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**SERMON NOTES September 18, 2022**

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**Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)**

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**Ephesians 5 & 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13  
Bilingual Love  
Pastor Mike**

- I. The universal language of \_\_\_\_\_
- II. The need to become \_\_\_\_\_ in our love
- a. God \_\_\_\_\_ differences rooted in \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Understanding and loving the person \_\_\_\_\_
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ to bilingual love
- Bilingual love includes....
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ the differences
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ the differences
- c. Seeing the other \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Speaking love in \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ to value the differences

God calls us to choose to " \_\_\_\_\_ "

### Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. The central vow in any marriage service is the vow to love our spouse until we are separated by death. What does this vow mean?
  - a. How do most people in our culture understand this vow to love their spouse until death? Why is it that half of all marriages end in divorce in spite of the fact that virtually all couples vowed to love each other till death?
  - b. What is the Biblical understanding of the love that God calls us to in marriage? How is it different than the common world understanding? Practically, how should the marriages of those who follow Christ be different because of our understanding of Biblical love?
2. In most discussions of genders, men and women make fun of the perceived “weaknesses” of the other gender. How important is it that we understand these differences not to be weaknesses, but God designed diversities that we need?
3. Women aren't drawn into a relationship with a man because of his femininity, and men aren't drawn to a woman because of masculine traits. When married, however, most become frustrated by their spouse's gender differences.
  - a. How can the same masculine and feminine traits that attracted a person early in the relationship become the source of conflict and frustration later in the relationship? What changed?
  - b. Can this change be avoided, and if so, how? Can this change be reversed, and is so how?
4. It is natural for us to try to communicate love in the way we want to receive it from others. Since the natural love languages of men and women are very different, our attempts to communicate love are often not recognized and appreciated by our spouse.
  - a. What have you learned about the other gender that surprised you in the past few weeks?
  - b. On a scale of 1-10, how well do you think you understand your spouse's language and needs? Ask him/her if they would rate your understanding.
  - c. Can a person communicate love to their spouse in their language without intentional effort, forethought, and planning? Why or why not?
5. Women, ask your husband and/or other significant men in your life, and men ask your wife and/or other significant women in your life the following questions;
  - c. To what degree do you feel that I understand, appreciate, and even value your God-created gender differences? How can I do better at this?
  - d. What is one thing that you wish I really understood about you better?
  - e. What is one strength of my masculinity (for men) or femininity (for women) that you really appreciate?
6. The Bible teaches that God created men and women to uniquely reflect different aspects of His character. If you are (or have been) married, what traits does your spouse have that can help balance your personality and even help you grow in areas of weakness?
  - f. What are some of these differences, and how could they help you?
  - g. How can we direct our hearts so that we see these differences as blessings rather than the cause of frustration and division (see Phil 4:8)?