

# VERTICAL Marriage

WEEK THREE

ALL I  
hear  
IS BOO

*Welcome back!* (Read this out loud)

We've covered a lot in the past two weeks, haven't we?

Week 1 we learned that our vertical relationship with God is the starting point for any of our horizontal relationships.

Last time we were together, conflict was the topic. How did you do with that this week? Did you remember to listen, answer softly, speak truth, and ask for forgiveness? Remember, none of this is possible unless you surrender yourself to God first!

Now, let's dive deeper this week. Drum roll, please...

**Men and women are different.**

If you've been in your marriage for more than 5 minutes, that's not a surprise! Let's talk about a very basic difference that, when recognized, can make a huge difference in your marriage.

**Intrigued? Let's dive in.**

*Flip* to the next page and let's get started!

# Ice Breaker

But first, a quick game.

Who in the room has the phone with the biggest screen?

Pull it out, go to this website, and follow the directions that pop up:

[kensingtonchurch.org/VerticalGame](http://kensingtonchurch.org/VerticalGame)



## Answer

We all have our own individual preferences for things in life – our “I Would Rathers”.

In your experience, does there seem to be some universal preferences that would stand true for the way most husbands want to be treated by their wives? What about for most wives?



A sure fire way to know if a man is feeling disrespected is to check for *anger*.

If a woman is feeling unloved, you will usually know from her *tears*.

**Dave & Ann Wilson**



*Watch* the video message  
then *flip* to the next page  
for discussion questions



# Discuss

1. **Read Ephesians 5:31-33.** According to verse 31, what seems to be the goal of marriage? Unity, right? And how amazing is it that the unity of two people in marriage is a picture of the unity that Jesus has with his followers! *Um, wow.*
  - Do you agree that unity is the goal of marriage? What does the fact that marriage is a picture of the unity that Jesus has with his followers say about marriage?
2. **Read verse 33 again.** Verse 33 gives some insight into how unity in a marriage can be achieved. And, ironically, the Bible points to recognizing the differences between men and women as the key to finding unity.

## Discuss

- Men, this question is for you to answer: What makes you feel the most loved by your spouse (be honest, there's no "right" answers here)?
  - Women: Did the men's answers surprise you? If so, what was surprising?
  - Everybody, discuss this: Taking into consideration all the men's answers about what makes them feel most loved, is there a core value that seems to be at the heart of their answers? (Is this a leading question? Yup, you got us. Here's what we're really getting at: How do all the men's answers point to the fact that men feel most content in a relationship where they are respected?)
  - What does it look like for a wife to be her husband's cheerleader? How is this different than being a doormat?
  - Women, now it's your turn: What makes you feel the most loved by your spouse (again, we want real answers)?
  - Men: Did the women's answers surprise you? If so, what was surprising?
  - Everybody, discuss this: Taking into consideration all the women's answers about what makes them feel most loved, is there a core value that seems to be at the heart of their answers?
  - What does it mean for a man to love and cherish his wife? How is this similar or different than respect?
3. As you reflect on today's topic of respect and love, what is your biggest takeaway or realization? Why?

# Challenge

**Wives:** This week, find one moment every day where you can give your husband a “Yay!” by noticing something you appreciate about him and taking the time to tell him. It can be as simple as “Thank you for letting the dog out”, or as profound as “I don’t tell you enough how much your sense of humor makes our home such a fun place to be.” You get the idea!

**Husbands:** Schedule a time with your wife this week to have both of you take the “5 Love Languages” online quiz:

[5lovelanguages.com/profile](https://5lovelanguages.com/profile)

Based on your new knowledge of your wife’s love language, come up with three things you can do this week to show your wife that you love and cherish her. It’s ok to ask her for her input on this!

## Read More

For those of you reading along with the book *Vertical Marriage* by Dave and Ann Wilson, **Part Two: Conflict and Communication** (chapters 10-11) compliments this week.

