

STUDY GUIDE

for the week of September 14, 2008

DESPERATE MARRIAGES

Brad Watson

Desperate
Housewives
Things are not always as they seem.

OPEN IN PRAYER

A TIME OF WORSHIP (Optional) - You may want to sing a hymn or chorus

INTRODUCTION

Marriage gives two imperfect people an ongoing chance to love two imperfect people. The way the Bible says that we do that is found in the word “submission”. To submit simply means to put the other person first. A marriage where both are committed to putting the other one first will be anything but desperate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin by reading Ephesians 5:21-33.

1. Describe a marriage that you respect. Why?
2. Where are you most likely to “clash” with your spouse or friend? Money? Faith? Kids?
3. Why do you think “submission” is so important and misunderstood?
4. Brad talked about the need for spouses to make an unconditional commitment - for husbands to love and for wives to respect. Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. It seems that Paul is encouraging couples to nurture their common treasure in Christ. How would you encourage a younger couple just starting out to do that?
6. Christian marriage is supposed to be a mirror of Jesus’ love-relationship with his bride, the church. How can mutually submission between spouses fit into that?

MOVING FORWARD

Brad said that married couples are either moving toward the altar or the exit. Have you made an unconditional commitment to submit to your spouse regardless of his/her response to you? That kind of love leaves one feeling desperate and comes from outside of your self. Take some time this week asking God to love your spouse through you.

Read Genesis 2:18-25

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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

CLOSING PRAYER



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