>

When Paul tells each of us to submit to the other out of reverence for the Lord, he is in actuality saying, "In light of all God has done for you, do this for the other." What has God done for you that should be reflected in the way you treat your spouse?

"As the two become one, they are equal. No one has done more for women than Jesus." Like what? Discuss.

Men are challenged to respect; wives to love their husbands. Why do you think these behaviors were chosen for these genders?

Philippians 2:1-6 directs us to mutual submission and says this means don't demand what you think you deserve, look for ways you can serve, do what is right even when it is painful. How would that impact a struggling relationship?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Attend Married Life Live at your campus.
- 2) Look for a way to serve your spouse every day.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Great relationships are built on mutual submission.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: John 13:15-17

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Wednesday: Ephesians 5:1-2

Thursday: Philippians 2:1-6

Friday: Galatians 5:19-21

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)