



<b>DATE</b>	September 11, 2016
<b>SPEAKER</b>	Gary Thomas
<b>TITLE</b>	Showcase Your Spouse
<b>SERIES</b>	How do we honor one another and honor God in our relationships? How can we take our relationships to the next level? Best-selling author and relationship expert Gary Thomas joins us to talk about it!

1. Share the top 3 relationships you regularly pour into. Let's use the principles Gary Thomas shared to apply to our relationships. How would you categorize the relationships in your life? As you work through these questions in your small group choose when to make connections to your family, your friends, or your work. Gary expressed that the principle of showcasing is not to be isolated to marriage.
2. Read **Ephesians 5:21-33**. Discuss the truths of this passage as you think about how you were raised. How do the truths in Ephesians 5 conflict or support with how you were raised? Talk about how each generation integrates this passage differently into their lives, beginning with your grandparents.
3. Gary introduced the word *showcase* as an alternate word for *submit*. How would you define *showcase*? Now take that definition into your life, do you enjoy being showcased? Why or why not? How can you develop a picture of the highest version of yourself? How can you see what those who love you see most? We don't want to showcase ourselves, yet we don't want to put down what God said is good.
4. What are your feelings about showcasing those in your life? Being vulnerable, what is your greatest obstacle with the idea of showcasing those in your life? Rather than pushing yourself to the limelight, what if you actually seek to showcase your boss, your friend, your spouse or a family member? Explain how showcasing others reflects God's glory.
5. According to Gary, the two biggest assaults on a marriage/relationship is selfishness and pride. Where in your relationships do these two feelings become a real-life struggle? How can you battle selfishness and pride when they catch you off guard? Biblically speaking, what truths from the Word of God speak to warding off selfishness and pride? **Read Philipians 2:3-4**. Gary stated that showcasing is a weed killer for selfishness and pride. Looking forward, how can you kill weeds this week as you interact with your spouse, kids, coworkers, and friends? Read **1 Thessalonians 5:11**.
6. There are definite spirals of love, respect, cherish, where the more you perform the act of love, respect, cherish, the more capable you are to continuing it. At the same time these spirals can work against you when you aren't performing them. Read **Romans 13:8-10**. What investments do you need to make and how do you get the motivation to move the spirals of love, respect and cherish in the right direction?
7. As a closing thought, picture the ballet. Talk about the participants in the ballet. Focus on the ballerina and her partner. Gary painted such a beautiful picture of this ballerina being showcased by her partner's support and strength. He lifts her up and helps her do things she can't do on her own. Who has God specifically placed in your life that you are to be showcasing and you're not. What will be your first step forward to begin more effectively lifting up those God has given to you?