

TEACHING NOTES (underlined words indicate answers for the handout)

Step 6 —

To Have a Marriage That Really Lasts, You Must Have a Servant's Heart for each other .

SCRIPTURE: John 15:9-17

Now this is the part that gets down to the real daily issues that all of our marriages face.

A. What Is a Servant 's Heart?

1. In Ephesians 5 the Bible makes very clear that wives are to submit to their husbands. Husbands really love this but in the same passage is another statement.

2. The Scripture also points out that we are to love one another as Christ loved the Church.

3. Paul makes it very simple that if both partners would fulfill their responsibility then both partners would want to submit and both would have a servant's heart and be willing to serve one another.

4. In the passage we realize this is for all Christians especially those who are married.

5. So what is a servant's heart? It is one who will consider the will of others over their own will and desires. How can you practice that on a daily basis?

B. When Did You Have One?

1. This shows the big difference between dating and marriage.

2. When you understand this, then you can see why so many couples get a divorce.

3. Before a couple marries, they have a servant 's heart to the person they want to marry and as soon as the marriage or ceremony is over, they want to kick their feet up and expect the paper and Pepsi to be brought to them.

4. Think back to when you were first married.

a. Isn't that true?

b. Try hard to think.

Your girlfriend says, "I need to return something I bought in the Garden 's Mall and then I need to go to the Outlet Mall in Ft. Pierce because I can get it for \$2 cheaper."

And you say, A“Sure, honey, no problem. I 'll leave work early so we can get it all done and not have to be in a hurry.”

Or do you remember on that date in PA when it would probably be cold. She asked should she dress warm or not? And you said, “It doesn 't really matter. I can adjust the heat so you will be completely comfortable.”

5. That is when you had the servant 's heart. You did before you married your companion.

### C. What Makes Us Lose It?

1. As soon as the marriage is over, or when the vows have been said, some are over as soon as they say I do, our wives will ask us to take out the garbage or turn the heat up and we wonder, why me!

2. For some reason after the marriage we leave the servant heart behind.

3. Why do we lose it? We forget who we are — a servant.

### D. How Do You Regain It?

1. Be willing to make a choice.

a. Start loving your spouse, not just yourself.

b. Quit griping about whose job it is to do certain things.

c. A true servant 's heart does not get all upset by saying, “That 's your job and this is my job.”

d. Knock down the barriers that prevent a servants heart.

e. Quit drawing lines and quit being a legalist.

f. Quit keeping score on one another. I Corinthians 13, “Remember no evil.” Servants are not to be score keepers.

g. When you love your companion love them like Christ loves the church.

h. Quit worrying about your image and pitch in and help each other.

2. Openly tell it to your companion. They need to hear it from you.

3. Confess the lack of it.

4. With God 's help, practice living your life for your companion.

#### APPLICATION

You are a somebody in Christ; a servant for others, specifically for your companion.

Is there enough evidence to convict you that you are a servant of those in your house?

How many recognize the fact that you should be?

#### CONCLUSION

Let ' s pray a prayer of commitment to God.