

# Men are From Dirt & Women are From Men

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## The Give and Take of Marriage

### Romans 13:7 The Giving Foundation

Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

- > The foundation of marriage is the balance of giving and taking. We need both.
- > The blessing comes when we give and take and there is a release of His purpose that over-rides our plan.
- > The Lord knows what you need as an individual and as a couple to mature.

### Film Clip “Laugh Your Way to A Better Marriage”; Mark Gungor

1. What do you think about the give and take flow Mark describes? True or False?
2. What does it “feel” like to give freely?
3. What does it “feel” like to give under duress?
4. Why is it sometimes hard to receive?

### Matthew 6:33ff God’s Plan to Give and Receive.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- > The balance of giving and “taking” is found in our relationship with Christ. His kingdom fills in the parts of our life that we need...not our spouse.
- > Seeking His Kingdom sets us free from having to get my need to give or receive met.
- > Our marriage “give and take” is defined in light of the covenant season we are in.
  - We may need to receive more at certain times
  - We may need to give more at certain times.
- > This is about the old order of things passing away, not about my right to be.....

## Philippians 2:3,4 Make Me a Servant

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- > Key is “the interest of others” not mine alone:
  - We are impacted by our own hurts and needs
  - We are sometimes unaware of the “give/take” cycle our spouse is in.
  - We need to be *looking* to meet the give/take need of our spouse
- > A Christian marriage is marked by discipline and self denial
  - What the world sees is the heart of Christ lived out in your marriage
    - Not perfect, but loving
    - Not perfect, but giving
    - Not perfect, but full of grace
- > A Christian marriage proposal is an offer not a request.



The real question is: “Will you accept what I want to give?”

False humility stops us from growing in intimacy..

The sexual relationship expresses both giving and receiving

- We are physically designed to give and receive
- Our physical oneness is the fruit of giving and receiving.

## Game on:

### John 13:5ff Giving and Receiving = Serving

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

<sup>8</sup> “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

- > Serving through your Love Language
  - Learn your and your spouses love language/ Words of Affirmation/Quality Time/Acts of Service/Gift Giving/Physical Touch
- > Serving through your needs
  - Put aside a need that creates a wall in your marriage.
- > Serving through your history
  - Breaking free from a destructive “me” pattern
- > Serving through your vision
  - Seeing a direction ahead of you that requires effort on your part.
- > Serving through your faith
  - Believing that your giving or receiving is part of a plan.

