

Module 1 Lesson 4

Our Struggle

KEY IDEA

Our sin nature causes disordered love—placing me or we above He. An intimate, God-honoring marriage begins when Christ is first, the marriage “we” is next, and self comes last.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...”
- Ephesians 5:1–2, 21–33 – Love and respect within marriage
- Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is deceitful above all things...”

LESSON & NOTES

Ordered Love (HE>WE>ME)

HE must be greater than WE

WE must be greater than ME

Disordered Love (Either is greater than HE)

WE is greater than HE

ME is greater than HE or WE

KING/QUEEN SYNDROME

Jesus is King!

KEY POINTS

- A God-honoring marriage follows ordered love: HE > WE > ME
- Disordered love elevates WE or ME above God
- “King/Queen Syndrome” describes how sin makes us act like royalty over others
- Christ is King — we are servants in His Kingdom, not rulers of our own

Module 1 Lesson 4

HeartWork

One of the greatest intimacy busters in marriage is anger. And often, our anger stems from expectations we have for ourselves and others. **Think of the last few times you were angry. What were your expectations?**

KING (or QUEEN) SYNDROME is our sin nature within us. **What happens inside of you when you don't get what we want or things don't go the way you expect?**

Not everybody responds by dishing out wrath. Some communicate frustration or hurt. Others hide their feelings until they build up, then blow up later. Still others don't share anything and "sleep it off." **Which of these best describes you?**

Intimacy between spouses never occurs when a display of anger is present, especially when the anger is loud, condescending, or violent (throwing things, punching walls, hitting, etc.) or when one person chooses to handle it on their own. While it may be necessary to temporarily withdraw to calm down, withdrawing from communication about an issue avoids the issue and the opportunity to connect and resolve it together (which builds intimacy!).

With your spouse (if possible), describe a time when you saw them angry that affected your level of intimacy with them. How did you feel when they were angry? Frightened? Worried? Anxious? Angry? Did you want to be close to them then, or did that drive you a little further away at the moment?

If your spouse becomes withdrawn, how do you feel when they withdraw? Did you pursue them, or did you allow them to withdraw? Did the issue ever get resolved?

How would recognizing that we are servants in HIS Kingdom help us in our anger and frustration?

Does your marriage reflect this formula: **HE > WE > ME**

If not what steps will need to be made to do so?