



Part 1

The Invisible Box

A love that lasts doesn't happen by accident. It requires care and regular maintenance. But sometimes we don't want to make the effort. As long as it's not broken, do we really need to talk about it?

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define the purpose of marriage? What are some of the influences and experiences that shaped your definition?
2. Take a few minutes to write down some of your hopes, dreams, and desires. To what extent do you assume marriage can fulfill them?
3. Talk about a time when you used one or more of the 4 Cs—convince, convict, control, coerce—to try to fulfill your hopes, dreams, and desires in a relationship.
4. When you run into conflict in a relationship, is your tendency to leave, try to win, conform, or compromise? How has that worked in the past?

Read Ephesians 5:1–2.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God

5. Does the idea of “giving yourself up” to another person—without the expectation that they will fulfill your hopes, dreams, and desires—seem reasonable? Why or why not?
6. Curt asked the question, ‘What does your spouse (or future spouse) owe you?’ The answer is ‘Nothing.’ Couples that have discovered a love that lasts know they owe each other everything, but are owed nothing in return. What are your thoughts on this?