

**MARRIED WELL
TRADING SPACES
EPHESIANS 5:22-27**

INTRODUCTION:

1. John and Debbie
2. Trading Spaces – There has been a reversal of spaces.
3. What is my space?
4. Ephesians 5:22-27

I. THREE MODELS OF MARRIAGE

A. Top-Down Traditional Marriage

1. Husband's position – King
2. Leadership style – Lord
3. Goal – personal benefits
4. Effect – winner and loser
5. Some view this model as Biblical.
6. Women say no.

B. The 50/50 Identical Marriage

1. Galatians 3:28, "There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
2. Equality or sameness.
3. Husband's position – partner with his wife.

4. Leadership style – leaderless.
5. Goal – equality.
6. Effect – Difficult balance
7. What business model fails 90% of the time? Partnerships
8. Why? Animal Farm – All the animals are gathered and the pig said, “We’re all equal here. It’s just that some are more equal than others.”
9. There is no such thing as balance.
10. This marriage model fails because the focus is on performance. Focus on negative.
11. How do you know what is 50/50 and how do you measure it?
12. It is impossible.

C. Side-by-Side Biblical Marriage

1. Ephesians 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife as also Christ is the head of the church.”
2. Traditional man sees “head.”
3. Spiritual man sees “Christ.”
4. Husband’s position – Head
5. Leadership style – responsibility and sacrifice.
6. Goal – oneness.
7. Effect – healthy, happy and harmony.

II. CORE ISSUES

A. One of the reasons we can't understand the issues is because we don't understand the differences between men and women.

B. Roger and Elaine

C. Three Core Issues

1. Roles – Symbiotic relationship

a. Husband – Servant Leader

1. Luke 22:26, "Whoever is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving. For who is greater, the one at the table or the one serving? Isn't it the one at the table? But I am among you and the One who serves."

2. Too much leader – she feels oppressed.

3. Too much servant – you're standing around waiting for her to tell you what to do. She will be frustrated and resentful.

b. Wife – Servant Lover

1. "Helper"

2. Nurturing, care, support.

3. "Helper" is used with only four people in the Bible: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit and a wife.

2. Responses

a. Husband

1. Honor and Praise

2. She needs to be constantly reminded how important she is.
3. 1 Peter 3:7, “Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with understanding of their weaker nature yet showing them honor as co-heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”
4. “Showing her honor.”
5. If you don’t, after awhile, she’s going to say, “it’s not worth it anymore.”
6. When a woman hears honor and praise, her core role becomes significant; something she wants to do.

b. Wife

1. Submission – v.22 define.
 2. If a husband is going to lead by loving and serving his family, his wife can’t compete with him.
 3. If she is always competing, always criticizing his initiatives, then after awhile, he loses heart and begins to grow passive.
 4. Submission does not mean a “yes” person.
 5. Submission is not to be demanded.
 6. Submission does not mean an enabler of wrongdoing. You should lovingly confront.
3. Concerns – needs

a. Husband

1. Companionship

2. **Admiration** – “I’m proud of you.”

3. Support

- i. Desert Storm – For every soldier on the front line, there were 7 soldiers in support.
- ii. Hitler, WWII – Western Front then opened Russian Front. Split his army, extended supply lines and ran out of fuel. Many homes have two fronts and are running out of fuel.

4. **Physical responsiveness.**

b. Wife

1. Companionship

- i. Number 1 complaint of women in marriage is, “my husband won’t talk to me.”

2. **Security – protect and provide**

3. Significance

- i. James Dobson – “90% of our self-concept is built from what others think about us.”

4. **Emotional responsiveness**

- i. Don’t argue about her feelings, listen to them.

III. WHY TRADE SPACES?

1. It positions a man and woman for what they naturally do best.
2. It organizes a man and a woman to complement each other, rather than compete with each other.
3. It creates an environment that is best for the healthy development of children.
4. It becomes the ideal when we can train our children to embrace these things from an early age.
5. It honors God's Word and positions us for His blessings.
6. It prospers and advances society as a whole.
 - A. Abraham Lincoln – "The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people."

CONCLUSION: