

**Courtship, Betrothal, Marriage
and the
Lordship of Jesus**

**By
Neville and Susan Salvetti**

From before creation your life was known to God and planned by Him. In that plan was a person to marry. God knew who it was and planted in your heart an image of that person so that your spirit would recognise them and ‘jump for joy’ when you met them.

This book hopes to help you recognise this person and then inform you how to behave in the betrothal and marriage stages of this precious relationship God has planned for you.

May it bless you as it has blessed us in the writing of it.

Neville and Susan Salvetti

The following prophecy was given to me as I was writing this book (before Susan came along to be my wife) and contains God's promise to those who follow Him in these relationships of betrothal and marriage:

I have given you a partner for life.

Love them as I love them, as I have commanded you to love

Serve Me by serving them as I do

Out of love for them

Listen to My Holy Spirit

As He guides you in this relationship

So that I can Bless it

Because I can use it to serve Me

To bring healing to others and further My Kingdom

If both seek me in this relationship

You will have the fulfilment I desire for you in this relationship

And it will reflect My Glory and purposes in all it does

Neville Salvetti (22 April 2007)

Definitions used in this book

Courtship

This is Satan's way of having couples come together and decide who to marry as they seek the person who is their ideal 'wife' usually at the expense of the one God wants them to have. God is not usually consulted until after the decision is made.

'court' = to pay attention with the aim of obtaining favour

'-ship' = behaviour

So courtship is the behaviour of seeking favour of another with the objective of marrying them (getting their attention).

Betrothal

This is God's way where He puts a desire for the other person in your heart and brings you together to get married.

'be' = belong too

'-trothed' = truth (its original meaning)

So betrothed people truthfully belong to each other (as God has put them together).

Marriage

This really refers to the act of marriage and not married life. Matrimony correctly refers to that. I use marriage in this booklet as matrimony is not a word used these days to describe the married state.

'mar' = one who mars

'-age = that which belongs or is a function related to

So marriage act is the act of marring something. It is the act that removes the virginity of a man and woman and mars it. It culminates the betrothal period which is the period of preparation for marriage.

Matrimony

This is really the word to describe the married state.

'Matri' = mother

'-mony' = occurring only in

Only in marriage is a natural birth mother found showing how important they are to a marriage that even the word used to describe marriage (matrimony) is derived from the word for mother. This is why Satan does so much to destroy women as destroying them destroys the household.

It is so different to other relationships because: God initiates it, puts you both together, trains you in the betrothal period for the act of marriage and matrimony and then blesses the union for His sake and of course, your best. It is up to you to do your part in this process as God can only do His side of the work He is doing in you.

So this book is about betrothal and matrimony: God's way of bringing people together for matrimony (marriage) using the betrothal period as a period of preparation for the marriage act and matrimony.

Table of Contents

Definitions used in this book	iv
<i>Various Prayers</i>	9
Attacks on your family	9
People Blinded to the truths of God (including their need for Deliverance)	10
Parents deliver your children	10
Dispute Reconciliation	12
A new way to attack Satan	13
Courtship and Betrothal	15
Definitions used in this book	15
Dispute Reconciliation	17
Sleeping Around	17
<i>Betrothal and The kingdom of God</i>	18
Introduction	18
Guidelines for using this book	18
<i>On Love</i>	19
Love and The Fruit of The Spirit	19
How should we love our betrothed:	20
The way of the person who expresses God's Love to their Spouse	20
Joy	22
Peace	22
Long-suffering (Patience in suffering)	22
Gentleness (kindness out of compassion and love)	23
Goodness	23
Faith	23
Meekness (Humility)	24
Temperance (self-controlled in all things)	24
Standards for a relationship	26
<i>Prior to Betrothal</i>	26
Men are to treat girls as sisters 1 Tim 5:1-2	27
Singles Socializing	28
Previously married people	28
Do not seek a wife	30
Satan promotes His way of courtship in the Media	31
God's basic unit is marriage	32
<i>Adequacy</i>	32
Trusting people	34
Breathing Space	34

<i>A Summary of Betrothal</i>	34
The rules of The Kingdom apply to a betrothal'	34
You must not be unequally yoked spiritually 2 Cor 6:14	35
The relationship	36
Serving your betrothed	37
Betrothal is the time to prepare for Matrimony	37
There is no marriage so headship is not relevant theoretically	37
Domestic submission is for order in the marriage	38
You will not ask for anyone you love to sin	38
A time of getting to know each other spiritually	38
A time of joining to each other through finding out	38
You need to led by The Holy Spirit when resolving problems	39
Encourage each others masculinity or femininity	39
Pray for your betrothed	39
Cultural conventions should be observed where possible	40
God provides a wife	40
Marriage is a special relationship.	41
Reality of Marriage	41
How you know it is the right person to marry?	42
<i>Exposing yourself to your betrothed or spouse</i>	50
Expansion of the above	50
Another aspect of exposing yourself before marriage	52
Intimacy	53
Losing your betrothed	53
The Stages of Betrothal	54
Gimmicks and romance	55
Focus in Courtship	56
Unity in the spirit	57
Steward of your betrothed	57
Appreciation of your betrothed spouse	58
Words	58
Expression of love	59
Betrothal and Marriage require effort	59
Manners	60
Decisions	61
Praying together	61
Betrothed Couples and spiritual warfare	61
Problem Resolution	61
Romance	62
Remember	62
In Conclusion	62
The five steps are as follows:	63
Appendix	64
The sex Laws of The Mosaic Law	64
On Marriage and Divorce	65

Preamble	66
A warning about love in a marriage	66
What is Marriage?	67
Stewardship is involved in Marriage	68
Current status of many marriages	69
What a wife gives up	70
Judging your spouse	71
A Woman should pray	72
Manhood	72
A husband and wife can pray	73
A single woman or man should pray	73
Parents should pray	73
Dedication of a child by parents	73
The curse on Eve (prayed by women) Gen. 3:16	73
Casting-out Prayers	74
The Marriage Vows	75
The Ceremony	75
Stewardship of Love	81
The Importance of Love	81
Headship in Marriage	85
Headship is domestic	87
Requirements of headship	87
Jesus is Lord of all you do	88
Stewardship of Marriage	89
Roles	89
Proverbs 31 (a wife's blessing)	89
Disputes in Marriage	90
<i>Two Warnings</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Unforgiveness towards your spouse</i>	<i>91</i>
Offences against your spouse	91
Separation in a marriage	92
Ministry	92
<i>Exercising Headship</i>	<i>93</i>
Headship and The Holy Spirit	94
Headship is a learned process.	96
Some guidelines for headship	97
Wife Initiative	98
Finances	99
Crossing headship boundaries	99
Failure of submitting to headship	100

What happens if the man fails headship?	101
Why should a wife submit to her husband?	101
Why should a man Love his wife?	101
Unity in Decision Making	103
The Woman's heart and decision making	104
Boundaries in Marriage	104
Headship and boundaries	104
<i>Relating to a non-Christian Spouse</i>	<i>105</i>
Non-Christian Husband (1 Pet 3:1-6)	105
Non-Christian Wife	106
Satan's attack on the family	107
Marriage Roles as defined in the Bible	109
Introduction to roles in marriage	109
Page 109	109
The original arrangement	110
Remember	112
<i>Some of the roles defined by God</i>	<i>112</i>
The Wife	113
Paul In The New Testament	115
The education of the children	116
Women are steward of the family diet.	117
Just a mother and housekeeper?	118
The mature wife is also to be a Godly educator of younger wives	118
Rewards of a wife who supports her husband in ministry	119
For men	119
Sex	120
In general	120
Family Prayer	121
What about single parents?	122
Disciplining Children	122
Problem Resolution	123
Stewardship of Marriage	124
Stewardship Preliminary	124
Headship is correct stewardship of the wife on behalf of God.	124
Stewardship of Sexuality	125
stewardship of a wife's body	126
Stewardship of possessions	127
Rights in Marriage and forgiveness	127
Questions by your spouse	128

<i>His Needs Her Needs</i>	129
I deal with some of the basic needs of a marriage.	129
The Character of Women	129
Communication	129
Intimacy	130
Sharing fears	131
<i>Sex</i>	131
Security	132
Order	133
Beauty	133
Clothing	134
What a Wife Needs	134
How to keep a wife or future wife happy	136
In Summary	139
Fathers authority in the Home	139
Discipline in the house	140
Praying for The Family	140
Staying together as a family	140
What a husband Needs (apart from sex and food)	141
Sex in Marriage	142
Unions in sex	144
Sex - the approach to the other person's body	144
Shyness	145
Using sex as compensation	146
Defrauding the spouse sexually	146
Sex is a gift from God	147
Sexual Techniques and problems	147
Miscellaneous Matters	149
<i>Femininity</i>	149
Communicating Femininity	149
Why does a woman need to believe she is beautiful?	149
Releasing the woman's Potential	152
Relaxation and Entertainment	152
Wives and their temperature	153
In-laws	153
Wives and Exhaustion	153
Christmas Day Preparations	155
In sickness	156
Exhausting a wife (by Susan)	157
The Covering of a Wife	160

The Covering of Women	162
An Example of failed headship	165
The example of the failed headship of Abraham (Gen 16)	167
Sanctifying the non-Christian spouse	167
<i>More on Marriage</i>	<i>169</i>
The attitudes/emotions we should have in a marriage	169
Unity of behaviour	170
In Sickness and in Death	170
The Second Witness in a marriage	171
Why is hearing The Spirit not taught?	172
Advice to a husband on ministry	172
Are women equal in ministry?	173
Can a wife minister or lead in a ministry.	173
Ministry Desires	174
Plans for your spouse	175
Abortion and Birth Control	176
Abusive Spouse	176
Mental Abuse	178
Warring Spouses	179
Hindranc to reconciliation:	179
How does this war of the spouses begin?	182
The Right to be offended	183
Judging your spouse	183
Fault finding	184
Healing the relationship	184
Perfectionism	185
Problems with apologising	185
<i>Adultery</i>	<i>186</i>
Dealing with adultery	187
<i>Pastor Abuse in Churches</i>	<i>189</i>
Susan narrates her experience as follows:	189
On Divorce	192
Can you Divorce?	194
Christian Love stops Divorce	195
Predivorce separation	196
Support during Divorce	197
What Hurts to Deal With	197
Types of Emotions and Attitudes	197
Correct Attitudes of the Spouse Being Divorced	198
Support for the spouse	198

Miscellaneous Advice	198
Learn Spiritual Warfare	200
Spiritual danger of divorce and affairs	200
Introduction to Deliverance	202
Background to the Five Steps	216

Various Prayers

Attacks on your family

Whenever Satan attacks you or your family command the demons to go to the abyss and stay there then say the prayer below.

I also command you in Jesus' Name Satan to send XXXX number of demons to the abyss and they are to stay there and not be replaced. (EHere XXXX is the number of demons The Holy Spirit tells yhou to send)

I like to pray each morning.

In Jesus' Name Satan, I forbid you from attacking me or my family. Any demon that does this is to go immediately they attack anyone of my family to the abyss and to stay there.

I then add the prayer above

Remember also Satan will attack in such a way that will try and make you believe you are not delivered in an area. Just check with The Holy Spirit in case there is still problems to deal with in which case use 'The Five Steps' otherwise just cast him to the abyss in Jesus Name.

Never assume anything or react to anything but go to The Holy Spirit and ask what to do. Then you will be led by Him in all things and show you are an adopted son of The Father. Satan has built up reactions and assumptions in you so that you will do things his way which is why it is important to go to The Holy Spirit in all things and not listen to self or your own reason.

When casting out or binding demons in the daily areas of your life (home, work, meetings, things you are stewards of, etc.) remember you can only cast out in regard to things you:

Are stewards of

Have been given authority over (geographic areas, people, families not your own, objects)

Things you are using for The Kingdom of God

Things held in reserve to be used for The Kingdom

Demons having no right to be there

Remember also it is a daily battle which is why His mercies are renewed every morning as if in this time or season things are done daily. Perhaps this is why in Mat 6:33 we are only to look at each day at a time and in Lam 3:22,23 it states His mercies are renewed every day.

It is as if there is a reset button so that we need to pray every day which is the reason daily prayers are daily prayers. Sometimes we can bind demons for longer periods but it appears to be at God's discretion. If they are sent to the abyss or Tartarus then they are there until Jesus releases them except for the big demons which I send to Tartarus always as they can climb out of the abyss.

As a final comment remember that demons may have a legal right to stay in a person but if they attack you without a right to do so you can cast them to the abyss for that but not attack their right to be in the person. They have to go. Then command healing on all concerned and filling of The Holy Spirit to replace demons that have gone. Once again this can only be done for Christians.

People Blinded to the truths of God (including their need for Deliverance)

In every case of a person being blind to the truth there are basic elements which can be used as guide in most cases of praying for people:

A demon in charge planning and directing the situation

Demons promoting the sin or error

Demons blinding the person to the truths that will set them free of this deception

You will need to bind the demons involved in the attack on the person. If they attack you then you cast them to the abyss in Jesus Name.

God will promote a way for the person to see the truths that would set them free.

The Holy Spirit will give the person understanding of the truths they need to know.

You need to listen to The Holy Spirit's guidance and be available for Him to use you as He needs too.

It could also be worthwhile praying the prayers in "Using the soul" to pray things for people that do not need their consent.

Parents deliver your children

Children can be obnoxious at times. Sometimes it is their sinful nature (wilful rebellion). Other times demons stir them up or use past hurts as access points to attack you and torment you and them. Other times it is a cry of pain to get your attention, as children need your love to comfort them, obtain self-esteem and feel secure. You will need to ask The Holy Spirit which it is and what to do about it.

If it is a demon at work, you can stop it.

If you are their parent or have legal responsibility for them you can in the authority of Jesus delegated to you, remove demons oppressing the child.

The following steps are suggested for Christian children. If the child is not a Christian you are probably limited to steps 1,2 and 3.

- 1) Ask The Holy Spirit to help you examine the circumstances to see if you have done anything to stir them up and cause them to rebel. If so ask God's forgiveness and their forgiveness. If not try and determine why the child is upset or rebellious then do the next 6 steps.
- 2) In Jesus Name bind the spirits attacking them and forbid them from using or abusing the child in any way and from causing the child any more distress. This includes demons both inside and outside of the child.
- 3) Then use the Five Steps if they are a Christian

If the child is old enough to understand ask them to confess to God that they have done wrong and to repent of their actions. Remember that shame, guilt and condemnation were dealt with at Calvary so don't place any of these on them. They should feel conviction themselves from the The Holy Spirit. Remind them that all guilt, shame condemnation and spiritual judgment was dealt with at Calvary so that any of these they feel needs to be cast into the Abyss in Jesus' Name. You should also ask them to forgive the people who hurt them including you.

- 4) Then in the authority of Jesus that has been delegated to you send these spirits to the abyss. Forbid them in Jesus Name from sending other spirits back to attack your children.
- 5) In Jesus Name command healing of any hurts, memories or emotional pain that the demons are using to gain legal access to the child.
- 6) Ask The Holy Spirit to fill them and take the place of the demons that have left and to teach your children the correct attitudes and way of thinking.

7) Thank The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit for what they have done.

If the child is old enough to make a decision for Jesus then you can only do the five steps if they agree to do so, otherwise you are going against their free will and it is a form of control (witchcraft). So your first priority is to ensure they know what a Christian is so they can decide for or against Jesus.

According to The Bible the rod of correction is used to deal with wilful rebellion (Prov. 13:24). But it must be done out of love for them as guided by The Holy Spirit. Punishment of a child or in fact anyone should be out of love for them as guided by The Holy Spirit. To punish other than in love is to be a hypocrite as you are a Christian whose motive for everything is suppose to be God's Love in them.

If you do not correct them then they will suffer the ravages of their actions (Gal 6:7,8) and reap the spiritual consequences of what they have sown. Correction is done in love with objective of turning them from worse things that could destroy them physically and spiritually. God's punishment serves the same purpose – designed to make us change our ways towards what is good and beneficial to us. They are a sign of His love as should be our correction of our children be a sign of our love to them.

One thing a parent needs to consider is if they have a hurt or a sin that affects them and that stops the child from feeling secure or loved by them. Often a Child is emotionally damaged because one or both of the parents are damaged and cannot relate to or love the child as they should. This is why it is so important for parents to be delivered of all Satan has placed on them. This deliverance will also help their relationship with each other as a married couple. You can see why Satan hates the benefits of deliverance as many families would be normal that are now in a spiritual mess.

Dispute Reconciliation

To expose yourself to someone you must trust their love for you, that they accept you as you are, warts and all and not as you think you should be. This means they can help you with the warts and will understand better any problems you have that may have help cause the situation you are reconciling over.

These wrong altitudes turn a person inwards and stop communication outwards and will build up walls if not dealt with. The focus turns From. Jesus themself and their wickedness so they feel unacceptable to themself and the person they must face.

The other person may need to deal with self rejection, self hatred, false guilt , shame or condemnation or fear of the other persons love. Deliverance may be needed before reconciliation can start. For this you should use the framework of the five steps. Deliverance is needed as is the realisation they were forgiven at Calvary and all they need to do is repent, and that all shame guilt and condemnation were dealt with at Calvary and all that you feel of these is a result of Satan and not God.

Deliverance deals with self rejection, self hatred and being afraid to face the other person because you are afraid they do accept you as you are. Any deliverance prayer should deal with:

fear of man

wrong self image

self rejection

self hatred

and-whatever else The Holy spirit tells you to deal with,

You should also forgive yourself and cast false guilt, shame and condemnation to the abyss

Steps 3-5 of the framework of the five steps is then prayed.

A new way to attack Satan

I was recently shown this by The Holy Spirit

People say a demon has a legal right because a person has accepted what they have been offered by the demon. The Law does not condone a crime because the victim allowed the perpetrator to do it to them. It says a higher law is there that has been broken and judges them according to that law.

So it is with Satan and his demons. They have broken The Laws of The Kingdom, of God and its Ruler, Jesus. Accordingly, they can be punished for this. So while the person accepts what the demon offers the demon can be punished for breaking The Laws of God and sent to The Abyss for this.

The fact a person accepts what the demon offers them does not give the demon a legal right to break the law of God and it is for this they are cast to the Abyss.

So if you ask a child to do something, if they rebel and will not do it then the casting out can go on until they finally obey. The task must be within your authority and the guidelines of the Kingdom for this approach to be effective.

An example is as follows

You ask your eldest son to take out the garbage. You know he will not do this but that still does not stop you asking. When he says “No!” You command the following:

In Jesus Name I command that as long as my son does not take out the garbage every demon I have been given authority over and who is not doing the Will of God, is to go to The Abyss and stay there. When my son finally takes out the garbage, then I command in Jesus’ Name that the demons behind his rebellion are to go to the Abyss and stay there.

While the son does not take out the garbage every demon you have authority over will go to the Abyss. Satan starts the rebellion and we use it against him.

This can be applied to any situation where you have authority to ask someone to do something: daughter asked to sweep or make her bed, son asked to mow the lawn, etc. You are only limited by your ability to hear The Holy Spirit as He shows you areas to use this in.

This attack on Satan is very affective as Susan and I have seen the demons and The Holy Spirit both trying to get the person to stop the wrong action or attitude.

Note: This approach is very effective when you set a task you are authorized to set, which you know will never be done by your child or another.

Courtship and Betrothal

By

Neville Salvetti© 2008

From before creation your life was known to God and planned by Him. In that plan was a person to marry. God knew who it was and planted in your heart an image of that person so that your spirit would recognise them and 'jump for joy' when you met them.

Obey God, seek Him and His Kingdom and the promise is that He will provide her for you (Mat 6:33). Seek her yourself and Satan will provide someone for you and you not achieve the best God had intended for your marriage.

The choice is to either play the Russian Roulette of dating and romance or to wait for the one God brings to you to be betrothed too!

Definitions used in this book

Courtship

This is Satan's way of having couples come together and decide who to marry as they seek the person who is their ideal 'wife' usually at the expense of the one God wants them to have. God is not usually consulted until after the decision is made.

'court' = to pay attention with the aim of obtaining favour

'-ship' = behaviour

So courtship is the behaviour of seeking favour of another with the objective of marrying them (getting their attention).

Betrothal

This is God's way where He puts a desire for the other person in your heart and brings you together to get married.

'be' = belong too

'-trothed' = truth (its original meaning)

So betrothed people truthfully belong to each other (as God has put them together).

Marriage

This really refers to the act of marriage and not married life. Matrimony correctly refers to that. I use marriage in this booklet as matrimony is not a word used these days to describe the married state.

'mar' = one who mars

'-age = that which belongs or is a function related to

So marriage act is the act of marring something. It is the act that removes the virginity of a man and woman and mars it. It culminates the betrothal period which is the period of preparation for marriage.

Matrimony

This is really the word to describe the married state.

'Matri' = mother

'-mony' = occurring only in

Only in marriage is a natural birth mother found showing how important they are to a marriage that even the word used to describe marriage (matrimony) is derived from the word for mother. This is why Satan does so much to destroy women as destroying them destroys the household.

It is so different to other relationships because: God initiates it, puts you both together, trains you in the betrothal period for the act of marriage and matrimony and then blesses the union for His sake and of course, your best. It is up to you to do your part in this process to prepare yourself for marriage as God can only do His side of the work He is doing in you.

So this booklet is about betrothal and preparation for matrimony: God's way of bringing people together for matrimony (marriage) using the betrothal period as a period of preparation for the marriage act and matrimony.

Dispute Reconciliation

The marriage that stays together is one that resolves problems in a Godly way and these mechanisms should be set up before matrimony so they are in place for the state of matrimony (living together as husband and wife).

To expose yourself to someone you must trust their love for you, that they accept you as you are, warts and all and not as you think you should be. This means they can help you with the warts and will understand better any problems you have that may have help cause the situation you are reconciling over.

Wrong attitudes to your future spouse turns them inwards and stops communication outwards and will build up walls if not dealt with. The focus turns from Jesus to themselves and their inadequateness so they feel unacceptable to themselves and the person they must face.

One or both spouses may need to deal with self rejection, self hatred, false guilt, shame or condemnation or fear of the other persons love. Deliverance may be needed before reconciliation can start. Deliverance is needed as is the realisation they were forgiven at Calvary and all they need to do is repent, and that all shame guilt and condemnation were dealt with at Calvary and all that you feel of these is a result of Satan placing thee on you and are not God.

Sleeping Around

Why do people have multiple sex partners before marriage? What does a woman gain from it that she will risk getting pregnant, or getting a venereal disease and/or aids?

No one plays Russian roulette with their bodies unless they are damaged emotionally in a major or way.

The usual cause is sexual abuse so that the person has no self esteem and ends up treating sex as a sign of love or acceptance or even a possible way of finding their 'Prince Charming'.

They can end up thinking that all man really want is sex and that it is a way to get love and to show love. This is how Satan promotes love in the media and most people who do this are influenced by this in some way so accept it as a correct way to relate.

They often do not enjoy sleeping around but it is a learned behaviour and acceptable to them. It may be a result of the lie that sex = love or a coping mechanism

for abuse they have received or a belief they are good for nothing better than that. They may even know it is destroying them in a way but feel trapped. They need deliverance and the proper love Jesus gives to shown them what love and acceptance really is.

The love of a good person helps in freeing them from this addiction and compensation for lack of love (which is what sleeping around is). One who loves them as Jesus does and who marries them for who they are in as a person and not for how good they look or how good they are at sex!

Betrothal and The kingdom of God

Introduction

The betrothal period is one of the most important periods in the life of a person. It is the preparatory time for marriage in which the attitudes and habits are formed that you will take into your marriage and which will be built on by God during the marriage, providing you let The Holy Spirit lead you in the preparation of the marriage. Most marriages fail before they start as this preparatory time is not approached properly and so the marriage starts on a wrong foundation and ends up falling apart. This is especially so if the marriage has been based on romance and emotion and not a betrothal by God.

If the betrothal period is correctly lived as God wants it to be, then the only differences between that and matrimony is that you now live together, share everything and can have sex.

This booklet aims to give you an understanding of this period of betrothal so that the foundation for the marriage will be correctly formed and so you will have a firm basis on which to continue to build on in the marriage

Guidelines for using this book

It is suggested this book be read together by a betrothed couple so they can discuss any problems they have in regard to what it suggests they do. It may also be suitable for class discussion. Use it as The Holy Spirit says to. After all He is your teacher (Job 32:8)

I give you the following suggestions”

Ask The Holy Spirit to give you understanding of what you read in this book

Put into practice what you read or else your effort reading this book will be wasted

Always do what The Holy Spirit says and not what man writes or says.

The following prayer may be useful

Lord, we give you our betrothal and ask you Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us what we need to know to prepare for marriage. We ask you to show how we should relate to each other and to you in this betrothal relationship so that we bring You Honour and Glory as we learn what we need to know to prepare ourselves for marriage. So Lord Jesus we give you the whole betrothal situation to be Lord of.

Satan you have no right to work in these areas now as it belongs to Jesus so in Jesus Name go to the Throne of Grace and be judged. Holy Spirit take his place please.

Than you Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit.

On Love

Love and The Fruit of The Spirit

The attitudes a betrothed person should have in betrothal and subsequent marriage is love, the same type of Love God has for each of us.

In the prebetrothal, betrothal and matrimony stages the only difference should be the degree of intimacy. The quality of love you have for each other should not change in any of these stages. Only the way God allows you to express it changes.

While love to our spouse will be a natural expression of how we feel toward them it will require will power and effort at times to carry out what our love desires to do for them.

This will be because :

Satan is trying to stop us expressing our love to our spouse

We do not know how to express it properly

We need to give up or change something in our lifestyle to be able to express our love to them correctly. This is often the biggest reason for love not being expressed.

Fear of exposure (self-protection as we still do not trust fully yet the love of our betrothed).

Satan will try to turn love into lust and harm the relationship and only true self disciplined love for our betrothed will prevent this.

How should we love our betrothed:

We are to love our betrothed as Jesus loves her!

We should rejoice that God has given us a betrothed and all that goes with it that are signs of His blessings towards us, and be should thankful to Him for these.

The peace we have with our betrothed because of the unity in The Spirit we have with our betrothed and all we can do together because of our love for each other.

The patience we express to our betrothed as we seek to serve them and train them in the way God wants them trained

Tenderness in the way we relate to our spouse and children out of our love for them

Seeking best for our betrothed because we love them

Trusting God for all that happens to us in the marriage relationship

In humility serving our betrothed as God serves them in all He does for them

Moderation in all we do so that we can provide for our betrothed and not corrupt them through immoderation.

Love for our betrothed is the motivation for all we do for them

The way of the person who expresses God's Love to their Spouse

A person who loves their betrothed will be patient with and tolerant of their problems as they work with God to help their spouse and children overcome their weaknesses.

They are gentle and compassionate and do only what helps them grow closer to Jesus and The Father as well as mature into what God wants them to mature into

They do not envy what God has allowed others to do and help them in anyway they can as they Serve Jesus out of love for Him and not for the

purposes of self-esteem. They do not use the successes of their betrothed for purposes of their own self-esteem

They do not promote their own abilities in the relationship when it will cause others to feel inadequate or worthless

They do not embarrass their betrothed through inappropriate behaviour either to them or others

They do not promote themselves if it means their spouse or family will be brought into disrepute or emotionally damaged in any way

They are not upset by things their betrothed does to them and serves them in spite of what their betrothed does to them just God serves us in spite of our rejection of Him

They do not look for evil in their betrothed or denigrate them in any way or think wrong things about them but accept them as they are, build on that and help them be the person God wants their spouse to be

They rejoice in the good their betrothed does and in the character and strength of God in their betrothed

They do not complain when their betrothed wrongs them but seek God on how to help their betrothed overcome their weaknesses

They look always positive at their betrothed and their relationship with God, helping them to overcome any weaknesses they have.

They seek what benefits (is good for) their betrothed as good stewards of them and help them become more intimate (closer to God)

Their relationship with God enables them to relate to their betrothed in a correct manner.

If there is any fear, of your betrothed then one or both of you need deliverance and should have it as soon as you can so Satan cannot use it in the marriage.

There should be no fear in love. You should never put fear in your betrothed in any way or at any time as it will slowly kill the love they have for you.

Love covers (overlooks) the sins (failings/weaknesses) of your betrothed and will help them with deliverance from these weaknesses and will support them as they try and deal with the weaknesses or failings.

Not wanting to give up what we have to change by holding onto past things we enjoy is probably the biggest hindrance to a person expressing their love (in the way God wants them to express it) to their betrothed (Luke 9:62). There may also be a fear of exposure of who you are because they still do not fully trust the love their betrothed has for them.

You cannot express God's Love when you cannot express Jesus in your life as His love is expressed as a natural outflow of Him in you.

If you cannot express God's love in an area then Jesus is not in that area and deliverance or Lordship commitment will be needed to deal with this inability to express God's Love to others in that area. You may need deliverance in an area to be able to love your betrothed as Jesus desires you to love them.

What are you willing to give up to show your love to your betrothed as Jesus Love her? Jesus gave up all to show His Love to His Bride (The Body).

Joy

Not just any joy, but the joy of having a relationship with Jesus, of being delivered from the evil kingdom of Satan and hell, of being counted worthy to do the work of Jesus, of knowing what His love for you really means! Of knowing who you are (a child of The Kingdom) and knowing where you will go when you die. The joy of not having to worry about anything as you do His Will as you trust God's Love, Purpose, Plans and Control over all circumstances (Matt 6:33).

Peace

Not just any peace but peace with God that pervades all we do because we know The Father is in control of all our circumstances and loves us and meets our every need! This is a peace that does not have a care as it casts all its worry on the Saviour and trusts Him fully to deal in the matter in a way that is most advantageous for us as we continue in the task God has called us too (Phil 4:6-8).

Long-suffering (Patience in suffering)

This attitude of 'patience in suffering' results from knowing that our reward is in Jesus and that at the end of the suffering is rest in the Kingdom of God with Jesus. It also is suffering while doing the work of Jesus and because of their love for Jesus it is willingly borne for His purposes to be effected because of the benefit it will bring to others. They do not care what happens to them as they trust Him for whatever happens to them (Heb 11:6).

Gentleness (kindness out of compassion and love)

People who love as Jesus loves cannot willingly hurt another or be harsh with them. This term 'gentleness' portrays this. It is kindness and compassion to others out of love for them. It is the attitude Jesus has with sinners and the unlovely that the world discards and that many have difficulty relating too. It is an expression of the Love Jesus has to all.

The betrothed should be a gentle man in all he does with and for his future spouse both during the betrothal period and in the marriage. She is a gift from God and should be treated as such.

He should never raise his voice, shout at, abuse her or intimidate her in any way. These will cause her to doubt his love to her or put fear in her. Love is gentle and this should be shown in all he does for or with her. When he talks it should edify her in some way or praise her to others. It should be sound speech seasoned with grace.

The husband who is gentle too, considerate of and appreciative of his wife, showing love in all he does in relationship to her will be rewarded by her increased desire and love for him, both physically and spiritually as well as the loving service she will give to him.

Love given will have a response of love reciprocated from the person they show this love too. This is the key to a marriage, for the husband to love his wife as Jesus loves her so that she feels sufficiently secure in the relationship to love him back with the same type of love and to emotionally express herself freely and lovingly towards him. This type of Love is matured in the betrothal period.

Goodness

A person who has this goodness is a person of integrity and is virtuous and honest in all they do. Their character expresses the goodness of God. They are pure in their motives and seek evil for no one, esteeming the values of God above those of the values of the world so that God's values permeate their nature and in all they do they reflect the goodness of God.

Faith

This is an active belief and trust in whom Jesus is, what Jesus has said and done as well as all that Jesus has promised. This belief permeates everything they think and do. They are assured of whom they have believed in and the promises made by Him (Jesus). The faith of this person cannot be shaken and they will die rather

than deny their belief in Jesus, whom He is, what He has done and what He has promised to do for them. (Heb 11:6)

Meekness (Humility)

The meek person realizes that they are only what they are by God's Grace and takes no credit for what God has done. They have a true estimation of themselves before God and knows that all comes from their relationship with God including abilities, self-worth, self-esteem and self-value. They know they live only because God keeps them alive and is able to work and serve God only because God allows them to do this and also Gives them what they need to serve Him.

They have no doubt as to their complete reliance on God and as a result do not declare their own greatness or achievements! They cannot! As they realize they have only done what God has asked them to do then enabled them to also do it because God has prepared these for them from before creation and allowed them to do these things and that there is nothing in what they have done which allows them to claim any 'glory' or originality in the activity.

Because of this attitude, they have the heart required of a servant and God can use them greatly.

God does not Love us for what we can do for Him as He can do it all Himself. He Loves us because He made us and is our 'Father'. Those who respond in Love towards Him will be with Him in heaven. Those who reject His Love will be with His enemy in hell when they die. Remember, enemies are placed in prison where they cannot harm the good citizens of the kingdom. This is one reason hell is necessary.

Temperance (self-controlled in all things)

The temperate person controls themselves in all the things they do so that they never abuse anything God allows them to have control over and are also able to control themselves. As a result they are able to express the 'Fruit of the Spirit' in all they do. While all the 'fruit' flows from love, self-control is what allows a person to express them properly. These self-controlled people are the faithful in the tasks God has given them and good stewards of all God has entrusted them with because they listen to God and do what He wants them to do with what He has entrusted them with. They will also be good stewards of their betrothed and later their spouse.

'Against such there is no law'

Against such there can be no law as Love fulfils God's requirements of The Law and the 'fruit of the Spirit' is the expression of God's Love to us, and through us, to all.

As you show God's Love to your betrothed you will fulfil Gods requirements of you and relate to your betrothed as God desires you too.

The above attitudes and way of thinking are designed to remove worry and fear from our minds as these cloud our thinking and make it hard for us to hear God and be led by The Holy Spirit. They also ensure we have the correct attitudes and habits to be a good citizen of The Kingdom of Heaven and to be able fearlessly to do the work of The Kingdom.

Part of the work of The Kingdom is the stewardship of your betrothed and marriage. The family is the basic unit of worship on earth and so these stewardships are important

Worry and fear are attitudes Satan tries to make us have so we doubt God's Love for us and control over our circumstances and so we will be more hesitant to serve Him and trust His Will, Plans, Purpose and Control. We will be protecting ourself rather than relating as God desires us too.

A Christian should always be positive about what God allows to happen to them. To be otherwise is to call God's love into disrepute.

God is in complete control and His nature is Love so whatever happens is for our best as God is using it to conform us to the image of Jesus.

The Bible tells us to be positive (Rom 8:28, Gen 50:20)

Job 3:25 (NCV) For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me and what I dreaded has happened to me.

If you are afraid or believe something will happen to you it may happen (the example of Job see Job 3:25)). Satan is always happy to fulfil it if it is against the Will of Jesus and thus help Christians be harmed. If you trust through faith in God's providence and control of all you will not be concerned about anything that happens to you or which God asks you to do as it is best for you (Rom 8:28). God's Love is being expressed through what is happening to you so it is best for you.

The Christian life is a life of positives based on trust in God's Love! Not on negatives or fear that takes away hope and binds the person in ritual and legalism (2 Tim 1:7).

This positive attitude of faith needs to be cultivated through the Will of the person affirming God's positives in regard to all negative situations. This is expressed through total obedience to Jesus believing all will work out for your best (Rom 8:28).

Standards for a relationship

Be careful what standards you apply when going into a relationship as there are three types of standards in relationships:

Spiritual: the standards God expects you to keep

Legal: The standard the laws of the land expects you to keep

Cultural: Acceptable social standards either set up by Satan or God or a mixture.

All standards of culture must conform with God's standards then those of the land (when they do not contradict the Laws of God).

There is also the experiences you have had in relationships which may affect the way you approach them. For example, prior to meeting your betrothed you could have been hurt by someone close so you can no longer trust people or have another wrong attitude towards them. This will be transferred to other relationships you have such as to God or your betrothed. This attitude results in your never expecting anything good from God or others, including your betrothed.

Deliverance is needed to remove these fears so you can trust others and relate to them as God wants you too.

Prior to Betrothal

The period prior to before God betroths you to someone is a time of getting to know other people, learning to relate to and serve people in preparation for the deepening of the eventual betrothal relationship. It is in this pre-betrothal period that you learn the self-control towards the opposite sex, the skills and independence necessary for the betrothal period. Lust or any other type of negative emotion should not be a part of this time as you should be using the principles of God's kingdom as you learn to relate to others and learn about the opposite

sex and their emotional and temperamental differences to you as well as their strengths and weaknesses.

It is in this period you also learn to relate as culture dictates you are too and as this varies from race or geographic area there can be no hard and fast rules for this type of relationship.

The role of parents in earning how to relate properly is very important and how you related to your parents influences how you relate to others. This means you may need to relearn how to relate to others if your parents abused you in any way

The only standard you can rely on that crosses all cultures and regions are those of God.

Men are to treat girls as sisters 1 Tim 5:1-2

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Remember you are to relate in love and not lust. The only commandment of The Kingdom of God and from which all the others flow is Jn 13:34-35:

Jn 13:3-354 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

This means no sex or heavy petting with anyone until you are married. If you love your betrothed as Jesus does you will not do this to them and cause them emotional problems as well as possible pregnancy with all the shame it has.

If you love your betrothed as Jesus does you will help each other and serve each other in love and support each other in their weaknesses and trials. You will enjoy them for who they are as a person:

Someone for whom Jesus died

A mind and personality

A Christian to fellowship with

A part of The Family of God you belong too

A Step Brother or Step Sister to Jesus Matt12:50 and thus also to you

A child of The Father by adoption Rom 8:14

God's Temple in which He lives

Singles Socializing

When you socialize before betrothal you should not be looking at people evaluating them as possible marriage partners or asking God if they are the one. Lists, that you cross each possible name out one at a time, are definitely out. You are to focus on your relationship with God and how He wants it expressed towards others and He will prepare you for marriage and bring your future betrothed to you. (Mat 6:33 applies).

While you make lists and evaluate people as a possible betrothed Satan will give you all the help he can so you will look at the wrong person, possibly miss the right one and marry someone God does not want you to marry.

You do not need to seek a spouse as God will bring them to you as part of the promises of Mat 6:33. He has promised to supply all your need in every area of your life as long as you seek the furtherance of His kingdom and develop the relationship you have with Him. God will guide you to your partner:

They will be the perfect partner for you

They will have the gifts you do not have that will complement yours in ministry so you will need to learn to minister together as a couple

They will complete you as a person

They will complete each other for ministry (gifts, temperament)

In all areas the relationship will be as God desires it to be (Jesus will be their Lord and The Holy Spirit will always be their guide)

Previously married people

Where one or both of the betrothed couple have been married previously then there will be hurts and usually children with one or both of the betrothed persons.

There are at least four dangers in this relationship:

The betrothal is not God-ordained and is a compensation (for a marriage that has ended) in the belief it will remove hurts and/or other problems one or both of the betrothed couple has.

Do not enter a relationship soon after the divorce or death of a partner or a break-up with another until you are 100% sure the marriage is of God. The old saying “marry in haste repent at leisure” is so true and you could spend many years repenting for your hasty choice.

The children could be overlooked by one or more of the betrothed people as the couple cement their betrothal relationship.

The hurts that caused the divorce, or resulted from the cessation of the marriage through divorce or death of a spouse, may not have been dealt with through deliverance so that person will bring problems into the marriage which will cause further problems.

The hurts of the children are overlooked so they go into the marriage scarred and have trouble coping.

Romance the mother in the betrothal period but be sure to let the children know that you love them as well and by this you will win both them and the mother.

The the new future spouse must earn the respect of the children of the other betrothed person as respect is a necessary part of a person trusting themselves to love another. If the children do not respect the introduced spouse then they will never trust or love them.

If the mother thinks the future spouse will not love or care properly for her children she will not marry him.

The betrothed couple have become stewards of each other and the children they both have and not just of their own children so as good stewards they need to look after what God has given them even though it means denying themselves in various ways. If they cannot be good stewards of what God has entrusted them with before marriage (the children) it will be harder afterwards when there are more problems and interactions to resolve and new things to be steward of than there was prior to and during the betrothal period.

All deliverance that is possible should be done of the betrothed and their children before any marriage so that problems from the past do not need to be dealt with after marriage and cause stress or friction in the relationships in the future family..

If you cannot relate properly to any person involved in these relationships (betrothed, your children, their children) before marriage you will have little chance afterwards unless there is deliverance.

Complications such as having two houses and two sets of furniture etc should be taken to God as no fast rules can be made for these. You are stewards of them on His behalf so you need to ask what He may want done with them.

Sometimes the house has so many bad memories so that you will need to sell it and move into a new one with your betrothed unless they need to keep the house for some reason.

Where possible you should not ask a new spouse to live in a house Satan used to destroy the last spouse. It is not fair to the new spouse to have to clean up the mess of a previous marriage.

Usually the house is run down needing lots of renovation or cleaning. It is not fair to ask a new spouse to either do it or pay for this.

A new marriage is a chance to start afresh and put into the marriage the things God wants in it as well as the order He wants to be in it so from the start of the relationship God's principles should be in all that happens during the betrothal period and afterwards in the marriage.

Whatever happens ensure it is in accordance with The Will of God as revealed to you by The Holy Spirit.

As in all things you need to walk with one ear constantly open to The Holy Spirit so the relationships (between each member of the family) will progress as Jesus desires them to be developed and matured.

Do not seek a wife

If you seek a wife Satan may end up guiding you to the one he wants you to marry. If you marry his choice for you:

There will be strife all the marriage

Love in the marriage will grow cold and legalism will take over

Jesus will not be central to the marriage

There will not be unity in the marriage

Jesus will not be able to use it as He would like too

You may grow lukewarm to the things God wants you to do and may even lose your salvation through the continued disobedience (Rev 3:5)

The relationship with your spouse is the second most important relationship you have, The most important relationship is with Jesus.

Until your relationship with Jesus is in place and:

He is Lord of all your life

He alone is your strength and help and all your hopes, purposes and dreams for future happiness are found in Him alone

You live Matt 6:33

He will not give you a spouse as they will get between you and He!

When the spouse will not be a distraction of any type then he can entrust you with one.

Until then it is no use looking for a one as Satan will gladly provide his spouse for you. This is why it is so important to let God bring the person to you and not follow the ways of the world which Satan promotes in his media.

Until Jesus is your lord so that nothing, including a relationship with a spouse, will affect the relationship with Him, He will not usually give you a spouse.

Why should Jesus give you someone who could come between you and He and who may ultimately cause you to lose your salvation.

Satan promotes His way of courtship in the Media

It is the opposite of what God wants

It is based on Lust not Love

It is designed to promote love = sex

It is designed to form shallow relationships

It is built on sex, appearance, wealth and mutual attraction

It promotes sleeping or living with different people to test out partners and seeing if you relate to each other in a reasonable way

It promotes living together rather than marriage

It does not promote the long term commitment that marriage has

It allows changing partners without any legal complications

It allows sex experimentation outside the relationship without worrying about legal problems

It destroys marriage and the family as a structure

Remember that God will bring your wife to you so do not make a list of what you want in a wife then go and look for a woman that matches that list. It will invariably be different to the list of what God wants in your wife. You will be looking for the wrong woman and may miss the one He wants you to have because of this.

God's basic unit is marriage

God's provision for children is found in the stable marriage relationship

It is the basic unit of worship

It was created by God for the benefit of each spouse

It was created by God so that its ministry would be a reflection of how God ministers.

It was created to be the spiritual raining ground for children where they would also learn the life skills needed to live as The Father desires them to live later in life.

Children need a mother and father to find their true identity as a person. Where there is only one parent this usually does not occur. You must give the needs you cannot fulfil in a child to Jesus and trust Him to deal with them.

Adequacy

Are you ready for marriage?

Do you feel adequate to fulfil the roles you will be called to carry out when married?

If God has called together to be married you will be at the stage of Christian maturity He expects you to be at and will work through the betrothal period to prepare you both for marriage.

If God has called you together then Satan will work to break up the betrothal or stop you being prepared by God for marriage so that you and go into marriage with problems he can use to try and destroy the marriage.

Satan will try and place on you negative emotions and attitudes that will either hinder your learning what God wants you to learn or will break up the betrothal (engagement) so the marriage does not occur.

Satan will try and make you doubt you are to marry the person. This is why you must be sure God wants you to be married to that person so can fight the doubt Satan places on you with the truth that God wants you to both be married to each other

If Satan cannot blind you to the weaknesses in your character that will hinder the betrothal and subsequent marriage then he will try and use them to cause you doubt about your adequacy to marry or your being acceptable to your future spouse

This is where you will need deliverance to deal with these weaknesses so that Satan cannot use them against you.

You are adequate for marriage because:

God has called you to it so has prepared you for it

If you were not adequate why would Satan try and make believe that you are not adequate. He only attacks What you have, not what you do not have!

You are adequate in Jesus because in your relating to Him He prepares what you need to be to do what He asks you to do

You are only required to love as Jesus Loves. If you cannot then deliverance will be necessary. You will fail in obedience to Jesus but all that God asks you to do is to repent and to keep on trying to do His Will for you each day. God only asks you to do this and to leave the future to Him (Matt 6:33).

As you do this you are being matured to what He desires you to be at each stage of the betrothal period in preparation for marriage.

All you need for any aspect of your life will be on the path He has prepared for You to walk in before creation began

If you doubt your adequacy and abilities you are saying God has made a mistake with you and at that point of time you are not what you should be for what He has called you too. If you are not trying to obey Him then you are not where you should be because of your disobedience and because you are not following the path of Mat 6:33! You are reaping what you have sown (Gal 6:7-8)

If your self worth is based on Jesus and not on your idea of a what you should be you will trust Him for how He has made you adequate for betrothal and then marriage. Self worth, self esteem and your abilities will not be a problem as they will be based on His value of you and not from your own reason which Satan will try and influence so that you will have a wrong opinion of yourself.

When ever relating to your betrothed or your spouse never assume things or react but ask The Holy Spirit if what they said is correct as well as how to respond to what they have said. This also applies to thoughts that come into your mind whose source could be The Holy Spirit, Satan or yourself.

If you take all to Jesus through the Holy spirit you will never have problems in regard to adequacy and ability as The Holy spirit will tell what you need to do in the situation you are in.

Trusting people

You must trust or respect a person before you can accept them or what they say or you will be too busy defending yourself or seeing how you are affected by what they say. If you cannot trust a person you want to love then you need deliverance so you will be free and know your adequacy in Jesus and what He has done for, in and through you.

Breathing Space

Everyone requires space at times, either mental, emotional or physical, and you need to know when you are to allow them this space. The reason they need it may not be important but the fact they need it is and if you love them you will grant them this space, step back and wait until you are allowed to enter it again.

A Summary of Betrothal

The rules of The Kingdom apply to a betrothal'

The basic rule of The Kingdom is to love others as God Loves them and there are no exceptions provided by God regarding this command.

Jesus is Lord and you serve Him with what you do including who you marry and how you relate to them so you need to determine whom He wants you to marry and not do what the world says you do to find a wife.

You must not be unequally yoked spiritually 2 Cor 6:14

You belong to a different Kingdom of that of the world with different values and purposes

Being unequally yoked will stop the relationship walking in unity of Spirit (Amos 3:3) because your spirits belong to different kings and cannot ever be one

You can be unequally yoked if you are led by The Holy Spirit and your betrothed refuses to be personally led or believe you can be led by The Holy Spirit. There can be a unity in the common spirit but not as God wants as you are both not led by The Spirit to be able to hear what He wants you both to do for Him in the marriage.

You can be unequally yoked if one believes in deliverance and the other does not. The one not believing in deliverance will rely on man's methods (such as psychology and psychiatry) and will not follow the Spirit in this and other things. They cannot believe in man's methods and say you follow The Spirit.

Usually this occurs because one does not believe in the ministry of Jesus and the miracles or deliverance that accompany it. They may also believe the gifts of The Holy Spirit are not for today so follow traditional church methods. Unless they change the marriage will end in disaster and will not do what Jesus wants it to be. I know as this happened to me.

It must be God's Will for the couple

You must be Spirit led in choosing spouse so you will know the one God wants for you

You must know how to discern The Will of God

You must be certain you are to marry them before you start the betrothal period

Dating

Dating to find a marriage partner is not God's way of doing things

It allows Satan to find a partner for you

It shows you do not trust God for a partner

Going out as a group is not dating but socialising

Dating should be an indication you are to marry because God has brought you together and you are now getting to know one another in preparation for formal engagement and marriage

You should only start dating after you both agree you are to marry (in the betrothal period)

Dating should really only be a prelude to the engagement and is part of the betrothal period lead up

Romancing should now occur in the dating period not to win her heart but to show you appreciate her for who she is and desire her because God has given her to you to marry.

Formal engagement cements the betrothal period and marks the time to begin setting up the marriage household (if you have not done so already). Relational problems should have been sorted out early in the betrothal period before formal engagement occurred.

Remember, the moment God informs you both that you are to marry you are betrothed in His eyes.

The relationship

Your relationship with Jesus is the foundation of any betrothal and marriage

Jesus must be more important to the betrothed people than their future spouse

The will of Jesus must be in charge of the betrothal period

They must trust God's Love Control Purposes and Plans no matter whatever happens

The relationship must be guided by The Holy Spirit

They must Learn how to live as a couple guided by The Holy Spirit

This is preparation for marriage and ministry through marriage

They should treat each other respectfully out of love for them Eph 5:21

The Love of Jesus toward the future spouse must be the type of Love they have for each other

You need to help each other work through hurts or other problems that would hinder relationship with the wife as well as with others in this betrothal period so that the marriage starts with each partner able to relate to each other as they should.

Serving your betrothed

In heaven people willingly serve others. There is no thought for themselves or protecting hurts or emotions as these are no longer a problem in heaven

If you have problems loving others or serving them then you need to deal with the hurts that causes this in you.

When you naturally have an attitude of loving service to others so that you do not consider your own needs but consider the needs of others then you have the attitude you need to prepare for life in heaven

This is the natural altitude you should have to your betrothed as well as to others

Betrothal is the time to prepare for Matrimony

Preparation for all aspects of marriage but without the sex

Develop the same attitudes as husband and wife have to each other

Learn to walk in unity of purpose as guided by The Holy Spirit

Same servant attitude to each other as God has to them

A chance to put into practice attitudes needed in the marriage

The same love for each that a husband and wife has for each other

There is no marriage so headship is not relevant theoretically

It is a chance to practice headship roles and to find out what problems each have with it.

A chance to develop the skill of being a gentleman and serving His future wife's needs

They must learn to trust Jesus for the domestic roles they are to have in marriage and prepare themselves for them. (Headship is domestic not spiritual)

They are spiritually equal before and after the marriage only in domestic arrangement does headship apply so this spiritual equality needs to be developed

Need to learn submission (resulting from their love to each other) to the needs of each other as they will have in marriage

Domestic submission is for order in the marriage

God will require husband to give account of his headship

God will require wife to give an account of her submission

The betrothal period is a chance to practice how you will relate to each other in preparation for marriage

You will not ask for anyone you love to sin

Sex

Heavy Petting

Anything against God's laws

All you do will be out of pure love for them

A time of getting to know each other spiritually

Physical appearance not important

Looks deceive and will fade away

Sex corrupts the relationship (does he want me or my body?)

God has chosen future spouse so these don't matter what they look like

Love looks at the heart and spirit and desires them for who they are and not because of their body or abilities as the world does and as Satan promotes. Marriage is a spiritual thing so that the physical should not be determinative in the relationship.

A time of joining to each other through finding out

What you have in common

What you need to adjust for that you do not have in common

What you need to remove from your life for a successful marriage

Whether any deliverance is needed to remove problems in the relationship

You need to be led by The Holy Spirit when resolving problems

Where forgiveness is needed learn to forgive or apologise and ask for forgiveness

Where you have offended another learn to go to them for forgiveness

Where there are differences of opinion you need to learn as a couple to consult The Holy Spirit and do the Will of Jesus that He reveals to you.

Where there is any lack of trust in the spouse you need to find out why and deal with it through deliverance.

Encourage each others masculinity or femininity

The future husband must encourage the femininity and development of the roles the his wife will have

The Future wife must encourage the masculinity and the development of the roles her future husband will have

Demands should not be made on the other that are not in the job description God has made for Christians in regard to their sexuality or roles as a betrothed and later married couple.

Pray for your betrothed

You need to pray for each other

- 1) Ask their permission to pray for them and give them permission to pray for you.
- 2) Pray for each others spiritual growth and maturity
- 3) Do any deliverance you need for each other
- 4) Pray for marriage preparations and honeymoon

Cultural conventions should be observed where possible

As God has chosen the couple the parents permission to marry is not necessary unless the laws of the land require it

God is a higher authority than parents

Parents, if Christians will accept the partner of their child if God has chosen this partner for their child

Remember! Because Satan controls the world media he has been able to promote his way of finding a wife and subsequent behaviour during the betrothal period and by this hides God's values and ways in these matters. Through his control of the media Satan has effectively negated the knowledge of God's plans in these matters so that even the church does not know how God wants the betrothal period to be lived as Jesus wants it lived.

God provides a wife

Prov 18:12 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

How do you find your wife? God puts you together and brings you to each other.

Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Before God can bless you it requires you to be in a relationship with Him that allows Him to bless you. You must be doing what He requires you to do for Him. He will not bring a godly wife to an ungodly man (and visa versa) but Satan will. This is why you need to be led by The Holy Spirit to discern who has brought this person to you to marry.

To find a godly wife focus on your relationship with Jesus and He will bring one to you without you having to search for her or worry about ever being married. It will be on the path He has for you, in His timing and not yours (Matt 6:33 applies)

A Christian will find a partner using Satan's methods but usually there will be heartache will result and it usually will not be the one God wants them to find. Through this wrong marriage partner Satan minimizes any effectiveness of ministry they would do for God as a couple compared to what would have been achieved if they had married the right person.

So wait for God to bring you the one He wants you to marry and be led by The Spirit in the relationship showing God's love to the other person in all the ways you relate to them and you will have a relationship that will be admired and desired by all who do not have this Godly type of marriage relationship.

Marriage is a special relationship.

While all relationships should express the Love of Christ in them they do so in different ways because of the restrictions placed on the relationship by God.

Only in the marriage relationship is sex or anything that is a part of it is such things as kissing, foreplay, fondling of the breasts etc., allowed. In all other relationships these are not allowed.

Only in the family relationship is a wife to submit domestically to anyone (her husband). To another she is not to submit domestically. God may place the wife under the authority of another for legal reasons but submission to another for legal purposes is not the same as submission to her husband.

The submission that over rides all is that to Jesus, who is Lord of all. It is He who we serve as we pursue the various roles and relationships we have in this world and later in heaven.

Outside the authority lines of marriage all authority lines are a result of the laws of the land and if which correctly drafted will not interfere with the authority lines or roles in the family but which will seek to preserve the family as well as the safety of its citizens.

I do not discuss spiritual authority over another except to say this belongs only to Jesus (1 Pet 2:25). At times you may place yourself under the mentorship (not authority) of another so that they can help you in your spiritual life but they cannot take spiritual authority over you as that removes Jesus as your head and authority over you if you accept their spiritual authority.

Jesus did not delegate spiritual authority over another but only over the works of Satan and his demons. Unless Jesus specifically delegated spiritual authority over another it cannot be implied from the interpretation of passages of scriptures as a delegation must be actually spoken or written by Jesus and not be implied from what others have written.

Reality of Marriage

A single person or a betrothed couple cannot imagine what marriage is really like. You live with a person 24 hours a day every day of the year and you see them at their best and worst.

You are completely exposed to them in every area of your life and can really hide nothing from them as it breaks the communication in the marriage. Besides if you love them you will not do anything that you have to hide from them (except surprises for birthdays or special celebrations)..

You wake, eat, sleep and work with them at home and unless you are put together by God and are one in His Spirit you will have difficulty in the marriage relationship. This is where it is so important that you are one in spirit with The Holy Spirit and remove all the problems and hurts that will hinder the relationship with each other and the marriage.

How you know it is the right person to marry?

May 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

God and Satan organize marriages.

When God does it:

God does something in your hearts and you know you are to marry

There is no infatuation or lust, only a desire to be with the person and serve them

When you are apart there is no fear of losing them

You love them with true love so that problems and fears are sorted out and you can talk to each other about anything.

You love the sound of their voice and being in their presence. When you are together time has no meaning.

Their appearance does not matter as it is who they are inside as a person that matters.

The past does not matter as it is what they are at that moment that attracts you. They are God's workmanship or He would not have brought them to you to marry. To complain about the person is to deny God's perfect workmanship and is rebellion. This does not mean they may not need

deliverance but that they are the perfect one for you for God to begin to mould you to His image individually and as a couple.

Everything you do as a couple is centred on Jesus and you both put His Kingdom and its Purposes before your own.

You do not cause each other to sin. You cannot as Love does no harm to another, If there are problems with love in any area then you help each other through deliverance to remove them.

You are unable to hurt them or bring the relationship with them into disrepute as you love them so much.

You have peace about them being your partner and everything you both do in the relationship.

There will be purpose and direction because of the unity of The Holy Spirit. In the marriage they will also be as one through soul ties resulting from sex. In a sense it is like the trinity: one in heart, one in soul and one in spirit through The Holy Spirit but two separate people.

Circumstances just seem to fall into place in the marriage preparation and you have peace about them and every area and activity you have in the relationship with them and what does cause problems is usually quickly sorted out and removed.

Satan will try to destroy the betrothal and engagement and will try to drive you apart. This shows it is not a marriage he wants to occur.

You desire to be together, not only because of being with each other, but also to serve Jesus in the marriage so you can:

Be fruitful and multiply

Share Christ to others as a couple by life (example as individuals and a married couple) and word (through teaching and preaching) and by this demonstrate The Kingdom of God to them

To show how beautiful marriage is when Jesus is central to all of it

To share ministry as a couple, united by The Holy Spirit demonstrating the Power and Leading of The Holy Spirit, bringing Glory to The Father and Jesus.

It is only as The Holy Spirit leads in this preparation time and in the subsequent marriage can these things occur.

A couple whose heart is knit by God walk in love and their love for each other influences all they do and overflows to all around them. Only as Jesus is Lord of the marriage can this occur. For a marriage of love to occur Jesus must be the Lord of each partner and they should both led by The Holy Spirit in all their relationships and activities with each other and to those around them. There will no lust in the relationship as they seek to serve the other partner before themselves.

Lust serves itself first. Love Serves the need of the other first. It is especially important in sex that you give your partner pleasure before your own need for it. They will respond and give you pleasure. This is why a female must be prepared to accept the male emotionally before sex is started and during the first part of sex.

If you love the spouse you will desire to give them pleasure before your own and will have pleasure from the pleasure you give them. This will be in everything and not just sex.

When your spouse is the one God has chosen for you, sex is not important. You desire their presence and to be one with them in heart and spirit and this is more important than anything else. You encourage each other just by the joy of being together and hearing each others voice with their words of love towards you and also because of the anticipation of the coming marriage and life together that will result.

The unity of purpose that they have, because they are led by The Holy Spirit, also encourages each other as they see the purpose Jesus has for them in the marriage and embrace them out of love and joy for Him.

You will just know in your heart they are the one and all that happens in the relationship will confirm it.

This type of love can grow and mature and become more intimate as there is no fear or walls to stop communication and intimacy from developing. They are not concerned about rejection because they have offended their spouse as love accepts people as they are and does not judge, shame or condemn people when they fail but helps them overcome problems and weaknesses regardless of the cost to themselves.

As you pursue true love for your partner it grows deeper and there is more peace, joy and intimacy in the relationship. You also cannot hurt them and in all interactions with them you will show God's Love (The Fruit of The Holy Spirit) in all you do. You will be: gentle, kind, considerate, patient, unselfish, undemanding in things and will put their needs before your own in all you do with them.

If a person truly loves another as Jesus loves that person they will not try to draw that person into sin, sexual or other. Jesus will provide an activity to replace the sexual temptations that are more in keeping with what He wants them to do.

The desire for your spouse should not only be for the anticipated joy of sex but for the pleasure of always being with them serving them and doing things together. The joy of sex will result from the response of your future spouse because you have this attitude of love towards them.

This self denial will make the relationship stronger as the other partner sees your love for them as their future spouse and that they consider your needs above their own needs and desires.

Love in marriage is more than just smooching, cuddling, sex, having a good time etc., (as Satan implies in the media). It is in the every day things in which you show your love in service to your future spouse:

The wife:

Washing clothes

Keeping the house clean

Keeping people fed and healthy

Submitting domestically etc.

The Husband

Maintaining the house and land

Supplying the needs of the family

Nurturing and loving his wife and family in sickness and health.

Providing good headship and guidance for the family etc.

Together

Washing the dishes

Shopping

Helping each other as needed.

The pleasure of just being with them etc.

You do these because you love your spouse and want to help and serve them. God is Love and we are to desire to be like Him and the nature of love is selfless service.

If this is not what you desire now for each other then do not marry until it is.

Always remember that love does not do for another what they need to or should be doing for themselves but helps them when it is necessary. Love, however, will serve another in the things that it is not necessary for the other to do and which either of them can do.

An example is driving children somewhere. There is no specific role in either gender for this so the husband can show love to the wife and do it to save her having to. Where the activity belongs to one or the other's roles then permission is needed to take over from the other spouse and show love through doing it for them.

This service is not done to be appreciated or for the purposes of self-esteem. The love of your spouse for you should give you worth and esteem and they should also appreciate you for who you are and not for just what you do. Service to the spouse should be a response of your love for them and their appreciation of you.

In the betrothal period all these attitudes need to be developed and matured, after all this period is the training ground for matrimony and any mistakes here are harder to fix up in the marriage. The bonding must be in the spiritual so that hearts and spirit are knit as one in unity and purpose. This is how union is in heaven between husband and wife and is outworked in the spiritual on earth as loving service and in the physical it is further expressed in marriage as sex.

Remember that everything begins in the spiritual in the relationship between each spouse and Jesus and is reflected subsequently in some way in the physical.

There should be no sex in the betrothal period. Sex is the act of marriage and immediately turns the betrothal into a marriage state so that in the eyes of God you are married. If you are engaged (betrothed) and you have sex with each other

then in the eyes of God you are married. If you live together as husband and wife and have sex with each other then in the eyes of God you are married.

The betrothal stage is when you learn how to meet the emotional needs and hurts of your betrothed so these can be dealt with before the marriage. This is necessary so that the marriage (of which sex is one expression) will not be hindered by emotional needs and hurts that have not been dealt with.

The classic example is in regard to people who have been raped or sexually molested. Unless they are delivered of the spiritual consequences of these acts they will always have problems with sex.

If you cannot love your betrothed sufficiently to meet their emotional needs before you are living together as husband and wife you should not marry as things will only get worse in the marriage. Marriage does not solve problems. It creates them. This is why you need to go through deliverance and be led by The Holy Spirit in the relationship so you can be shown by Him how to solve problems in the relationship as well as to develop the relationship in the betrothal period.

It is better to meet their emotional needs and hurts now and see if you can do this than find after you are married you cannot meet them. Deliverance is important for this meeting of needs and should occur before marriage so that these hurts are not taken into the marriage and cause problems. This is another reason for dealing with these needs and hurts before marriage.

Love your betrothed because they are a very intimate brother or sister to you but let the full expression of this love in any sexual sense be kept for the marriage. The woman will appreciate that your love for her is pure and is for who she is having no sexual overtones or lust and when the time is come for its full expression she will be able to give herself to you guilt free. The desire should be for each other not for each other's body.

The man needs to control his sex urges so he can love with a pure love and not with lust desiring sexual gratification. While sex may be an expression of their love in marriage, in the betrothal period this is not an option and they are to learn to love each other without this as they are preparing for eternity where sex is no longer practised and only pure love remains. Sex is a result of this type of love and not a cause of it. It is also not a necessary expression of their love but it is a lot of fun and if carried out properly gives each partner great pleasure.

Pure love desires just to be with the person and seeks to express itself to the spouse in any Godly way it can and does not ask anything in return having its joy in the service of someone they love.

God is Love and to have a happy betrothal period it is necessary to love your future spouse as He does. To have a happy marriage also requires the same quality of love.

There should be no difference between the love you have for each other in the betrothed period and in the marriage. The only difference is that marriage allows more scope for the expression of this love.

If you love a person it is very hard to do anything to hurt them or to cheapen your love for them.

You will find anything that cheapens your deep pure love for them is almost impossible to do because your love is such that you want to protect them from sin and harm and anything that would cheapen your love for each other.

Your love for them is deep and all consuming. you cannot show shallow love to them. It is the love Jesus places in us and is shown to the spouse because He is in us as Lord. It accepts the spouse as they are and desires to be one with them as they are and not as you desire them to be. Sex is a result of their acceptance and not a cause of it.

The Holy Spirit must rule in all and The Spirit does not express Himself in sensuality but in deep, selfless, serving love which you cannot have unless He rules. Without His leading you may approach this standard of love at times but it will not be a way of life, betrothal and marriage.

When you accept that the marriage will definitely occur you enter a different stage of the relationship where the joy of being with the person replaces the constant desire to be with them. There is no longer a fear of losing them. You can be separated from them but not constantly desiring them with the same intensity you did earlier. The desire to be with them is there but it does not consume you any more. Your desire for them comes from deep within your spirit and is no longer from the emotions or feelings and so is no longer controlled by them.

There is no longer a fear of losing them and a patient waiting takes over as you prepare for the marriage and living together.

In your spirit is joy and love that patiently waits to see the other and rejoices to be together but this desire no longer controls you so that you can get on with doing

what is necessary in life and preparation for marriage without being clouded by 'love' and 'desire' for the other.

This becomes now an attitude you now work in (as guided by The Holy Spirit) to prepare yourselves rationally for the marriage as well as prepare the marriage ceremony, honeymoon, marriage home and any necessary legal and financial work necessary for these marriage arrangements to be brought to fruition in the way God desires them to be carried out.

You are able to prepare the every day details for these things without excitement and sensuality getting in the road and also avoid the trap of Satan to always concentrate on the sensual side at the expense of the practical side as Satan tries to get you to focus on feelings and emotion rather than on Jesus and His Will for you. Satan seeks to throw your plans into disarray through lack of preparation and through lust expressed as sex so as to bring Jesus into disrepute, even if only in the spiritual realm as he tries to get you to ignore what Jesus wants you to do so that you end up in the disorder Satan promotes in his people.

The background intensity of the love and joy you feel gives you the hope and strength to go on in daily living as well as prepare for the marriage. The knowledge that it is God's Will for you and thus is best for you strengthens your resolve to do all that is necessary to prepare for your marriage. The sexual side is not important as the focus is on the preparing of the marriage so it will please Jesus. This means you put His desires before your own knowing that His desires are best for your relationship and will be used by Him to further His Kingdom.

You must remember intimacy is not sex but the sharing of hearts and pure love so you become as one in heart and mind as you each are with Jesus and should be one with each other as a result.

As you develop your relationship with Jesus your love will mature for Him and each other so the key to this betrothal period is to press into Jesus so He is more and more Lord of your life. He will then be more and more Lord of your betrothal, preparation for marriage and marriage and it will be as He desires it to be, being led by The Holy Spirit in the direction Jesus wants it to be.

This is a period to work out fears you have for or about each other. Often the fear will be from a past relationship and will be transferred to the betrothal and subsequent marriage if they are not dealt with through deliverance or allayed through truth being shared. These fears must be dealt with and given to Jesus or they will poison the relationship and may even destroy it.

It is also a time to obtain deliverance from past hurts and pain so that these will not be brought into the marriage and eventually destroy it.

When you have found the person God wants you to marry you will feel incomplete without them. Marriage then becomes a desire to be with them as only then will you be complete as a person. It is not a desire for sex but a desire to become one with them in Jesus spiritually as the physical unity (sex) flows on from that as an expression of that unity.

Do not have any preconceived ideas in regard to the man or woman God wants you to marry. He knows the perfect match for you. Regardless of what culture they are from they will have what will compliment you as a person and the giftings to help you minister as a couple in unity for Jesus.

This is providing you help each other to grow in Jesus and mature into the marriage it needs to be for Him to use. If this maturation occurs then He will use you as He desires too and you will be blessed by Him in the way He cannot otherwise bless you in and which He believes is best for you.

Exposing yourself to your betrothed or spouse

A woman's body, displayed wholly or partly naked, should only be seen by her husband or doctor. or nurse The husband: when they have sex, she is changing her clothes or bathing or they are conducting heavy petting or similar, and the doctor for medical purposes and then even they are to expose only what they need to see. This stops a woman being the subject of lust, lewdness or pornographic displays, all which demean women.

Likewise, a man should also only be seen naked for the same reasons a woman can be seen naked.

If a person loves their betrothed the physical is not important. It is the mere fact that you want to see your spouse's body and not who they are that causes the problems, especially with women exposing any part of themselves except in time of intimacy such as sex and heavy petting where it is appropriate to be so exposed in part of whole.

Note, being naked with your spouse is not God's definition of intimacy. It is Satans.

Expansion of the above

A woman who loves Jesus does not want a man to focus on her body but on who she is as a person and does not want to expose herself to him until they are married. This results in the spiritual being built up and not the physical. It also means the commitment of marriage is there so that she can freely expose herself to her husband as she desires for the sake of giving each other pleasure.

A woman who follows the worldly ways of Satan is told to reveal her beauty and use it to attract men so she shows off her body and is willing to expose it and offer it for her boyfriend to use sexually. She has been taught sex = love and it is not necessary to be married to have sex so she has it when she wants it or when he asks her for it so she can 'keep' her future spouse or boyfriend as well as express her 'love' for him through sex and heavy petting. The spiritual is neglected and the physical pleasure is the focus of the relationship. This type of relationship lasts as long as the woman's beauty or they tire of the physical relationship unless they both become Christians.

Inside people is a need to be appreciated for who they are and not what they look like although this is important to women. Men who desire women for their looks leave a part of the woman unfulfilled and this will affect the relationship.

A man should love his wife for who she is as a person and not what she looks like but he should appreciate what she looks like and love her how she is. When she exposes her body to him in marriage he should appreciate it and tell her so but also reinforce that sex is the result of the love have they for each other and not a cause of it.

Always look at the eyes of your spouse and let them see the love in it for you. In their eyes will be a reflection of how much you love them.

The intimate act of love was designed by God to seal marriage and the commitment of the husband and wife to become 'one flesh' and this is both spiritual as well as physical. (The physical is always the result of a spiritual decision of some kind, even if only of obedience to God). When Adam and Eve fell into sin as a result of their choice to defy God they saw their nakedness and were ashamed. Not because they were naked but because they had sinned.

When a woman is asked to reveal her body to another for sexual or other reasons it implies there is a depth of relationship only seen in marriage and that it is their spouse asking to see their nakedness for the purposes of cementing the marriage further. This also has spiritual implications. This exposure before marriage is against the act of marriage (sex) and the unity this act results in and therefore

invites demonic spiritual interference and counterfeit of the marriage act (pre-marital sex).

A woman needs the assurance and safety of the covenant of marriage to have the correct sense of relationship and commitment so that she feels protected and secure within the sexual boundaries set by God. Otherwise there is a sense of being used or defiled at a spiritual level because they are not in a correct relationship with the person spiritually so that sex in the physical feels wrong and the woman feels used or like a prostitute. This happens especially when a woman allows a spouse to see her body for the purposes of keeping him or getting self-esteem from what he says or does to it.

Many women, Christian or otherwise, cannot explain why they feel 'used and abused' when they are asked or enticed to expose themselves outside the safe place of the marriage covenant. Even in the marriage if the husband does not have the right spiritual intent or reason to be intimate with his spouse she will also feel this sense of defilement.

This is why it is so important to be spiritually right with your spouse before you have sex because the spiritual must be in place or the physical will not be satisfactory and fulfilling and the spouse will feel used.

Sex begins when you wake up and the preparation continues through the love and appreciation you show of your spouse through out the day. You do not just jump into bed and have sex unless you have no emotions in which case you need deliverance.

Any man who truly loves his wife for who she is will not ask her to expose her nakedness to him or have sex with her before marriage. If either desire to show the other their nakedness or have sex before marriage then they need deliverance so that the relationship can be as God intended it to be.

Another aspect of exposing yourself before marriage

There are two aspects to marriage: the spiritual (God controls) and the physical (controlled by God's laws of how the marriage is to be expressed). Ideally the physical is an expression of the spiritual. The expression of the marriage (nakedness and exposure of yourself to your spouse can only occur in marriage.

The betrothal period is a period of spiritual interaction where the spiritual side of the marriage is developed to later be expressed in the physical. To express the physical before the marriage proper is to sin as it is not in the order God made

things to be. Only as you are in a position to express the physical (married or conducting the 'act of marriage) can you correctly express the physical in a relationship. To do so otherwise is sin.

Intimacy

Intimacy is not sex or heavy petting (as Satan would have you believe). It is the sharing of the deep things of the heart that you would not dare tell others.

There are no secrets between you and God so it is the deepest intimacy you can have if you so desire it.

With betrothed (and married couples), from the first meeting onwards there should be no secrets between them. The past is only needed to be looked at for the purposes of deliverance and then usually only areas or weakness and not specific events (sins and failings) and even then thee should not be dwelt on (Luke 9:62).

The framework of the five steps should be used for any deliverance needed.

Your sins are remitted at the Cross (not just forgiven) and so no longer are of relevance unless they need to be referred to only for the purposes of working our root causes or weaknesses so that these can be dealt with through deliverance. Any other purpose is ungodly and will not be honoured by God.

Weaknesses and problems areas should be discussed but only for the purposes of deliverance and encouragement (Luke 9:62 applies). The couple that has no secrets that are an intimate one. The past is gone and only needs to be referred to for the purposes of deliverance or for the purposes of teaching others how God has dealt with a situation.

You must learn To love your spouse for who they are spiritually and not be influenced by the physical in any way, then you will have a good foundation for the marriage and if this is developed further in the marriage, you will also have a good foundation for the relationship in eternity.

Losing your betrothed

What happens if God asks you to give up the person you are betrothed too? Can you trust God that he will either restore them later or give you a better person to marry?

God may so this for at least three reasons:

To test your love for each other

To strengthen your love for each other by being away from each other

To mature you and prepare you both for marriage before He brings you back together again

God is God and His Will is to be obeyed in all things in the belief He is Love and will only act and do what is best for you.

The Stages of Betrothal

The Introductory Stage

You are bought together by God and learn about each other. Satan will try and pollute the love you are learning for each other with sensuality. God will reveal enough of the other person's character so you will love them for who they are. There is respect for each other and respect will grow into love if nurtured properly.

The Excitement Stage

This stage is where you delight to be with each other and do things together and their presence excites you. Satan will try and turn this to lust so you will have sex or similar. This expression of lust is designed by Satan to make you feel guilty and to drive the future spouse away as they do not feel appreciated for who they are but only for their body.

The Sober Stage

In this stage you are more sober in your desire for each other and start to look at the practicalities of marriage and the preparation for it but there is still a strong desire to be with each other.

The Final Stage

This is the stage in which you are ready for marriage. Emotion and feelings are not the reason you marry as your love is deeper than anything these can be. In your heart is the knowledge and affirmation that it is God's Will for you to marry and that all the promises God has made for you in marriage both as a couple and individually will occur. It is God's Will that you marry and so you work at preparing for the marriage knowing that not too is disobedience. Besides you love the person and desire to do this.

Jesus is then Lord of the marriage as the marriage is out of obedience to Him as God. He is first in all the things they do individually and as a couple. The marriage then becomes an act of continual worship even if only by the fact that they stay married because God has bought them together

In This level love is pure and the desire for fulfilment through sex is not that important in the relationship. You are not clouded by the desires of the flesh so that you can clearly hear what God wants you to do to prepare for marriage. This is the stage you should be at when you marry.

When you reach the highest level of a betrothal relationship sensuality is not a problem as you do not need it to cement the relationship and show your love and appreciation for the other person's body.

Your Love is a knowing love. It knows the depths of the other person's love for you and because it is not clouded by emotion or feeling you can clearly hear The Holy Spirit and what He wants you to do for your betrothed. This is the state of people in heaven and should be the state you enter marriage with or at least try to achieve in marriage.

The expression of this type of love is no longer sensual but purer and unpolluted by passion so that sex becomes a true expression of your love for your spouse as you seek to give them pleasure before your own and do so even if you do not obtain any. This selfless expression of love will cause a response in the spouse and they will do the same to you and love you without lust or a desire to obtain pleasure themselves.

If you know God has brought you together then divorce is disobedience. Besides, your love for each other should prevent problems arising that will lead to separation or divorce.

Gimmicks and romance

If Jesus has betrothed you then you do not need the gimmicks that Satan promotes through the media He controls. He tries to suggest you need these gimmicks to attract a spouse (so you will not find God's one for you) but these are not necessary to attract and keep a spouse as God knows who you are to marry and will bring you too each other.

Satan also suggests you need makeup, perfume, modern clothes etc to be beautiful in direct contrast to what God recommends in 1 Pet 3:3-4.

Expressions of love (flowers, chocolate etc.), even though not needed, should be an expression of your love and not attempt to cause another to be attracted to you.

A man needs to show love and respect and dress modestly in a way that pleases his future wife. He must also learn how to be a gentleman and show her manners and consideration appropriate to the relationship.

A woman must dress modestly as she does not need to reveal her flesh to attract her spouse. Too much exposed flesh may cause desire that will result in sin. She is to hide her body and keep it for her betrothed alone for when they are married. She needs to know how to behave as a lady in a way appropriate to his gentlemanly manners towards her.

The lives of both are examples for people to see Jesus and should show His love and desired behaviour in all the things they do. This will turn their betrothed period and marriage into an act of worship to Him and bring Him Glory.

Focus in Courtship

The focus in the betrothal period is the same as in the marriage period.

God

Family (the betrothed is now part of your family and you of hers)

Work

Ministry

The Lordship of Jesus and His Will is our primary focus

The needs of your family or betrothed are next

Then you must focus on the task you have at work

Finally the needs of those outside work and the family can be met.

Remember! If you do not provide for the needs of your own family God says you are worse than an unbeliever.

In regard to ministry. If you cannot care for in a responsible way and love your wife and family (or betrothed) that God has given you how can He trust you to service the needs of others in His Body!

Unless you have the first three categories correct in your life, (or at least trying to get them correct so He can help you with them), how can He entrust you with anything else of His? Especially His People?

Remember that all you do should be motivated by love for Jesus and the people He asks you to serve and care for on His behalf. If ministry is for any other reason such acceptance, recognition or to obtain self-esteem, He can use it but it is mainly wasted as He cannot bless it as it is done for your pleasure and not His purposes.

Unity in the spirit

If there is unity in the spirit you will know in your mind what the other person is thinking at times as you are both walking in unity in The Spirit and as a result along a similar path so He will tell you similar things at the same time. It is not the reading of the mind of another but of the both hearing at the same or similar time what The Holy Spirit desires you both to do for Jesus.

Each of you have your own path to walk in but both also have a path as a married or betrothed couple and this path is common to both. When your objective is to solely do the will of God all three paths closely align with each other and all three paths may even merge as one.

You will say some things and it will be what your spouse is thinking at the time or wanted to say. If you disagree then The Spirit is to be consulted so He can explain what He needs to so that unity is obtained again.

Steward of your betrothed

When a man takes his betrothed out they should remember that he is a steward of her and must look after her properly to ensure her needs are met before his own. This attitude carries on into the marriage so you need to ensure you develop this stewardship in the betrothal period so it becomes second nature in their lifestyle now and later in the marriage.

The Man is responsible for all her needs to the degree she will let him meet them but this lack of acceptance does not mean he can stop trying to meet them until God says to stop trying.

Stewardship is not control. It is serving the needs of others by protecting them and meeting their needs.

Women need to remember that their future husband is doing his best to be a good steward of them and love them as Jesus does. Women need to cooperate and practice submitting domestically to their future spouse. Going out is a domestic arrangement and it is good practice for them to practice headship and submission for the future marriage.

The future husband should behave as a gentleman so that the woman feels appreciated and loved. This will help her submit. Besides, if he truly loves her he will serve her needs and she will submit so that he can serve her.

Submission just does not happen. It needs to be learned and the betrothal period is a good time for the future wife to learn this and practice it, especially in a day where Satan cries out in the media that all are equal domestically.

The betrothal and subsequent engagement period allows the future husband to learn how to love his future wife so that she will respond and desire to submit to his love for her.

The man will not be judged on how his spouse dealt with headship but with what they did with it. There is no loophole in regard to obedience to Jesus . It is all or nothing. You are either obeying or you are not. There is no half-obedience or 'way out' of the requirement to obey Jesus in headship and submission.

Appreciation of your betrothed spouse

One of the keys to marriage is appreciation of your betrothed:

Appreciation of who they are as a person

Appreciation of what they do for you

Never take for granted anything they do for you. When you stop appreciating them they stop being someone special in your eyes. When this happens they may doubt your love for them as well as their worth to you.

When you appreciate them for who they are and what they do to you you show your love for them as well as their worth to you. Appreciate your partner and they will respond to this. Do not show appreciation and they will gradually withdraw. Love appreciates people for who they are and not necessarily what they do so appreciation will need to be made regardless of mistakes made by your betrothed.

Words

When you speak words of love to your betrothed they must be words of truth that can be performed either in the betrothal period or in the marriage. If you promise her the earth make certain you can give her the earth.

It is not what you say at Times that is important but how you say it.

It is no use speaking words of love in a way that shows you are not sincere or you do not really mean.

When you talk to your spouse, mean what you say and she will be secure in the relationship with you knowing That there is no hidden agenda towards her that you are covering through hypocritical speech.

There is nothing worse than false words of love. Your future spouse will be devastated and all trust between you and them will be shaken to such a degree you may even find God removes them from you and gives them to someone more worthy.

If God has joined you together then your love will be true and pure and false words will never deliberately occur between you and your spouse. You will also work at the future marriage as not to is disobedience to Jesus.

Expression of love

When a man and a woman love each other deeply they do not need to speak words of love to each other. Their love can be seen in the way they touch, show consideration for each other or serve each other. As they put the needs of their spouse before their own needs they show their love for their spouse.

Their love is apparent in the way they relate to each other and speak to each other without it actually having to be stated as being there.

Betrothal and Marriage require effort

The Betrothal and the marriage are hard work at times as you have to change habits and attitudes to love another as Jesus loves them as well as to do what is necessary for the betrothal or marriage to be as God wants it to be.

It just does not happen by itself!

You love your spouse and the desire to serve them and give them joy and happiness is the encouragement driving you to make the effort to change. When that desire declines the marriage declines and may eventually die.

If you believe God has put you together as a betrothed couple then not to work at the relationship is disobedience to Jesus and later will result in the breaking of the marriage vows to love each other. It is also bad stewardship of the love and the relationship he has given you with your spouse.

God cannot and will not bless a marriage that is in rebellion to him. He will bless any faithful individuals in the marriage but the marriage cannot be used or blessed by Him as He wants to use it and bless it.

After the marriage occurs it is easy to get complacent in the relationship so that you no longer show your love for your spouse either in word or deed and sex becomes a formality. The initial excitement being lost, the woman often feels when having sex, used, or like prostitute and she starts to die as a person.

To stop this complacency also requires effort so that your attitude of love to and desire to be with your spouse stays with you all the marriage. The easiest way to stop this decline in feelings for your spouse is to thank God each day for them and for who they are (His gift to you) and to never stop appreciating them and telling them of your love for them for who they are and to also express this love in thought, word and deed (loving service).

It always helps to speak positively (Phil. 4:8) of your spouse and of what they do, showing appreciation of and gratitude for their loving service of you. There will opportunities to show your love and support as well as your desire to help them be the person they have the potential to be so use these wisely. Judgment, perfectionistic standards and negative criticism quickly kill a marriage.

Manners

One of the problem in the western world is that many people are not taught manners, (which is how to behave as gentleman or gentlewoman). Through the control of the media Satan has managed to remove manners, appreciation and consideration of others so that generations have grown up not showing respect or consideration to others because self-interest and pleasure are now the driving force in many societies. As the principles of how God wants us to relate are abandoned so has been the consideration and respect we are to show others.

To be a gentle woman or gentleman requires thinking of others and showing them respect as well as being self-disciplined to control yourself to be able to do this. Satan does not want these things in people so has removed these attitudes as much as he can, from society and the media he controls.

If you love your spouse or betrothed you will learn how to behave towards them as a gentle person would.

You are a citizen of The Kingdom of God and should show His manners and behaviour to all others, let alone the person you are going to marry or are married.

If you have God's Love you will learn to be the gentlewoman or gentleman God requires you to be as a representative of His. If you love your betrothed or spouse you will learn how to show them manners and treat them as a loved person.

Decisions

I reinforce that all major decisions, especially involving finances should be made together. However small amounts can be spent without consulting the other spouse. You need to ask The Holy Spirit what this small amount is as well as what He wants any of these small amounts spent on. This will facilitate purchase of groceries, petrol etc., when the need arises and not later after consultation with each other.

If you are both united in The Spirit you will already know what the Will of God is so it will be like rubber stamping any decision or request the other spouse makes.

The Holy Spirit is always there to guide you and explain what you need to know.

Praying together

Praying together should also be a common practice as should sharing the blessings of the day and the reading the bible after the evening meal. There should also be times of praying for each other and encouraging each other as well as discussing with each other how to help them with any problems they have.

Betrothed Couples and spiritual warfare

Betrothed couples need to give each other authority to conduct spiritual warfare for each other. This puts Satan on notice that each has the authority to conduct spiritual warfare for the other and seems to make the warfare more effective for some reason.

Problem Resolution

A dispute settlement system is needed for when there are problems or disagreements. If you walk in the unity of The Holy Spirit these should never arise. It is suggested the following be observed:

- 1) Do not assume anything (so Satan can not guide your thinking)
- 2) Do not react (so Satan cant use the habits of the past to guide you)
- 3) Remember, disagreement is not rejection so do not reject a person because you disagree with them
- 4) Ask The Holy Spirit for Guidance as well as how to show God's Love in the situation.
- 5) Observe delegated authority lines.

Romance

The proper definition of this has nothing to do with marriage but refers to a period in literature and music that deals usually with imaginative and fictional subjects which are not real. Romantic means to have the quality of romance in form or content.

As romance is Satan's idea of courtship it can see how true this description is of what Satan offers in place of Jesus. So Romance only applies to courtship (Satan's way of getting a wife). In romance a person does things to win a persons affections. In God's way He brings you your future spouse and says "marry her and love her as I do".

What the world calls romantic should be really an outflow and result of the love of betrothed people for each other and not a cause to try and get the other to love them.

God says "Here she is! Show your worthy of her love and respect her!". Satan says: "Impress her with your possessions and personality and show your worthwhile as a catch".

Remember

God is a forgiving God, so should betrothed people be with each other.

Love forgives. Love may hate what the person does but forgives the person and helps them to overcome any problems they have as they appreciate who the person is in Jesus.

Love as God Loves and you will have a marriage people will envy and God can bless.

In Conclusion

You will only get out of your marriage and betrothal what you put into it:

Love your betrothed (future spouse) as Jesus Loves them and show them respect and courtesy

Do not lead them into sexual sin or similar and load them with guilt

Prepare each other for marriage through serving and helping each other with problems and weaknesses as well as removing all fear in the relationship (deliverance may be necessary).

Concentrate on preparing, as a couple, the things needed for wedding ceremony and living together as a married couple

Learn to serve each other in the daily things of life

Learn to express love to your partner without the need for petting and/or sex

Be led by The Holy Spirit in all you do individually and as a married couple.

In all things keep Jesus central and the focus of each of you and the marriage.

The five steps are as follows:

- 6) Give the sin, area of moral weakness, circumstance, problem, event or situation to Jesus to be lord of, as well as all that led to the area, event etc as well as the consequence of this event(s).
- 7) Forgive all who have offended you including yourself, repent of unforgiveness, bitterness, root of bitterness, anger any wrong emotions or attitudes to others or yourself and also of any sins you are bringing to Jesus.
You may need to pray :”Lord I forgive. Help me to forgive”,
- 8) Command Satan to go in Jesus’ Name as he no longer has a right to these areas as they now belong to Jesus,
- 9) In Jesus Name command healing and restoration of all the damage Satan did to you,
- 10) Ask Jesus to send The Holy Spirit to fill you replacing all the demons that have left

The two greatest hindrances to forgiveness is unforgiveness (leading to anger and bitterness) and enjoyment of the sin leading to no desire to repent of it. The latter is dangerous as it can lead to the loss of our salvation.

Appendix

The sex Laws of The Mosaic Law

Do these laws still apply today given that in Acts 15 the gentiles were not asked to keep the law (because Calvary made it no longer necessary to approach God through The Law).

I believe they do not apply.

What then replaces them?

The Love of God expressed through us to others.

If you truly love your betrothed you will not go anywhere else to be satisfied: sexually, emotionally, mentally, spiritually etc., or be satisfied sexually before the marriage act.

If you truly love your betrothed you will not put her through the trauma of pregnancy before marriage

If you truly love you girlfriend you will not put her through the trauma of pregnancy as a single mother.

Love replaces The Law

On Marriage and Divorce

We serve The Lord and wait on Him for our orders.

In regard to marriage:

The wife waits on The Lord and He says to her:

“I have given you a husband. Go serve him on my behalf. Respect him and submit to him domestically. Remember! What you do to him you do to me (Matt 25:40). What you do for Him you do for Me.”

To the man He then says:

“I have given you a helper to help run your home and meet your needs. Do not abuse her but love her as you love yourself and as I Love her. Remember! What you do to her you do to me, Remember also that you will have to give to me an account of how you treated your wife and family and honoured me in your home.”

Marriage brings together two different people and they fit together somehow into a unity either under God or Satan.

If God brings you together and you develop the relationship under the guidance of The Holy Spirit it will be fitted together perfectly by Jesus

If you choose your spouse this will not happen. It may after deliverance but not before. Jesus will do His best to fit you together by putting you through trials to do this and what happens as a result of these trials is up to the each spouse.

Make certain it is God's Will that you marry or the joining will not be perfect.

Ps 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Preamble

I am a man and a little chauvinistic as I feel women are delicate flowers who should be cared for in the way God wants men to care for them. Jesus always had a very tender love for women and every godly man should have the same type of love for them that He did. Most men do not appropriately relate to women or correctly appreciate women in the way God wants them to. Women are made different to men with softer, gentler, more delicate characteristics and a different, more sensitive, emotional make-up and as result get steamrolled by men or made to conform to a masculine role of sorts.

God made male and female different and gave them different roles. A man's purpose in a relationship with a woman is to treat her so that she can fulfil these roles and not to treat her like a fellow male.

A warning about love in a marriage

Marriage is a union of two imperfect people, each trying to mature into the image of Jesus and be Christlike in all they do and trying to express His Love in all they do for themselves and others, especially their spouse and family.

Being imperfect, they will make mistakes. This is where the love of God in you loves them in spite of any concerns about the other spouse's love for you. They try to love your spouse as God Loves them and to trust God for the consequences of trying to love them as God Loves them.

In God's Love there is no room for criticising failure. Your spouse is not perfect and will fail and disappoint you at times. Love says "It is OK!" Let us see what we need to do about it, both to fix any problems and meet and needs in the other spouse for deliverance, guidance, emotional support or education, or whatever The Holy Spirit says they need. Legalism says "Do not do it again!" and does nothing to help the person deal with the problem.

Love covers a multitude of failings in a spouse who tries to do what is correct before God! A spouse who purposely tries to do things that are incorrect before God (and not before man remember as it is God's rules and not man's that are important) needs to be dealt with firmly in humility and love. Deliverance of a part of them or spiritual warfare against any attacking demons in or around them may need to be done as well guidance and education and whatever else The Holy Spirit says they need.

Do not go into a marriage expecting your spouse to be perfect, as they are not. But expect them to try and do all they can to love you as Jesus loves you, support them in any imperfection and to try and help them be matured into the image of Jesus. Remember, perfection is our final state in heaven. On earth we are expected to live to our level of maturity and to continue to discipline ourselves to conform to the image of Christ (a process).

Love does not look for a fault in another. God will show you weaknesses that need to be dealt with in the order He wants them dealt with. Satan will try and get you to criticise the weakness rather than help your spouse with it. When a critical thought comes cast the demon to the abyss or do any deliverance that is needed of either you or your spouse. You need to support each other as you are both not perfect and will fail and unless this support is there the marriage will ultimately fail.

What is Marriage?

It is a relationship instituted by God to:

Carry out His mandate to reproduce and populate the world

Reflect out spiritual relationship with Jesus as His family on earth which continues into heaven

To provide a safe, nurturing environment in which to raise children.

To mature us and prepare us for the way we will relate in heaven

To serve the purposes of The King of God here on earth

It requires both partners to have:

A conviction that God wants them to be married

An agreement to get married

An agreement for each partner to carry out the roles they have in the marriage

A lifetime commitment to the relationship

An agreement to sort out as many relational problems before and during the marriage that they can (deliverance)

A need to do all they can to prepare for the logistics of the wedding and the marriage home

Jesus to be the lord of their lives so they will be one with Him and each other through the unity of The Holy Spirit to relate as God desires them too so that the Love of God and His ministry to others can flow through the marriage.

For both to be equally yoked because they are led by The Holy Spirit in all they do.

Marriage is a compromise, a melding of two individuals with different but complimentary character, abilities and gifts, both worldly and spiritual. The one commonality is The Holy Spirit leading them as a unit relating to each other as Jesus desires them too to do the work of The kingdom.

The work of the Kingdom can be ministering to each other, raising a Godly family, ministering to another or any of the mundane daily tasks they do as long as they are done out of love for Jesus to please Him either because you do it according to His principles and/or because He has asked you to do it for Him.

You can see how important it is to be led by the spirit so that both spouses are unified through their obedience to His guidance and direction.

Each partner of the marriage will need to give up things in part or whole for the marriage to succeed and the question which arises is: "What are you willing to give up for your marriage to be Godly and succeed?"

Stewardship is involved in Marriage

The man is steward of the wife, as she is a 'good thing' given to him by God to be his helpmeet and he should treasure her as such. He has the responsibility of looking after her (as something God has given him). He is responsible for meeting her emotional and physical needs and helping her, as much as he is able (under the guidance of The Holy Spirit), to reach her spiritual maturity. He also is to love her as Jesus Loves His church.

The husband is to respect the submission of his wife as he has been given to her by God to be her provider and protector and submits to her because Jesus has asked her to do so out of obedience to Him. For the husband to not respect the submission of the wife and be a good steward of her is a sin primarily against Jesus.

She is steward of the household responsibilities Jesus has given her (as part of her stewardship of her role as a helpmeet). She is to provide a loving, Godly, home environment for her husband and children to live in and for the children to be raised in.

Children are a gift from God. Parents are stewards of these gifts from God and should treasure them as such. They are to raise the children in a Godly Christ-centred environment so that the children will know how to follow Jesus and well as why they should follow Him.

Remember that headship is domestic and not spiritual or else you will destroy your wife by imposing on her that which belongs to Jesus (spiritual headship) and Satan will use this assumed headship as a legal right/access to slowly destroy the wife and her potential to serve Jesus.

Current status of many marriages

Most people are taught wealth = security, love = sex, authority = power and self-value = prestige and recognition. This has crept into the worldly church so people now base their worth on these worldly values. Satan has engineered these values in society to destroy the Christian marriage and the church.

In the Western world both people in a marriage usually have to work to gain or keep their wealth and so the children are born later than they should, are usually placed with relatives or child care and as they grow older come home to an empty house and have to look after themselves. This means the systems Satan have set up – humanistic child care centres, TV with unchristian shows and relatives who do not know Jesus – influence a child most of the day.

The wife cannot do her role as homemaker and mother but takes on the role of a man – provider. Headship is usually out of place, God's order in the family is altered, or is often minimal and often destroyed or badly crippled. Is it any wonder the children of the Western World are in such a mess?

Married couples use their own wisdom to keep their possessions and feel secure rather than relying on God's security and wisdom. Their lives are second best to what God wants them to do so they do not reach the potential they otherwise could have in their service of Him.

The answer is to restore God's order in the family no matter what the cost and trust Him for your needs. It is better to go to heaven poor than have wealth and security and go to hell.

Remember! Satan has control of the world. It is still his and he has engineered it to destroy Christianity and families. He succeeds when Christians follow a watered down materialistic faith, which is why so many Christian families are hurting and/or churches are dying and ineffective as they fall in line with Satan's methods to market or administer themselves.

What a wife gives up

A wife can give up a lot to be married: the security of her family, her friends, her social life, her financial security (job) placing her income and provision under the man's authority. Her independence, her church, her freedom (in a sense is placed under the domestic authority of another). This is why a man must love his wife, if only in appreciation of the sacrifices she has made to marry him.

When she has children she becomes tied to the house for up to 18 years minimum. Every part of her life is affected and parts are often curtailed.

Then there is the touching scene when husband comes home from work. Walks in the door, expecting her to be dressed like a model, romantic and ready for a great night of sex, the kids so well behaved they cause no trouble and look after themselves. She has had a day of fighting the dog and the washing machine, doing the housework, cleaning nappies and trying to organise the disaster area left after the kids have finished with it and wants husband to come home and say she is still beautiful and a capable housekeeper and good mother and appreciate the effort she has made that day. Any wonder she feels like a slave or used and he feels rejected.

A good husband is aware of his wife's burdens and the demand on her and helps his wife to get time to herself so she can socialise without the children and unwind. He builds up her self-esteem and tells her she is still beautiful to him otherwise she may eventually desire another who tells her that. A good wife realises her husband needs to be appreciated for supporting her and children and keeping a roof over their head and tells him she appreciates this and tries to be romantic as necessary and occasionally have a favourite dish for tea just for him as she tells him lovingly.

Both spouses need to meet the needs of the other before their own if only to fulfil God's Law of Love, let alone have a fruitful environment for God to work in and build up the marriage.

A good husband looks after his wife's mental and spiritual health as well as her physical health as she often does not have time herself to prepare things in these

areas. He will do what is necessary to give her the time she needs in these areas either to prepare them or attend to them.

The most important thing she has given up is herself, her rights to control her environment as the home she will live in is under the headship of her husband. She is a special gift from the Lord, a treasure He has entrusted the husband with which he must nurture and protect as a steward of this wonderful gift of a wife Gods has given him.

A wife will respond and trust a husband who loves her and treats her as God's gift to him and gives (submits) himself to her to care for her every need (note: not greed).

Judging your spouse

*James 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy:
who art thou that judgest another?*

Jesus alone is your judge so you have no right to judge another. All you can do is to say "The Bible says this and as far as I evaluate what you are doing you are not doing what it says."

Then you help them to see what they are doing wrong, how to fix or deal with it and help them pray the five steps is needed. All this is to be done out of love for them and not for any feelings of superiority or control.

You are to deal with in the same Love Jesus deals with them or you sin.

This attitude also applies to all other relationships we have as God's Love does not change to fit the situation.

If there is a problem then you need to approach your spouse in humility and help them with any deliverance that is necessary. You also need to be sure there is actually a problem and Satan is not showing you something that is not there which is why you need to always ask The Holy Spirit if there is something wrong and not react or assume.

Prayers of Deliverance in the front of this book

It is really of little use to read this book unless both spouses are in a correct relationship with God and each other as that is the starting point for living in marriage as citizens of The kingdom of God. You will benefit from reading this book but not as much as you would have if the relationship with your spouse is

not correctly in place. This is why the self-deliverance prayers at the front of this book are so important.

Problems in marriage usually occur because one spouse has been abused badly and has not been delivered of the effects of this abuse before they were married. This damage needs to be dealt with which is why it is suggested these deliverance prayers are prayed before the rest of the book is read (if they have not been prayed earlier).

Ideally, the affects of all previous abuse should be dealt with before marriage during the betrothal period or earlier and I encourage engaged couples to go through deliverance to remove the effects of past hurts before they are married.

Once these prayers are prayed then you should read the book together as a couple discussing what is in it and any problems that arise so that the unity of spirit required in a marriage is developed as you read.

The prayers that follow are for married people. There are prayers for single people at the beginning of the section on courtship and betrothal

Prayers to pray before reading further

A Woman should pray

Lord, I am a woman. You have made us different from men as You have different roles for us than You do for them.

I give You my womanhood, femininity, sexuality and, as applicable, my roles as a wife, homemaker, mother and partner in the past, present and future and all the ways I express what I am as a woman. I want to express this as You want me to and not as the world says I should.

I give you any headship submission I have had, have now or will have and I am sorry for anything I have done wrong in these any areas of my womanhood. I want You to be my spiritual Head. I also want to be able to fulfil my role of submitting properly to my husband or future husband as my domestic head.

Manhood

Lord, I am a man. You have made us different from women as You have a different roles for us than you do for them.

I give You my manhood, masculinity, sexuality and, as applicable, roles as a husband, provider, father, partner and parent in the past, present and future and all the ways I

express what I am as a man. I want to express this as You want me to and not as the world says I should.

I give You any headship role I have had, have now or will have and I am sorry for anything I have done wrong in this area as I want You to be my spiritual Head also I want to be able to love my wife as you want me to love her and to properly fulfil my Role as her domestic head.

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in any areas of my manhood as I want to be the man You want me to be.

A husband and wife can pray

I give you my relationship with my spouse. Lord, I want all that is done with them; serving them, ministry, intimacy, sex, whatever we do as a couple to be based on Love, appreciation and thanksgiving for who they are in You. I am sorry for the wrong things I have done in these areas and ask You, Holy Ghost, to guide me in the area of relationship with my spouse

A single woman or man should pray

Lord, you are my betrothed. I love you and want to live as a faithful betrothed person I give you all my life, my future earthly marriage, my sorrows and problems, sadnesses, pain, finances all I am and have to hold for me and I thank You that You meet my needs in here and in heaven. I am sorry for anything I have one wrong in these areas and will try not to do them again out of love for you.

Parents should pray

Lord, I want to be a good parent and raise my children the way you want me too. I am sorry for anything I have done wrong in this area and will try to do only what you want me to do as a parent. Show me how to discipline them in your Love and to guide them to be like you in all they do.

Dedication of a child by parents

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of this child (name child) and ask you to guide and teach us how to love and nurture them and to teach them how to be your child to live as You want them to live. They are Yours Lord, so show us how to be good stewards of them and nurture them as you want us too.

The curse on Eve (prayed by women) Gen. 3:16

Lord, I give you those areas of my life that deals with my reproduction cycle periods and pregnancy, now, in the future as well as future childbirth events I give me to you and know that the curse has been dealt with on the cross and broken there so in Jesus name I command every demon enforcing this curse to go immediately and not return.

Casting-out Prayers

These need to be said but can be whispered and do not need to be said out loud.

Satan, you no longer have a right to work in these areas as I have given them to Jesus, so in Jesus' Name go the the abyss.

In Jesus' Name I command complete healing and restoration of all the damage Satan did to me as well as and integration of every part of my being and personality .

I ask You Jesus to fill me afresh with The Holy Spirit and me anoint as You think I need to be to serve you.

Thank You, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Marriage Vows

Two people come before God and submit to His will for them to get married and serve Him by doing so. The wife obeys God and submits domestically to the husband and serves him. The husband obeys God and loves her as Christ Loves her and serves her in this love. In this attitude the marriage blossoms as the Love of God is in all and the focus is on Jesus and His will for the marriage. Any other focus and the marriage falls apart.

The vows are made before God so they are very serious and should be carried out:

Ecc 5: 2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

The Ceremony

The Christian couple stand before a Christian minister and other earthly witnesses and something like the following is said:

The Call to the wedding Ceremony proper and vows

“Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of this company, to unite __ and __ in holy matrimony. Marriage was ordained by God in Eden and confirmed in Cana of Galilee by the presence of the Lord, and is declared by the Apostle Paul to be honorable among all men. On this occasion we begin by asking God’s blessing on this marriage service. Let us pray.”

The Minister asks if there are any hindrances to the marriage

If any person knows why these two should not be joined in holy Matrimony speak now or forever hold your peace.

Both say the following vows

“Do you, ___ take ___ to be your (wife/husband)? Do you promise to love, honour, cherish and protect her/him, forsaking all others and holding only unto her/him?” (“I do”)

“I ___, take thee ___, to be my (wife/husband) to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you..”

Then the man says

“With this Ring I thee wed, with my Body I thee worship, and with all my worldly Goods I thee endow; In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Amen.”

And so begins a lifelong adventure that God designed to be beautiful but often ends in disillusionment, conflict and/or divorce. Why? People do not understand what Marriage is, as God meant it be, and are not properly prepared for marriage the way God intended it to be.

Now to look at each part of the statements and vows made in the ceremony

“Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God,

The first thing to point out is that the vows are made before God, not just man. Accordingly they are holy and an act of worship to God as you believe He is worthy to witness and bless the marriage union.

Marriage is something God holds in high regard as Jesus considered a marriage important enough to attend, record in the Bible and be the place for Jesus to do His first recorded Miracle at.

What is marriage? The Mosaic Law does not say anything about the marriage ceremony itself and God stated in the Garden of Eden only two things were necessary for there to be a marriage. You live together as husband and wife and consummated the marriage (Gen. 2:24). A minister is not necessary except for the purposes of denominational records.

The legality of a marriage does not depend on it being performed by a minister as that can be done elsewhere. God blesses the union and anything the church does is ancillary to this. So you can be married in God's eyes and blessed by Him if you agree to live as husband and wife in the manner He requires and consummate the marriage. Many governments recognize this now and this so called 'defacto'

relationship is recognized (where couples live together as man and wife) but do not have a formal wedding ceremony.

Do not forget that we are to obey the laws of the land and marriage requires a formal ceremony in some countries which does not recognise these 'defacto' relationships and to live together in those countries as a married couple according to the law you will need a ceremony approved by that country.

I am not advocating a 'defacto' relationship as being a good form of marriage. The point is that if you live together as husband and wife and have an intention of doing so the rest of your life you are married in the eyes of God once the relationship has had sex.

A person who loves their spouse will give them the legal protection of a formal marriage as recognized by government where they live. A Christian who loves their spouse will marry in a church or have a Christian minister marry them to protect their marriage (and wife) from negative criticism by other Christians about the fact God has not "blessed" their marriage or 'joined' them.

This having a Christian minister will be for three reasons:

- 1) Not to cause other Christians to stumble through not understanding that marriage is before God
- 2) As a witness to order in the Christian life and that God holds Marriage as being very important.
- 3) To satisfy any legal requirements of the land in regard to marriage

A marriage is blest by God when it is lived according to His rules and not because it is held in a church. It is the heart relationship God blesses, not the outward signs of the marriage.

If God has not ordained a marriage so that it is not in His will and may even be rebellion against His Will, how is He able to bless that marriage. Regardless of where it is held: church, cathedral, chapel or other consecrated place He is unable to bless it as it is not in accordance with His plans for that marriage. Satan will bless it as much as he can though to ensure its destruction.

Next is said the following for the purposes of uncovering any legal impediments to the marriage. This question really assumes these problems have all been dealt with prior to the marriage or it would not be asked.

If any person knows why these two should not be joined in holy Matrimony speak now or forever hold your peace.

The main legal impediments are obvious:

- One of the persons being underage or under a guardian (such as legal capacity, mental illness or disability) and the guardian's approval has not been given
- One of the persons being married is already married to someone else
- One of the persons is being forced to marry against their will.

But there are other things that should be considered before a marriage which can impede the happiness of the marriage.

- The Bible says for a Christian not to marry a non-Christian (2 Cor. 6:14)
- Is it also God's appointed time to get married?
- Are you also sure this is the person God wants you to marry? (Satan will try and place his wrong choice before God's choice.
- Are you mature enough for marriage yet?
- Are you bringing into the marriage hurts and emotional problems that should be dealt with first by a deliverance ministry?
- Is the attraction spiritual, physical, for financial gain or ambition?

Spiritual attraction: based on a relationship with Jesus and His will for you both as well as love for who the person is as a Christian and not what they look like or what they do. This marriage will last as its basis is Jesus and not the other person's looks or abilities. This is more in line with how a marriage should be.

Physical attraction: based on how the person looks, their abilities and their sexuality. This marriage will only last as long as these things last and one day they will not be there so the spouse looks elsewhere and thus affairs and divorce occur as one spouse seeks these things in another person outside the marriage (whom Satan will gladly supply).

Financial Gain: If it is for money then when the money goes the marriage goes.

Ambition: If the marriage is purely for the ambitions of one of the partners so they will get promoted in a field or business then it will last as long as that position they were promoted to lasts or a better proposition comes along for that partner.

God may work in these marriages so that they fall into line with His will for the marriage (through deliverance of both partners) and the marriage will survive any events that would normally have ended it. Otherwise the marriage is usually doomed to failure or divorce.

Marriage is usually a mixture of spiritual and physical attraction. The degree of the spiritual in a marriage will determine the success of the marriage. The more Jesus is Lord of the marriage the more chance it has to be successful.

Do you understand what marriage really entails or do you have a starry eyed view of it. The starry eyed view lasts till you wake up and see each other in their pyjamas the day after the wedding and realize the honeymoon is over even though you are officially still on it. This is when the hard work begins of making a marriage that lasts.

Amos 3:3 states "can two walk together unless they are agreed?"

This summarises the situation. Unless Jesus is Lord of the life of both spouses they will mainly be doing their own will in the marriage. Both spouses will not be in full agreement and discord will occur. If Jesus is Lord of both spouses they will have unity as they do His Will for the marriage and they will both have the same objectives and purposes. There will be unity through obedience to Jesus because of the common Holy Spirit that lives in them and guides them both.

What you set your heart on is what you will try and achieve. If you love Jesus you will seek to please Him in the marriage by loving your spouse as He loves them and obeying what He requires you to do in the marriage. Remember that loving your spouse as He does and accepting the role He has given you in the marriage is an act of obedience and worship to Jesus as well as the fulfilment of the command to love your spouse as He does.

The vows proper begin and are said by both partners:

"Do you, __ take __ to be your (wife/husband)? Do you promise to love, honour, cherish and protect her/him, forsaking all others and holding only unto her/him?" ("I do")

“I __, take thee __, to be my (wife/husband) to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you..”

In addition the wife promises to respect (submit) and obey the husband (or at least in the more correct versions of these vows she does).

Marriage is the relationship that epitomizes God’s Love for us and so the first question rightly asked is whether they will love each other and so this is the first part of the vows to be examined. It is to be noted all else promised in these vows are a result of the commitment to love their spouse as Jesus Loves them.

Take out the physical/sexual part of the relationship what you have left is the spiritual aspect of it. This is why you have the comparison in Ephesians Ch 5 between Jesus and His Church (the spiritual relationship) and a husband and wife (the spiritual reflected in the physical).

The union of their souls resulting from sex is the equivalent of their union with Jesus in the spirit and the submission of the wife to the husband is the same as her submission to Jesus. The provision for the wife and her protection by the husband is the same as Jesus does for His Church.

The domestic submission of the wife is necessary for the household to be in proper order to carry out the mandate for which sex was made, to populate the world. Sex also has the additional function of being intimate and personal to both husband and wife. Sex is the one thing they alone can do with each other and this makes it special to them which is why Satan tries to pervert it so much.

When this physical side of marriage is gone (with the inability of one partner to fulfil their sexual role) then there is only the spiritual left so this needs to be cultivated in marriage more than the physical and it is the spiritual that will continue into eternity, not the physical.

The honeymoon period is not a holiday for the purposes of unlimited sex or having a good time with your spouse but more importantly to sort out relational problems and get the household started in a correct way spiritually so that Jesus is Lord of the relationship. It is a continuation of the process started in the betrothal period but it is more intimate. This time enables them to develop their unity of purpose and direction as one in Jesus through the commonality of The Holy Spirit in them both. It allows them further time to work out how to relate to each other as Jesus relates individually to them.

Stewardship of Love

True Pure Love is very precious to God and He expects you to treasure it as a rare jewel... a jewel rare in the sensuous world of the kingdom of darkness. It is through their love the early Christians were marked in their sensual times. Should it be any different now? Only as God's Love is expressed through us in a loveless world will people see anything worthwhile in our faith! True marital love is also a rare jewel these days and is to be cared for as a faithful steward and like other things that you are steward of will need to be given account of to God when you face Him and are judged for how you carried out the various stewardships He gave you.

The Importance of Love

The Lord said to me once:

"To be blameless before me you must love as I Love with no impartiality or favouritism. You may not like what they do but you must love the person for whom they are:

Someone I created

My property to be a good steward of (to the degree they allow you too be their steward)

Someone for whom I died

Someone I value and desire to be in heaven with me

Someone for whom I have a Perfect plan and with which your correct interaction is a part of.

Love as I love if you would be like me."

Then he showed me the following:

God is Love and unless we love as He Loves we cannot really say we have His Character. If we do not have His type of Love we will not exhibit the fruit of that love (Gal 5:22,23). We will not see Him as He is and not worship or fellowship with Him as we should.

The Highest form of worship to Jesus is when you mirror His Character so it is like He is looking in a mirror (character wise) when He looks at you. Then there

is unity of spirit and purpose and worship is completely unimpeded. Love (charity) is the key to this relationship.

The Holy Spirit also drew my attention to 1 Cor 13:13 which says "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

He pointed out that gifts will become redundant in heaven and that faith will not be necessary as we will not need it there and hope will be fulfilled so that all that will remain is Love.

He said to seek God's Love and its expression as that is the basis of all ministry and relationships and that what you need to express God's Love will be given you: gifts, finances, marriage partner, faith, all you need to seek God's Love and express it to others will be given you (Mat 6:33). This explains why Jesus gave only one new commandment as this summarized all the law and the prophets and is the basis for all ministry as well as the Great Commission:

Jn 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

There are no exceptions to this command! There is no escape clause!

God is Love and from this flows all else. The more we grow in God's Love the more we will grow like him and the more we will express it to our spouse and others.

In a sense life is a continual pursuit of the love relationship we have with God and its expression to those around us and marriage is the earthly arrangement that demonstrates this best.

Married Christians are to love each other as Jesus Loves them so that their marriage will bring honour and glory to God, be a form of worship as well as draw people to them so that they can explain the Love God has for these people and what Jesus has done for them and their marriage. They should also be able to explain why their marriage is so happy and teach others how to have marriages like theirs.

The next vow is as follows:

“With this Ring I thee wed, with my Body I thee worship, and with all my worldly Goods I thee endow; In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Amen.”

This is broken up into three parts: The public witness of the rings (symbols of their undying eternal love for each other), worshipping with their bodies and the sharing of all they have in this world.

The people being married state:

With this Ring I thee wed

Marriage is not made because a person has been given a ring. Neither is it there because a person wears a ring. Marriage is a heart commitment and the ring is just a warning to others that you are taken. It is not necessary for there to be a ring to have marriage.

God looks at the heart commitment that has been made before Him and not at words that are spoken. This heart commitment is the reason a married person is so devastated when it is ended in any way as the heart is torn so to speak from the loss of a part of it as the partner is removed. Healing by Jesus is needed after an event like this and not another marriage, which unfortunately many seek too soon after a divorce rather than the necessary healing in the belief it will heal the hurts of the divorce. In reality it may be hurts from before marriage that really need to be healed before the ones of the divorce are dealt with.

No one should get married until healed of the hurts that may later destroy a marriage and also knowing for certain that is the person they are to marry.

The second part of this statement is:

“with my Body I thee worship”

Ministry is always to Jesus first and then as He directs to others. So we worship Jesus by obeying the way He directs us to use our body in marriage. The sexual aspect is discussed later. The point to make here is that our mind and will direct our body and in a sense by this statement is meant the complete focus on the needs of our partner as an act of worship to God.

“and with all my worldly Goods I thee endow”

We are all stewards as God own everything so you cannot really give anything to your spouse. This statement is more to do with commonality - an attitude where

property in our stewardship is treated as being under the stewardship of both spouses and not just one, being available by either to use, as guided by The Holy Spirit, for the purposes of The Kingdom of God.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;
Amen.*

The three witnesses in heaven are now mentioned to remind us that the vows are made before God. This is why the vows are so important and to be kept as they have been made to God and not just man.

What is left out of the modern versions of the marriage vows is the part that asks a women if she will obey (submit to) her husband and the fact these vows are unto death ... "*Til death you do part*". Perhaps if these were included oin the ceremony marriages may be more permanent and God's order be in them.

Headship in Marriage

by

Neville Salvetti© 2008

Headship just means to be in charge.

The concept is simple. Someone has to lead so there is order not because they are more important or better. It is just they are supposed to know how to handle situations better which they have been given responsibility for. This implies they understand the responsibilities of that headship. Unfortunately this is not true in regard to headship in marriage. This booklet tries to give you information to help you relate as husband and wife in the headship relationship God ordained for marriage.

In marriage people say there is spiritual headship. People make the mistake of thinking that the man has spiritual headship over the woman but that is incorrect. The headship a man has over a wife is only domestic as I will show later. The passage I will use is 1 Pet 2:24-3:7 which is as follows:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

I do not use Ephesians 5 as there is a parallel there that people misunderstand. This passage in 1 Peter shows more clearly the headship arrangement in marriage.

v24 Jesus died for us and has redeemed us so that we are His and He is our head (owner) in all things (v25). This is also referred to in Eph 5:22 where the woman is told by submitting to her husband she is obeying Jesus, her Lord and is also referred to in 1 Pet 3:5 in the passage above.

A woman serves God as she obeys her husband and must trust God for the results (if she is faithful in this duty God has given her).

God made women a help meet to her husband, not a help servant or help slave as each spouse is equal before God and the man has only been given headship for the sake of order in the family. This does not mean he is a tyrant or autocrat but must listen to his wife in the decision making as she is there to serve and needs to be consulted if only to know how to serve her husband better or be better served by him.

If a spouse is unfaithful in their headship responsibility God cannot bless them and Satan can use their disobedience to destroy the marriage and the family. When a family is in a mess it is usually because headship is not in place and usually this is because one spouse is damaged and cannot relate to the other as they should. Deliverance is needed to resolve this situation.

Marriage is a partnership of spiritual equals who have been given roles by God for the sake of order in the family so it can serve Him as he desires it to, both in and through the family. Step out of these roles or usurp headship and the family suffers and the marriage may even end in divorce.

Divorce occurs because one spouse cannot love the other as they should because of hurts or immaturity brought into the marriage which should have been dealt with through deliverance before the marriage was entered into. I recommend de-

liverance for both spouses before marriage so that this does not occur. Marriage should also not be entered into by people who are not spiritually mature as there will only be problems until they can discipline themselves spiritually to handle the problems that will arise in the marriage.

Headship is domestic

In the above passage (1Pet 3:1-6), a Christian woman has married a non-Christian man or has become a Christian after marriage and now has to submit to the non-Christian husband. To see why she cannot submit spiritually to the man you need to examine whose kingdom each spouse is in spiritually.

The non-Christian belongs to the kingdom of Satan and Satan is his lord whether the man knows it or not. The Christian wife has been delivered from that kingdom to the Kingdom of God and Jesus is her Lord. To ask her to submit spiritually to her husband is to put her back under the headship of Satan which cannot be spiritually done. Headship can only be domestic or the woman will have been handed back to Satan again to control.

As scripture cannot contradict itself this sense must also be in Ephesians Ch 5 where there is the parallel of Christ and the church with that of husband and wife not only to show spiritually Christ is head of the church and domestically man is head of the wife but also to show the type of love a husband should have for his spouse.

Note that the wife has to only respect and submit to the spouse and not necessarily love him. Respect leads to love and will result in that if the man loves his wife otherwise she is required only to respect him. As Christian she is to love him as Jesus does but that does not mean she has to stay and suffer abuse.

She should respect the husband for two reasons:

If he is a good husband he will support her and meet her emotional needs and for this she should be grateful to her husband and respect him.

Also, Jesus has commanded her too submit so she needs to do this as an act of worship and obedience to Jesus and then trust Him for the results of her obedience respectful submission to him.

Requirements of headship

First there must be a marriage of a husband and wife as that is what the expression of headship can only occur in biblically.

As it is a position of leadership the husband needs to be trained to fulfil his role as head of the family just as the wife needs to be trained to fulfil her role of helper to the husband. Ideally this should occur before marriage resulting from the example and teaching of their parents as they grow and mature in the family environment.

The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves her which means the husband is her servant and leads through serving her and the family.

The wife is only required to respect her husband and submit domestically to him. However she is a Christian so must also love her husband as Christ loves him. Because of this they are really servants to each other and should be helping each other as necessary to perform their God given roles.

They both serve Jesus so need to be led by The Holy Spirit to do what Jesus wants them to do in and through the marriage. If they are both led by The Holy Spirit then headship at times is irrelevant as they will both know what to do without having to be asked by their spouse. They will consult the spouse to verify and then perform the service to the family. In doing this they serve Jesus as they are obeying Him in it.

They must remember they serve Jesus in the marriage and then the others as He directs them too.

Continual obedience to Jesus is worship by your life so when a husband and wife obey Jesus as a married couple the marriage becomes an act of worship to Jesus, God is Glorified and will bless them individually and as a married couple.

Jesus is Lord of all you do

Jesus has redeemed you (1 Cor 1:30) and healed you from the spiritual ravages of Satan's previous lordship of you (1 Per 2:24) so you belong to Jesus and should do what He says. Even more importantly you are His servants as you are citizens of His Kingdom and He is your King so you primarily serve Him and others as He then directs you too.

In marriage remember you are there as citizen of The Kingdom of God and not as a person who belongs to the world and so should approach marriage as a citizen of God's Kingdom should.

Col 3:17 & 23) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Stewardship of Marriage

As a citizen of God's Kingdom you have been given stewardship of various things:

Marriage

Spouse and Children

Possession

The Gospel of Jesus

The Defence of God's Kingdom

Ministry (service to others)

Headship is not just guiding a family but stewardship (within the limitations God makes on it) of what you have been given to minister to and of the ministry you are giving to that person. You will give account of these when you face God so any man that abuses headship or his family is in deep trouble if he knowingly does it.

Remember, what you do to another you do to Jesus (Mat 25:40).

Roles

Since the beginning of time God has defined roles for male and female. Basically the man looks after things outside the house and the wife things inside the house.

In the beginning Adam had a house and a garden to look after but God gave Adam responsibility only for the Garden. He then made a helpmeet, someone meet (fit) to assist him in his responsibilities by looking after the house for him (the domestic side of things). Eve was not asked to look after the Garden but to help Adam through meeting his needs in the areas he was not able to himself because of time constraints. As the garden was his prime responsibility it had to be the housework that suffered so Eve was given to help Adam with this.

Primarily the wife looks after the household and children while the man goes out to work and maintains what the wife looks after. As Christians they serve each other so they will also help each other with their spouse's God-given roles.

Proverbs 31 (a wife's blessing)

Women look on this chapter as being a burden but really it extols the virtuous wife and liberates a woman to do things outside the house. Look at what she does

in the house as well as outside the house and you will see she can run a home business and trade in the markets as her responsibilities to her family are met each day and when she does do these external things they are for the good of the family anyway. Her husband is able to carry out his responsibilities as well and the home is happy and in order. God sings her praises.

Not all women will be able to trade and carry out a cottage industry but they will be able to maintain what God has given them with time off for relaxation when their husband plays his part in serving her. Any woman not coping with marriage or maintaining the house needs deliverance either from Satan, and his workings in and on her.

Disputes in Marriage

Marriage is the most unique and intimate earthly relationship you can enter into on earth. It should be the one relationship in which you feel safe with the other person and can confide and share all your fears and problems with. It is second only to the spiritual relationship you have with The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

It is when one partner has fears or problems in the marriage and is afraid to express them to their spouse then Satan causes more fears and walls to build so that the conflict is then unresolved and the marriage grows further and further apart. Deliverance stops this occurring as it heals the damage in the person that causes them to fear their spouse.

If you love your spouse you will listen to their fears and problems they have that are occurring in the relationship so that these will be dealt with because of the love of Christ in you for each other. Satan will try to stop communication about these things so that they are bottled up so that he can build walls and defence mechanisms in a spouse and use these to destroy the marriage.

You should see your spouse for who they are and not have your perception of them coloured by past experiences with parents or authority figures. This is why you need to get to know your future spouse spiritually before you marry them so that the past does not colour your appreciation of who they are or cause you to bring into marriage fears or concerns about the relationship that Satan can use to destroy the marriage. Deliverance may be necessary for this to be dealt with.

When there is a conflict in a marriage there are three choices:

Resolve it and grow through it

Do nothing or

Put up defences and protect yourself (Both are the same thing in a difference guise as they are both a form of self protection).

If you do nothing or protect yourself then you need deliverance in an area otherwise the marriage will fail. There might not be a divorce but you will both end up married but single. Legally married but living separate lives.

If you love your spouse you will resolve conflict and sort out any wrong attitudes or knowledge that is causing the conflict. Your love for each other will grow and you will mature more as you both see that your spouse loves you sufficiently to keep the relationship. Doing nothing or putting up walls does not mean you hate your spouse. It simply means you have problems that stops you expressing God's Love as you should.

Remember also to determine if the subject being argued about is of eternal significance. It may be of no moral eternal value in itself but may cause you to sin through showing a lack of love in the discussion over it. So ask The Holy Spirit what to do and if you have a problem with the decision then check if you need deliverance in a related area.

Two Warnings

Unforgiveness towards your spouse

Mat 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Unforgiveness can result in you losing your salvation. It does not mean you have to agree with what they have done but God is their judge and not you so you are to leave judgment to Him and do what He tells you to do about the situation which is basically:

Forgive them as He forgives you

Love them as He Loves them.

Remember unforgiveness, and its fruit (anger and bitterness) will hinder the relationship with your spouse and needs to be dealt with through deliverance or these will eventually destroy the marriage.

Offences against your spouse

Mat 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

If you do not forgive others their wrongs against you God cannot accept anything you bring to Him until you are reconciled to your spouse. God is a God of reconciliation and expects us also to be of a similar mind as Him and try and reconcile where possible.

Remember, not dealing with and offence is the result of unforgiveness or fear and deliverance is needed to deal with the hurts Satan is using to keep these attitudes in you.

Separation in a marriage

A woman is steward of her body and mind. If a husband mistreats her in these areas she has a responsibility to God to remove them so she can look after these as God intended her too until the husband repents and has deliverance. Until all avenues of reconciliation are tried and it is clear that to go back to the husband would be dangerous then Divorce may be an option if The Holy Spirit allows.

I have seen cases where this has happened as Satan used he husband to stop the ministry God wanted he and the wife to enter into and the man was removed through divorce or death. God honoured the wife for her staying there till she had been rejected by her husband who had committed adultery or who had died. By this God released her for ministry and for a husband who will appreciate her as a wife.

Ministry

Each spouse ministers to the other. That is their secondary ministry. Their primary ministry is to Jesus. Each are accordingly equal in rank in ministry as Jesus is Lord of each and there is no intermediary, the Holy Ghost being their guides in ministry and not man.

As each serves Jesus their ministry will firstly to their family and then as He directs to others.

There are limitations on what a woman can do as a form of protection to her:

She is not to minister to a man without another man or woman present (as this stop the chance of adultery or premarital sex occurring).

A wife is not to lead unless her house is in order (as that stops Satan attacking her because she is not doing the work in the house that Jesus has given her to do as a wife). Unless she is doing or trying to do what she is teaching she is also a hypocrite and has no right to teach.

In the ministry to Jesus all are equal (Gal 3:28) and that means husband and wife are equal in this. It is when they serve others that Jesus asks a wife to submit to a husband or to serve another in ministry.

Exercising Headship

The following is condensed from my book on marriage

When the wife is told to do something by The Husband it needs to be a command (but a command done out of love for her and not arrogance or pride) or he is not being a good head of his wife. It needs to be:

Concise and accurate

Authoritative but not domineering or controlling

Thought out before God so it is His Will

Backed up by his love for her.

The wife also needs to evaluate it:

Does she feel she will be abused by the order?

Does she believe it is unfair?

Is she not certain what to do because:

She does not understand the order

or she does not know how to do it?

She believes The Holy Spirit tells her it is a wrong order

If she does not tell her husband about her problems or lack of peace about obeying him then she has only herself to blame for what happens

However, she may not be able to voice these things in which case she needs to tell her husband and get deliverance for the root causes.

For a husband to command his wife to do something that is not necessary for the purposes of The Kingdom, the family, the work of Jesus or which does not benefit her in some way is from a control basis (as it can only be for his own purposes), is an abuse of his authority and is similar to witchcraft.

The husband needs to discuss with the wife any problems she has in obeying and/or carrying out the task he has given her. He needs to provide all she needs to do it as well as help her when needed.

The husband needs to tell the wife of any problems she is causing in the area of headship and these needs to be talked through. Not just problems of obedience but hurts, lack of love and anything that is not godly.

If a husband truly loves his wife all he asks her to do will be for her benefit or the benefit of the marriage and will honour Jesus and assist The kingdom in some way

Headship is not legalistic. Headship is built on God's Love and Grace and is led by The Holy Spirit. If it is legalistic then the husband needs deliverance from the hurts that have damaged his Love and made him this way. Remember we are to have speech that is wise and gracious to all we speak to because the Love of God should be behind it. This is especially so in respect of our wife and family.

The wife needs the flexibility to do what she needs to do. She will know how to do it best usually and if not she should tell her husband so he can help her in any way she needs help and that includes any training that is necessary for her to do the task she has been asked to do.

Monitor what she does, not to criticize or judge but to evaluate her progress to see what help if any she needs to complete the task.

A husband should always give his wife what she needs to carry out what is asked of her and she should be helped in any way she needs to be to carry out her assigned task.

If there are problems with love, headship or submission then deliverance is needed by one or both of the spouses. Submission and headship should be based on love and mutual respect for each other. If it is not then deliverance is needed by one or both spouses.

Headship and The Holy Spirit

A wife obeys Jesus and submits to her husband in the way Jesus asks her too. She obeys the husband but if The Holy Spirit says to do something different to what her husband has said to do then she must obey The Holy Spirit.

She needs to be led by The Holy Spirit to know when to obey Him and not her husband.

A wife must be led at all times by The Holy Spirit and not reactions, assumptions, reasons or blindly following what the husband has told her to do. If the husband does follow The Spirit then The Spirit will quickly show him any errors he has made in headship and he will be corrected easily and quickly..

If a husband and wife are both led by The Holy Spirit then there should not be any time a husband will ask a wife to do what God does not want her to do.

Because a Godly woman is led by The Holy Spirit she will have peace in her heart if the command from the husband is the Will of God. So if a husband asks a wife to do something and she does not have peace about it she should ask The Holy Spirit why she does not have peace as well as tell her husband and both should work out why there is a problem.

Possible reasons for lack of peace:

The Command is from a wrong motive (not showing her love)

She may need deliverance to be able to do it

She may need help or training from someone

She may need something to be provided by the husband for her to be able to do it

Her health may prevent her from doing it

She may have a prior thing to do that is more important

It may not be practical or possible to do

It may be against the Will of God

God may want it done differently to the way the husband wants it done

If both are led by The Holy Spirit these problems will not occur or will be easily resolved if they do occur.

Marriage is a partnership not a dictatorship so the wife's opinion is to be considered in everything that pertains to the marriage but in the end if The Spirit gives her peace about the command of the husband she is to do it and trust God for the consequences.

Using Headship Authority

Headship only needs to be exercised when you cannot hear The Holy Spirit and what He wants each of you to do. If you cannot hear The Holy Spirit you need to find out why and deal with the problem

If both hear The Holy Spirit then each will know what God requires of them and they will be guided in this so that headship is from Jesus and there is no need for the man to exercise headship. He will monitor the situation and guide it as is necessary but they will be walking on the path God has prepared from before creation for the marriage and not one of their own devising.

Headship will be more stewardship than controlling and deciding what is to be done by the married couple.

Headship is a learned process.

It must be remembered that the basis for submission of the wife is obedience to God and not obedience to her husband (Eph 5:22). If your relationship is not right with God then headship will not be in place because obedience will be for the wrong reason. It will be for personal reasons (self-esteem, fear, your physical needs being met on earth) and not out of love for God.

If both spouses do not have Jesus as Lord before they marry it will be even more difficult to have Him as Lord after they marry and headship will be struggle until Lordship is in place in both their lives.

The wife needs to learn how to submit (in obedience to Jesus her spiritual head) and to trust in the Control of and Love of Jesus as well as her husband's Love for her. The wife should have learnt submission by watching her mother as she grew up as well as by submitting to her betrothed as he looks after her in the betrothal period.

The husband should have learnt how to be a man and husband by watching his father when he grew up to see how his father treated his mother and maintained the house and land outside it for her.

Often the husband does know how to love his wife as he should and this causes problems. This is where The Holy Spirit will teach you both how to relate as a husband and wife should. Deliverance may also be necessary for both of you to be free to love as Jesus desires you too.

The husband needs to learn how to love his wife and be her head (and as a result her domestic covering steward of her) showing to the wife that he loves her and seeks her best in what he asks her to do.

When Spiritual Authority is exercised in Marriage

We know that in a marriage Jesus is the authority over it and its spiritual head. However, for the purposes of spiritual growth one spouse may have temporary spiritual mentoring authority over their spouse but not spiritual control over their spouse.

This occurs for the purposes of mentoring or ministering to the other spouse. This is so the spouse being ministered to will learn through submitting to The Holy Spirit in their spouse, using them to minister to them in some way.

This is the only time one spouse will have spiritual authority over the other and it is not restricted solely to the man as each spouse will be used by The Holy Spirit to minister to the other spouse.

Some guidelines for headship

It should be done in love (the wife will not be abused by the command)

It will be for her best in some way

It will be for the purposes of the Kingdom in some way (even if it only shows the order of the Kingdom in daily life)

It must be led by the Holy Spirit

It will be for no personal gain of the husband (except indirectly as a result of the wife's activity benefiting him because he is part of the family she is serving and not directly because of the order he gave her).

It will have no self-interest in it

A wife, whose husband shows love to her in all he does will willingly submit to him

Love, which is words and no action is dead love

Headship without Love and action is dead headship

The only action love knows is selfless service

To minister headship you do not control! You lead by your example of loving service to your wife as Jesus did for us (the church)

A wife who loves their spouse, trusts their spouse and does so because their spouse is led by The Holy Spirit and tries to please God, of which showing their love to their wife and being a good steward of her is part of the loving obedience to God which results in loving service to her (which pleases God).

This attitude of submission (service out of love for them) is the submission God asks us to do and is different to subservience which is obedience out of necessity or compulsion, or employment, where service is done for money or goods.

Wife Initiative

Part of the responsibilities of a wife is to be a good steward of what has been given to her to care for. The husband cannot monitor everything the wife does (or should not) and must trust her for many things.

A Husband does not inspect closely everything a wife does. He gives her a command and then she does all she needs to fulfil it. At times she will need to do things on her own initiative to fulfil her duties given under the headship of her husband.

Wives are not children but adults with their own ability to think. A husband who allows his wife to think for herself and act appropriately on her own initiative will have a wife who will do what is necessary without his need to be concerned about anything she does. She will be secure in her own abilities and not dependant on her husband.

Marriage is two individual working as one and not an individual and a codependent wife trying to work as one.

Any thing a wife has to do without consulting her husband, done in good faith to fulfil her headship responsibilities should be accepted without criticism by her husband and he should clear up any mess that results without complaint.

A wife must be allowed to learn to think for herself and develop herself mentally so she can carry out her responsibilities in an independent way when it is necessary for her to do so. She must be allowed to make mistakes without being cruci-

fied for them but should be lovingly guided and helped so she will not make the same mistake again. If she does make it again find out why then patiently help again to try and not make it again. She also needs to be encouraged in activities that develop her spiritually, physically and mentally.

A husband has the responsibility of helping her and encouraging in these developmental activities. Sometimes they are called hobbies. Other times it will be a result in the expansion of the responsibilities of her role. What ever the reason she must be allowed to fail without being abused or condemned for it in any way.

Finances

Each partner should have a limit they can spend on assets or necessities without needing to consult the other partner. Above this limit they should discuss any spending. The limit may not be the same for both spouses, but should be if possible. The Holy Spirit will guide you in this. It rally depends on what expenditure in the normal course of activities either spouse can be expected to spend.

The husband should keep the wife informed of their financial situation so she does not worry about it and knows how she needs to budget.

Crossing headship boundaries

Headship results in boundaries because there are authority lines set up by God and these create boundaries which Both parties must observe out of obedience to God and respect for each other.

These are crossed only under guidance of The Holy Spirit and in agreement with your spouse

An example of the above is where the wife has been given authority over the household by the husband and he sees her washing the dishes and wants to help her. So he asks her if she would like him to dry up for her. She says “yes please” and he has authority to cross into her territory to help her for that session of washing the dishes. If she says “yes please, any time”, then he does not need to ask in future because he has permission to do it any time she needs his help.

In an emergency then reason prevails and you do what you have to do. If the wife has caught alight you do not need to ask permission to put out the fire on her clothes because she is in the kitchen.

A woman must be allowed to think for herself, as an individual, separate from her husband so she can become the person God wants her to be. This does not

mean she does what she wants to but that she listens The Holy Spirit and makes her own decisions about what He tells her. Her husband may help her to reach a conclusion but does not control her or make her decisions for her. He may guide her but not control her.

When she agrees with her husband it is because she has decided to agree and not because she has been coerced by her husband or has been told to be an obedient wife and submit.

Failure of submitting to headship

A wife should always have the forgiveness of her husband without the need to ask as God has forgiven her already at Calvary and you are required to forgive as He forgives and if you do not forgive you are in danger of hell fire.

Love also looks past problems to see what needs to be done to fix them and to stop them happening again. There is no fear in love so a spouse should not fear approaching their partner for help with any problems they have.

Jesus is the one she has disobeyed as He is the one asking her to submit to the husband. She may have offended the husband and that needs to be sorted out, but Jesus is the one she has really disobeyed.

The role of the husband is to love and support her and not condemn her as well as be a good steward of her and the relationship they have. The wife, however, may need to ask forgiveness for any offence she caused him through her failure in the headship situation. The husband should also ask the forgiveness of the wife for mistakes he makes as he carries out headship over her.

It is his love for her that makes her want to submit to him and not any implied authority he has over her. It is his love for her that also makes him desire to be a good 'head' to her.

Both serve Jesus and are led by The Holy Spirit in this so what is asked of her (by the husband) should be what Jesus desires her to do for each other and His Kingdom

Do not look for any approval and acceptance from the husband when you have sinned as it is not his to give. Sin cannot be approved of by anyone. Look for acceptance because of his love for you. He is there to help you overcome the weakness and determine why there was sin and also if he has any blame in this matter of failing to fulfil headship requirements. He is to love you for who you are but hate the sin.

What happens if the man fails headship?

He needs to ask Jesus for forgiveness and his wife for forgiveness of any offence he has caused her. He needs also to ask her forgiveness for being a bad steward of her and not loving her as he should. Apologising and repenting is so freeing and it is the lack of this that often will end up destroying a marriage.

The wife has to submit to him to the extent he makes it possible for her to submit to him. The rest she needs to trust Jesus for. She cannot be judged for what the husband will not let her do and all Jesus requires is for her to want to do it and try her best to do what she is able to do.

She needs to be led by The Holy Spirit so she satisfies God's requirements of her. No one can judge her if she tries to do this as she is accountable to God alone.

When a spouse is abused prior to marriage it can be hard to please them until they have deliverance. Until then you need to bind demons from using them or attacking them in any way in Jesus' Name so that demons cannot use your spouse against you.

Why should a wife submit to her husband?

In obedience to Jesus (Eph 5:22).

To be a good steward of what Jesus has given her (husband, marriage, family).

Men are built to love and nurture a wife that is submissive and if the wife rejects him the man dies emotionally or withdraws as a person.

The man has the responsibility for the family and household and cannot be a good steward of these if the wife does not submit and undermines his authority in these areas.

The wife needs the security and support of her husband to cope emotionally with things and if this is missing because she does not accept his headship or he is unable to lead as he should then she will have problems until there is deliverance of one or both of the spouses.

To honour the marriage vows she made.

So she can minister to their children as she should.

Why should a man Love his wife?

He is commanded to by Jesus (Eph 5:25).

To show respect to her as his helpmeet.

Because she needs security and nurture as a person (spiritually emotionally and mentally).

So she will respect him because of his sacrificial love for her and her love for him will mature and grow.

So he can respond to her as a husband should as a result of the way she responds to his love.

To honour his marriage vows (be a good steward of the marriage).

So he can be an example to non-christians and show God's Love in this world.

So he can minister to their children as he should.

The husband has an awesome responsibility - to love his wife as Jesus loves His church. If a wife rejects the headship of the man he cannot love her as he should and eventually there will be little marriage relationship and often he will go elsewhere to get what he needs. That is how adultery and divorce occurs. No man goes to another fountain unless his has run dry.

This responsibility means he has to provide all he and his wife need so they can carry out their respective roles. He is to provide her emotional, physical, financial, spiritual and domestic needs so she can carry out her responsibilities as well as all he needs her to do to carry out his own responsibilities. The promise of God (Mat 6:33) is that, if they seek Him and the purpose of His Kingdom, He will give them all they need to live and serve Him so that the prime responsibility of a husband is to keep the family focused on these two objectives.

When a marriage partner cannot fulfil the responsibilities of their side of the marriage then they need to examine if there is emotional pain or hurt from the past that is hindering them and causing them to react in a wrong way. If there is then they need deliverance and healing. The most damaging hurts are those to do with sexual, emotional and verbal abuse as these can kill sex life and intimacy and quickly destroy a marriage.

So when a problem occurs in a marriage go for deliverance and any counselling needed as there are often hurts from the past and the resultant coping mechanisms or lies of the devil that are behind these problems. Remember Satan's objective is to destroy the family and to do that he has to destroy marriages so the

children grow up dysfunctional. Deliverance removes the hurts Satan uses and frees the person to love and live as they really want to.

No person who truly loves another seeks to cause any problems in their relationship with this person.

Unity in Decision Making

If both spouses are led by the Holy spirit then the domestic headship will really be under Jesus. So the spiritual and domestic head of the marriage will really be Jesus. All three (Jesus and both spouses) will walk in unity of purpose and it will be a holy unity as all is done for the purposes of Jesus:

If you believe your spouse is an equal you will treat her as such. Headship being reserved for when a final decision is needed and there is a dead lock and The Holy Spirit is quiet. This situation usually arises if one of the spouses cannot hear The Holy Spirit and may need deliverance or repentance from a sin. Sometimes God may not tell the wife or husband what to do so they will trust their spouse.

The stewardship of the family has been given to the man and he has to explain to God what he did with it. So when a wife does not hear The Spirit she needs to trust this arrangement that God has placed her in. There is also the fact that The Holy Spirit will lead you both so that headship is really that of Jesus in the spiritual and domestic side of a marriage. Where there is a conflict of decision between husband and wife you need to find out why as God does not cause conflict or dissension.

Beside, if you consult the spouse and you reach a joint decision

Neither can complain

They must help you fix any problems

They should resolve any dissension

It shows you love them as you are willing to consult them and listen to their opinion

They may have something important to contribute

And really, The Holy Spirit should usually have told you what He wants done anyway so that the consulting is more for seeing if you agree on what you have heard from him and if not what needs to be addressed to reach agreement.

The Woman's heart and decision making

A woman thinks with her heart which is why she will do things for her family a man will stop and think about. This is a special gift to mothers so that they will do things that reason (how a man works) will stop and think about it and probably reject it.

Happy is the man who listens to his wife's heart. His children will be emotionally satisfied.

Boundaries in Marriage

In all relationships there are associated boundaries, The closer the relationship the fewer the boundaries that need to be stated or enforced. Love is the only criteria in a family. It is the boundary God sets on these relationships. According to the degree of love will be the need for boundaries.

Love should be the basis of all boundaries. However, society has made its own boundaries, its own special rules of relating and of determining boundaries because the love of many has grown cold so relationships are now legalistic or ritualistically being afraid to offend another or unable to express love in relationships that are not familial. Some are for the purposes of God (these have to be kept), and some for the purposes of man. These must be kept, if it causes another to sin by not keeping them, unless they go against the boundaries God has determined.

When a boundary in a relationship is damaged it needs to be rebuilt. The closer the relationship, the more is the damage and the harder it is to rebuild in your own strength.

It requires forgiveness and Love, the Love Jesus has for them to be able to rebuild these relationships and restore the relationship and its boundaries.

Unforgiveness stops relationships being reformed and healed and ends up sending you to i hell if not repented of.

Only as guided by The Holy spirit can these Close relationships and associated boundaries really be restored.

Headship and boundaries

Headship results in boundaries because there are authority lines set up by God and these create boundaries. These are flexible as each partner will serve each other in love and only cross the boundaries in an acceptable way to show this

love. Apart from the expression of love, boundaries of authority should not be crossed (except as told when to and how to by The Holy Spirit) or one spouse will usurp the authority of another and sin in some way.

Relating to a non-Christian Spouse

Non-Christian Husband (1 Pet 3:1-6)

This passage discusses the submission of a Christian wife to a non-Christian husband. The submission is only domestic as she cannot submit spiritually to someone whose ruler is Satan.

In time of Peer, marriage could have been arranged by her parents and she would have had little or no say whom she would marry or she may have become a Christian after she married and still have a non-Christian husband.

Satan would use the husband to attack the wife and her faith so Peter gives guidelines to the wife on how to submit to her husband (so she will obey God in this) and love her husband as Jesus does so they may win their husband for Jesus as they show His Love and Character to their husband.

3:1 A Wife is to submit herself to her own husband. If the husband does not accept what God says to do in The Bible (in other words a non-Christian, or a person who calls themselves a Christian but does not live as one) the wife is to obey Jesus in the way she relates to her husband in the hope it will convict him of the truths of God and He will follow Jesus so they will be united in Christ and through The Holy Spirit in them.

3:2-3 The husband will see the clean, pure lifestyle of the wife and the respect she has for her him and that it is genuinely who they are and not who they pretend to be through the use of Jewellery, make up and/or clothes.

3:4 It is their core personality which reflects Jesus and His Love for the husband and if the husband sees this he will ponder the difference in her to other non-Christian women and she can tell him it is Jesus in her.

3:5-6 The wife is directed to the example of Sarah, the first of the Jewish race that was female and who would have known the blessings she had from obedient submission to Abraham. If she had not submitted she would not have been allowed to father Isaac and would not be treated by Abraham as his wife.

A wife loses many blessings when she does not submit. She is not in rebellion against her husband but against Jesus who has asked her to submit to her husband.

A wife is to be a good steward of her body and mind and if these are in any danger from her husband she must remove them from him and protect them as they belong to Jesus and not the husband. This is not divorce but a separation to protect the woman from an abusive husband.

Non-Christian Wife

A Christian husband is to love their wife as Jesus love them (v7). There was no problem of headship when Peter was writing this letter as husbands were the head of the household but Satan would stir up the wife to cause him problems and his Christian love for her would hinder this. No wife wants to cause problems for someone who loves her as Jesus does unless she has been hurt and is reacting from these hurts in which case she needs Jesus and His healing deliverance. The love of Jesus, shown to her may win her to Jesus and the healing she needs.

A Christian man is not to reject or put away a non-Christian wife. God has allowed him that wife so he is to love her. He is to relate to her as the weaker one in the relationship. It is not spiritual weakness that is referred too so he needs to help her in her submission giving her respect and loving her as Jesus does regardless of what she does. He also needs to communicate the disapproval of what she does but the acceptance of her as a person, (as the wife should also do to the husband when he does wrong).

The Christians in both situations above need to relate to their non-Christian spouse in the way Jesus says too as they belong to Him and represent Him so to not live as He wants them too in the marriage is disobedience and will Limit their prayers being answered for two reasons:

They are hypocrites and cannot come before God and/or

Their spouse has offence against them, and God cannot accept anything from them until the no offence is removed.

Repentance restores the relationship they have through Jesus being their Lord again.

What happens if the non-Christian does not respond to the way God has told you to relate to them?

You should be conducting spiritual warfare:

In Jesus' name,

Binding the demons blinding your spouse to the truths of Jesus that they need to know

Binding the demons attacking you through your spouse

If this fails then as a good steward of the mind and body God has given you, you need to protect it by removing it from the area of abuse or damage (if there is one).

Satan's attack on the family

To stop God's plans for this world one of the things Satan has to do is to destroy marriages and families. He knows intimacy and unconditional love are necessary in a marriage so he tries to destroy the intimacy and love that occurs between the parents in a family.

He starts by developing defence mechanisms and fear so that each spouse no longer loves the other as they should and intimacy decreases. He also tries to get them so busy they do not have time for each other. He uses various ways to do this; financial problems, insecurity in the relationship with the spouse so they go elsewhere to find fulfilment (work, hobbies, sport, etc.) He uses media pressure to have the spouses conform to what his ideas of what marriage is, but mainly he makes a spouse feel rejected or unacceptable and as a result they go elsewhere for acceptability. This is how the events leading to divorce start. No one goes outside the marriage for acceptance if their spouse loves them unconditionally.

As the marriage is destroyed so are the children who look outside the family for acceptance and support or withdraw into television, computers or peer group activities, the latter which often end in their performing illegal activities if only to obtain acceptance by their peers.

So as you relate to your spouse, remember that Satan is the cause of disorder and division that he uses the hurts in people to control or guide them into what he wants them to do.

Deliverance is necessary to stop this type of attack. If there is conflict in the marriage deliverance is needed!

Once the parents are delivered then the children should be delivered. The Holy Spirit will show you whether the child is old enough to repent or whether the child is young enough to have the demons cast out without their needing to repentant.

Remember that Satan divides and conquer so when division or conflict occurs in a marriage, sort it out, or eventually the marriage well fail or at best be a marriage in name only.

Some of the reasons God made marriage

To have someone beside us to encourage us in our Christian walk

To have someone beside us in ministry for Jesus that compliments us

To bring Him Glory and worship by the way they live and minister

To help populate the earth with children that will love Jesus and follow Him

To be example of how The Body of Christ should relate to each other

To have a companionship of the heart that reflects our relationship with God

For our pleasure and Joy

As the basic unit of worship and spiritual education of children

May this book help you in these God-given activities.

Neville Salvetti

Marriage Roles as defined in the Bible

Introduction to roles in marriage

Women are an abused species.

Abuse in its true sense means to use wrongly and many men do not use their wives as God designed them to be treated (related to). Often the abuse is unintentional and the man does not realize by inactivity or not speaking words of love and encouragement without their being a reason to is an abuse of the wife.

I am not talking about physical abuse or other abuses that hurt the person emotionally or physically. I am talking about the small things a wife would like you to do at times:

Tell her she is beautiful and desirable

Tell her of your love for her and who she is as a person

Help her in the kitchen after a big meal instead of leaving her to wash up for the family by herself or buy her a dishwasher

Put her needs before yours in sex to show you love her and are not in it for personal pleasure

Do things she wants to do at times instead of always deciding what is correct. Marriage is a partnership so treat her as an equal partner in all things (even though the husband has the final say in domestic matters, but even then the wife should have input as is necessary)

Help her make the bed in the morning if you are able too or even make it for her at times

When she asks for help go and help her. She does not ask for help because she is lazy but because she has a need that is to be met either emotional or practical.

Sit her down and serve her afternoon tea or in other areas to show she is appreciated

The Holy Spirit will show you what He wants you to do for her and unless you walk in His Guidance you will abuse your wife at times, even though unknowingly.

Jesus has a love of women as they are so abused by men. You would be like Jesus? Then love your wife as He does! Then you will fulfil an important part of your marriage role as a husband,

1 Tim 5: 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Tim 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Heaven is a place of order where everyone has their God-given assigned roles. All are happy in their roles as they have been given to them by Jesus and is the role that is best for them.

This is the type of order God wants on earth. People doing their God-given roles and enjoying them because they know that role is best for them.

If you obey Jesus as Lord in all you do then you will be fulfil the requirements of your marriage role.



If God had want all mankind to have the same roles he would not have made them male and female. There would have been no need to. The fact that He has made male and female shows they have different roles in His order of things.

Male and female need to know their God-given roles (in daily life and ministry) to function how God wants them too and for them to be able to do the things He wants them to do on earth. Until they know and understand their God-given roles they cannot fully be the people God wants them to be or serve God as He desires them to serve Him.

This is why Satan has brought in feminism and similar to blur the roles a woman has in the order of God's things so they do not do what God wants them to do resulting in families not being in God's order as well as the people in the families also being dysfunctional.

Men and women do things the opposite sex should do and headship is out of God's order and by this destroys any ministry or witness they or their family should have. Jesus is not glorified and is brought into disrepute and His work does not get done on earth because of the mess these families are in.

The original arrangement

In the beginning God made Adam to tend all He had created. Adam was lonely and the animals were not appropriate to be the partner of Adam and meet his

need for companionship so God made someone to help Adam and called her Eve. Notice that He did not make another Adam, but some one to complement him. Adam was to look after the provision and protection for the family while Eve was to look after the children and the domestic side. God was still the spiritual head but Adam became the Domestic head as he had final responsibility for all matters concerning the family while Eve was responsible for the house and children and whatever God had her to be steward of.

God gave Adam care of the garden but He still had his household duties. He must not have been coping well so God gave him a partner (helpmeet, not help slave or help servant) to help him with the housework.

Adam continued with the garden leaving Eve to look after the house. She was out in the garden not doing her housework when she got tempted so one wonders if she had been neglecting her duties and so Satan was able to tempt her.

It can be seen the roles for man and woman were defined by God. But this only defined the domestic arrangements as God was still there to look after the spiritual side of things.

It is also to be noted that headship was not mentioned by God but was mentioned only after Jesus died and not by Jesus himself. Jesus only ever spoke of male and female as equals. If The Holy Spirit is in charge of the household the headship of the domestic and spiritual is Jesus.

Why did God make Adam wait before He created Eve? So Adam would appreciate her more. That is why God makes you wait for a spouse so that you will appreciate them more.

In the Old Testament much was not said about the different roles of men and women as it was understood. In the New Testament Paul was writing to non-Jews and had to explain God's order to them as they were under the influence of Hellenistic thought and women were as slaves in some parts and equal with men in others. So God's order needed to be stated.

In the Old Testament, some women did the ministry of men (Deborah is an example) but this was because there was no man found to do it. In proverbs 31, the woman trades, but this is after her responsibilities to her husband and household have been met.

In Ephesus, where a female Goddess (Artemis) was supreme, there were problems with headship, hence the passage in Ephesians 5. Note this passage is a compari-

son of Christ and the Church (the spiritual aspect) reflected in the relationship of Husband and Wife (the domestic aspect). This passage showed the correct relationship between mankind and Jesus and between a wife and husband and was designed to counteract the wrong concepts of these that the new believers in Ephesus would have had from their pagan background and worship of Artemis.

Apart from Ephesians 5: and 1 Pet 3:1-7 there are some passages that detail what God expects from each spouse. Some of these are found in Prov. 31, and 1 Timothy. The role of the wife is dealt with more fully than that of the male whose role is mentioned in Titus 2:2, 6-8. The defined roles of the wife expands her role from just housework to an active part in the family finances but still under the supervision of her husband. Without these affirmations of her role a wife could arguably be limited only to housework.

Remember

Women are not mentally stupid or inferior spiritually. This approach to them is just a device of Satan to stop them being used in ministry because of their spiritual sensitivity to the things of God and Satan. So Satan persuades man to keep women in an inferior role and out of ministry as a protection of himself (Satan) and his demons.

Satan also uses the inferiority and low self-esteem men have to keep women controlled through the man having to subordinate the woman or find her inferior so they have esteem and are not threatened by the woman who are more capable in some areas both in the spiritual and the physical.

A woman needs to prepare herself for ministry through finding out her God-given abilities and gifts and maturing them through her relationship with Jesus and The Holy Spirit. She also needs to fulfil the roles God has given her as a wife, mother, spouse and housekeeper so Satan cannot find an area to attack her in as she ministers. The man needs to help her in this as much as possible out of his love for her.

When each spouse develops their natural God-given abilities and giftings under the guidance of The Holy Spirit and with the encouragement of the other spouse, they will properly compliment each other and function as a unit in the way God desires them too. This means each will be an equal partner in ministry and not just a hat or coat stand for the male in the ministry.

Some of the roles defined by God

The Wife

Prove 31:10-31

In this passage the godly wife is praised by God and what follows His praise of her is His advice to women on how to be a godly wife.

The value and promised results of a virtuous wife.

10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She diligently seeks what is needed to clothe and feed her family and meet their needs

13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

As her domestic roles are satisfied she can concentrate on external activities. Some of the trading she does is intertwined with the work necessary for her to do her domestic duties and done in conjunction with it, in other words she makes extra above what is necessary for her family for sale purposes to help support the family.

She is a business woman buying and selling and not just crafts but major purchases (a block of land). Her husband trusts her with financial activities and she would have discussed them with him before purchasing the land but he let her do it unsupervised and accordance with her desires as to what to trade in. He trusts her as she is a loving and responsible person and a good and productive, industrious worker in her ministry to the family.

16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

She provides quality clothing, bed linen and other woven products for her family and is compassionate to those in need

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

Her husband is free to pursue his manly duties and take his place in society

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

She is a woman of wisdom, integrity and love who raises her children well and does not get involved in activities that take her from her children. Her speech reflects the Love of God that is in her.

25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

People see the quality of life of her family and their character and publicly praise her for it. Notice the wife is praised for the way the children are and not the husband, showing the importance of the wife being at home and not at work. Satan knows this so has made it necessary for both partners to work to purchase a home and survive and maintain a “quality” lifestyle in the way he has used the media to define ‘quality of life’.

Her husband recognizes her worth and praises her to all as does her children. She is not appreciated for her looks as she appears to be plain hence the reference to appearance but she is appreciated for her godliness and the way she fulfils her role as a wife and mother.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

She will reap the rewards of her work because she has obeyed God in all things.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

In this passage, God shows a wife is more than just a housekeeper as she shares in the finances of the family and in providing for its needs. He thus liberates her from housework to other activities providing she fulfils the requirements of her necessary activities of caring for her family, household and husband. God is showing that both provide for the family according to their roles and in their own special way and you cannot really say one does more than the other in this. You cannot place a value on the housework a wife does and the care and time she gives in raising the children. In the eyes of God the provision by the husband and wife for the family has equal value as both are obedient to what He requires of them and that does not have monetary value.

This Biblical passage allows a woman an identity as a person and not just a faceless housekeeper but someone who can do other things to express whom she is. The husband has a role in conjunction with The Holy Spirit to protect and develop her as a person: spiritually, emotionally and mentally into the person God wants her to be.

Note that her husband is in the city gates as he is able to leave the household completely in her care and trusts her in all she does. Wise is the husband that leaves his wife to run the household so he can do what he has to do elsewhere. She establishes a vineyard (a staple of the family's daily food) and helps look after the daily finances. She rules the house but in other areas is in partnership as an equal with her husband.

Paul In The New Testament

Role of a wife According to Paul

1Ti 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

The Greek has the following possible meanings:

From G3617; to be the *head of* (that is, *rule*) *a family*: - guide the house.

to be master (or head) of a house

to rule a household, manage family affairs

The wife is to run the household and rule it but the family as a whole is ruled by the Husband and he has the ultimate responsibility for the way the household is run. If he does not let the wife run it as it should be he has only himself to blame for the consequences. The wise man lets the wife run the household as she has been trained to do that. He has been trained to maintain the house and keep the outside of it. He will only interfere in the running of the household when The Holy Spirit tells him too. A wife is to manage domestic affairs, direct, order, or do what is proper to be done for the good of the family. If they do this as they should there will be little time to pursue an outside activity until the children are able to take care of themselves but they will still be able to minister as they teach the younger women to also do these things and when their children are grown up and the demands of the family is less they can then minister outside the household on a regular basis.

The education of the children

A mother has one of the hardest jobs in the world. She has sole care of children in the day until they begin schooling and often has the main care of them out of the husband's work hours. She has the main responsibility of teaching them about God and demonstrating to them how to live the Christian life. So how should a husband help his wife in this?

In his leisure time he needs to look after the children so the wife can have a break.

He needs to demonstrate the Christian life by the way he lives it.

He needs to provide for her all she needs to develop the Children in the way God wants them to develop.

He needs to show strong headship to keep order and stability in the family so God can work in it.

He needs to create a Godly environment to raise the children in.

Jesus and His Will will need to be the focus in all the family does.

He needs to be led by The Holy Spirit to do all God wants him to do in this area.

He needs to love the children as God does so he will relate to them as God relates to them.

In this he shows his love to his wife as he helps her in the raising of the children and removes some of the burden she has in this.

Women are steward of the family diet.

The main responsibility for the family's health is the woman as she buys and cooks the food the family eats. To keep the family healthy she has to buy healthy food and cook it properly otherwise she will be a bad steward of this area of responsibility she has been given by God.

Her husband should help her in this by eating what she cooks and making the children eat what they are served to eat at the dinner table.

A wife needs to learn what is healthy food and cook it properly. This should start when she is growing up with her mother and it should not be learnt as a last minute thing or early in the marriage

A wise mother will train her children to eat healthy food as well as train her children (all of them) how to cook these foods properly.

Stewardship of health also involves mental health, emotional and physical exercise and not just food and in these both spouses should be involved. The husband when he comes home should spend exercise time with the children or monitor their playing so it is godly. Both are involved in keeping the mind, emotions and body healthy but the involvement will be shared and usually only one parent will be involved at a time. Homework should be monitored so the children will be helped as needed. Homework is one way of helping their emotional health and developing their mental skills.

This caring for the total health of the child is not a haphazard thing but must be planned and studied (as guided by The Holy Spirit) so that the way they are trained is godly and not worldly and that their needs are met in total and not just in part or in passing.

Just a mother and housekeeper?

The Lord has given the wife a home to be steward of on His behalf to bring Him Glory through the loving way she maintains it for Him in accordance with His principles and serves Him, her husband and children in this as well as any strangers or friends that come into her sphere of influence.

He has the wife bring life into this world on His behalf and given her and her husband stewardship and training of this gift of a child so that it will live a life that will bring God Glory through the child's obedience and love of God. This attitude of the child will also be worship to God as the child learns to put God first in all they do. Perhaps this is the greatest gift of all.

It is to be remembered that the mother has the greatest contact with the child and thus the greatest influence on it and may be held more accountable to God for what the child does with Jesus and its life while the father will be accountable for how he helped the mother in her training the child as well as how he also did what he could to train the child in the ways of God.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to lead parents in this raising of children, another of His Greatest gifts. Thus the need to learn to be led by The Spirit in this as well as in all else we do.

The mature wife is also to be a Godly educator of younger wives

Titus 2:3-5

v3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

The principle here is one that is throughout the Bible. Your teachers are to be mature, Godly, experienced people and not someone who has a certificate from a training course. People who have proven they have the right to teach because of their lives and the fruit it has produced.

These mature women need to set an example for the younger ones. God will not use you if you do not practice what you preach but Satan will if he can. Anyone knowingly not doing what they are teaching have promoted themselves and will fall.

v4-5 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Sober: not controlled by passion so that you can think clearly and hear God clearly

Discrete: Prudent, wise in avoiding errors of evil as well as selecting the Godliest way to do something

Chaste: Pure from immoral language or expression of the body

The Word of God is Jesus and you call Him into disrepute if you do not submit to Him by submitting to your husband and living as Jesus requires you to live (v 4-5). How you treat your husband and family is how you treat Jesus.

Men who will not take responsibility for headship also rebel against Jesus when they disobey Him in this area. What they do to their wife they really do to Jesus (Matt 25:40).

Rewards of a wife who supports her husband in ministry

1 Sa 30:24 ... For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike.

God stated a principle in The Bible that those that stayed behind to tend the baggage (the base from which the war was fought) shared equally with those that fought the actual war. Those that tended the base also defended it and provided a support for as well as a refuge for those in the war.

A wife that stays at home and looks after the children while husband goes and works or ministers is in the same situation. She frees her husband to do the work Jesus wants him to do: ministry, employment to feed her, work around the house etc., and provides a haven for him to return too. As long as she serves him this way in love she will share in the rewards on earth and build towards her rewards in heaven. After her children are old enough she too will minister with her husband in a more fuller way if she has proved she is living what she intends to teach.

For men

As for the men there is a passage that speaks only to husbands and not those that are to be church leaders or deacons.

Titus 2:2, 6-8

2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Sober: not controlled by passion so that you can think clearly and hear God clearly

Grave: serious, and not pleasure driven

Temperate: Does not overindulge in things but does all in moderation

Gravity: Serious and soberness of manners and character and not given to flighty or spurious activities

Sincerity: Honesty of mind, not a hypocrite (they mean what they say in other words)

It is to be remembered that the man's role really is to love his wife and family in the way Jesus loves them and to do what is necessary to be a good steward of all God has given him and to help her and the family as is necessary. He also has the added burden of teaching them godliness and assisting them in achieving this and being an example to follow how a citizen of The Kingdom of God lives.

Sex

Sex is a role in marriage and the health of the sex life is a gauge of the health of the marriage. I discuss this in another booklet I hope to write soon.

In general

A wise husband will delegate responsibility to his wife in the areas she needs to control to fulfil her God-given responsibilities. He will assist her in these areas and accept her decisions in these areas unless The Holy Spirit tells Him to override her. Any time he wants to override her he needs to explain to her why and must have a good reason for doing so. If he has been led in the Spirit in this then The Holy Spirit will speak to her and she will accept it. Likewise a wise wife will not undermine her husband's authority and role without a good reason and then only after discussing it with him.

It is a partnership and partners need to know their boundaries, trust each other and communicate to stop wrong attitudes and suspicion from occurring in the relationship. In a good marriage there is often discussion in regards to problems so that walls and defences do not go up and drive them apart. In a good marriage there is always clear communication so Satan cannot sow doubt or discord in a spouse about the mate's love for them so that a wedge of insecurity or fear is formed in the partnership.

In a good marriage The Holy Spirit is always consulted so the partners are always where God wants them to be, individually and as a couple.

Each spouse needs to know and confine themselves to their area of responsibility and authority and should not go outside of these without The Holy Spirit's leading. This does not stop a spouse helping another or suggesting ways to improve things but the final say is with the person who has the authority (responsibility) in that area (as guided by The Holy Spirit of course).

In conclusion, Love is required by a husband to a wife, submission and respect by a wife to her husband, however, above all this is the submission in love to each as to Jesus. The Love of God is our constraint and that is greater than any love required by a wife for her husband and it is also the love required by Jesus for the husband towards his wife.

Love covers (does not condemn but seeks to help the person avoid them) a multitude of sins just as God's Love covers the multitude of our sins.

If you truly love a person as Jesus loves them then you cannot lust after them or hurt them in any way. If you lust after your wife then you do not love her for his who she spiritually but for her body.

Deliverance is required to remove this wrong attitude unless it is just a demon trying to make you lust after her in which case you send it in Jesus' Name to The Throne of Judgment to be dealt with by God.

Family Prayer

If the head of the house is to be a Godly man and fulfil his role properly he needs to spend time each day with Jesus, deepening the relationship he has with Him and listening for what Jesus wants the household to do that day. So this time he spends with Jesus needs to be early in the morning before breakfast so that the Will of Jesus can be communicated to all at the breakfast table (Mark 1:35).

He will also guide each person in their spiritual life, although the wife may take care of the problems the daughters have in regard to worldly and spiritual things, depending on the problem. Some things for women are best left for women to deal with and some things for men are best left for men to deal with.

Part of his spiritual mentoring will be to teach his family how to spend time with God each day as well as to how to hear God when they spend this time with Him.

He will lead the family in worship for a period each day, usually after the evening meal during which the family will share any activities of the day as well as any blessing they have from God that day and the Bible will be read and commented on briefly.

He will spend time with his spouse each day discussing the household and praying over it and each other in it and seeking God's Will together for the household.

He will set the example of what a Christian father and husband is for the son(s) in the family to follow just as the mother will set the example of what a Christian wife and mother is for her daughter(s) to follow.

What about single parents?

A single parent has to do the roles of both parents and this means taking on roles they have not usually been trained or prepared for. It is especially hard on a woman who has to learn things the husband has done and which may involve a steep learning curve. This is where she needs to walk close to The Holy Spirit so He can guide her in what she is learning as she works in the role the other spouse use to take.

Just remember that God has allowed this singleness of parenting to happen to you and has prepared you for it as well and will help you through it so that you will overcome the problems you will face. But He can only really help if Jesus is Lord of your life. This situation means obeying The Holy Spirit and not reasoning out things when God has not spoken to you about them (Mat 6:33).

Use the framework of the five steps to constantly give all your problems and burdens to Jesus so He can carry them instead of you, protect them and help you with them.

Disciplining Children

A child should never be disciplined in anger. The anger is a result of the parents self-esteem and pride being attacked through what the child has done.

A person's self-esteem should be from Jesus. Pride is a self-esteem defence mechanism. A parent disciplining in anger shows deliverance is needed in some areas of the parent's life.

A husband should always support the discipline and punishment of his wife unless there is a very good reason not to do so which needs to be discussed with the wife away from the child. If a husband does not support his wife in this without good reason she will feel abandoned and insecure.

Problem Resolution

Whenever there is a difference of opinion or a problem do not react or argue. Stop and analyse the situation and learn from it. Listen to The Holy Spirit and what He says to do.

Each situation is a learning opportunity. Treat it as a situation to raise your defences and hold to what you believe and you will place a wedge in the relationship with your spouse. Treat it as a learning situation and it will strengthen the relationship.

The married couple that learns how to resolve things under the guidance of The Holy Spirit rather than fight will grow closer and strengthen each other's love.

In Conclusion

If a husband truly loves his wife he will accept her as she is and help her with any weaknesses or problems she has. He will serve her to help her overcome these and be the godly woman Jesus desires her to be and died to make possible.

He will not easily be offended by what she does to him and will endure the trials she gives him because of his love for her and his desire for her to be what God wants her to be so.

This is how Jesus loves her and should be how each partner in the marriage loves each other.

If a marriage is based on this type of love, the role of each spouse will be a pleasure to perform and will not be a burdensome chore as it will be done out of love for Jesus and for each other.

Stewardship of Marriage

The word 'husband' occurs in many other words such as husbandman, and husbandry, all of which refer to one who has care of property on behalf of another. This indicates the role of a husband. He is a steward of the wife, family and possessions (property) God has given him to be steward of.

Stewardship is a natural expression of the Love we have for God. Because we love Him we want to look after the things He gives us. We realise we don't own them as He is King and owns all things and that we are just caretakers of the things we have been entrusted with.

Stewardship Preliminary

1 Cor 4: 1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

You will be accountable to God for how you deal with the steward responsibilities He has given you. Firstly towards the spiritual knowledge God has given to you and secondly to the earthly (family and possessions) responsibilities that you have been entrusted with.

How you deal (as a husband) with the family finances: providing and maintaining them, maintaining the home and surroundings, protecting the family. In other words you will be called to account by God for how you deal with your domestic headship as a husband.

How you deal (as a wife) with the way you submit domestically, provide for the needs of the family: keep the house tidy, clean and organised, providing their: spiritual, physical and emotional needs and being a helpmeet to your husband will called to account by God.

Headship is correct stewardship of the wife on behalf of God.

God has given the wife to the husband and the husband to the wife. God has entrusted him with her and her with him. He is a steward of her on God's behalf and she is a steward of him on God's behalf. It is required of stewards that they are faithful (1 Cor 4:2).

A wife should obey her husband as a good steward of the domestic relationship with her husband that God has entrusted her with. The stewardship is physi-

cal (domestic) as a man cannot provide for his wife's spiritual needs (eternal life, heaven, salvation etc.) He can only encourage her to pursue her relationship with God and provide the physical and emotional security for her to do this.

If the wife disobeys Jesus and does not submit to the domestic authority of husband she is in rebellion against Jesus and God cannot use her or bless her work. Not to submit domestically to headship is not so much to disobey her husband but to disobey Jesus who requires her to submit to her husband domestically. The wife is only required to submit too and respect her husband while a husband is required to love his wife.

Jesus governs the spiritual side of the relationship (1 Pet 2:25) and to give a man spiritual authority over a woman is to remove Jesus from his role as spiritual head of the wife and to imply man is spiritual steward of his wife! The man, however, does have a 'duty of care' to the woman to encourage and help her develop in her spiritual walk with God. Nowhere has Jesus delegated His spiritual authority over a wife to a husband. He has delegated some authority (over domestic matters) but not this. No one else can delegate this on His behalf so to take Paul's writing as doing this is wrong! Paul did not have the authority to delegate the authority of Jesus!

The husband is to love his wife and look after her as Jesus looks after His people: self-giving, sacrificial love, placing the needs of his wife before his own needs. He is not to encourage her greeds that satisfy her flesh but her needs that keep her alive and help her draw closer to Jesus.

Parents are also stewards of the children entrusted to them by God. They are to provide for the needs of their children, guide them in the things of God and teach them how to be good parents themselves as well as how to correctly relate to God and others. They are to teach them about God, how to live the Christian life as well as the skills needed to work and serve Jesus in this world as well as to prepare them to spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

Life is a continual stewardship of all God entrusts us with, which is why Love is so important as it is the basis of all relationships and all godly stewardship.

Stewardship of Sexuality

Men and women are made differently by God and they are to be stewards of their sexuality (their maleness and femaleness) and not just allow it to be transformed in any way to the sexuality of the opposite sex. Satan is trying to do this so that the roles of husband and wife blur and people do not realize the full potential of

their sexuality (their maleness and femaleness). There are common roles for men and women but there are also roles men and women are designed to do that are different and only a male or female can successfully do these respective roles.

Two examples that come to mind are fatherhood and motherhood. When the roles are changed there are stresses in the family and headship may not be there. If Satan can blur these roles then headship disappears along with God's order in the family. This blurring of sexuality is one of the reasons many families are in a mess as each parent does not carry out the role they were designed for (in other words be good stewards of those roles).

We must look after and cultivate that which makes us male or female, uniquely different (our masculinity and femininity), which God has given us to help us in the unique roles He has given us to carry out the different tasks He has ordained as uniquely male or female

This does not mean that the role of one is more important or superior to that of the other but that God has designated what each gender is to do and designed their bodies, temperament and mind to be able to do what God has designed them to do. Each role is important to God and as such has a purpose in His Kingdom and in the marriage.

Good stewardship of your sexuality allows you to carry out your God-given roles in the way He wants you too.

stewardship of a wife's body

A wife is to respect her husband but if he abuses her seriously in any way she has to leave. She has to protect her body, mind and faith as a steward of these things and is answerable to Jesus for the use of these as He is the one who has sent her to submit to the husband.

She is to respect her husband unless he abuses her and does not show love to her as required. If he abuses her he has broken the marriage agreement and she can leave for the sake of her mind, body, faith and personality.

She is not to divorce but to pray he will repent and be delivered of what he has that makes him that way.

She should have been praying this well before she had to leave and doing spiritual warfare against the demons attacking the marriage.

Stewardship of possessions

Husband and wives have different roles and so have different areas of expertise so when they go shopping they should respect each other's area of expertise and listen to their spouse as they apply the knowledge they have learned as a result of the role they have in a marriage. Anything to do with food, clothes for the children or housework the wife usually know best. Anything to do with the maintenance or mechanical things of the house the husband usually knows best.

Any purchase is to be approved by The Holy Spirit so that you do not spend more than you should and you will have left what is necessary to do what God wants you to do.

There should be an agreed limit that can be spent without the approval of the other partner being needed. This can be a set limit but varied in respect to a particular item like a vacuum cleaner that may cost more than a limit set of \$200 but which the wife has the knowledge to choose so there may be an agreement like:

“Dear go buy a vacuum cleaner. If it costs less than \$400 buy it without the need to consult me”.

It is assumed she will be guided to The Holy Spirit to what God wants her to buy so that it is not money spent for the sake of pleasure alone but spent in accordance with the Will of God (as all monies should be spent).

Rights in Marriage and forgiveness

If I hold onto my hurts and pain and choose to be offended I am saying I have a right to be offended and to not forgive.

Jesus says you do not have this right to hold onto offences and to not forgive!

By holding onto to this so-called right you are being self-righteous and have made yourself into a god in this area and are in danger of losing your salvation if you do not choose to forgive.

In a marriage, no spouse had a right not to forgive through holding onto hurts or offences. Doing this is a form of a 'holier than thou attitude' which destroys relationships and is an expression of the self righteous attitude you have chosen to hold onto.

In a marriage you give up all your rights because love has no rights it holds onto to that would stop it expressing love to another. It puts the needs of others before itself and any rights they have that would hinder this are ignored.

Healing can only occur if you forgive and to hold onto your so-called rights stops healing and destroys the marriage.

There is no self-interest in marriage. You are either helping others to realise who they are or serving Jesus and expressing His Kingdom in all you do to your spouse and others.

For a marriage to work each spouse must die to self interest and express Jesus in all they do..

Questions by your spouse

A spouse may ask you if you have done something. The first thing to do is not to react as there are a variety of reasons for them asking this question.

They may need to know if it is done so the next stage of the activity dependant on what was done may be started

They may ask so they know it is finished and can show appreciation to you for your doing it for them.

They may need to know so they can ask them to do other things for them.

They may be responsible to God for that area of the family and need to know so that they know their responsibility has been fulfilled,

They may need the security of knowing you love them and will do things for them so they are secure in your performing your side of the relationship when she needs help.

If the spouse is checking for control purposes then they need deliverance in an area.

A spouse who lives their partner does not need to be nagged to do things for her and will tell them if they are unable to and why they are unable too. If a spouse needs to be nagged to do something one or both of them may need deliverance.

Love serves but does not do for another what they should be doing for themselves and a spouse who loves their partner will serve them unless they should be doing it and should not have asked their spouse to do it for them.

His Needs Her Needs

I deal with some of the basic needs of a marriage.

Her first need is for him to build her up and support her in the various roles she has as a mother, teacher, wife and helpmeet and to show by his attitude to her that she is appreciated for what she does and also for the sacrifices she makes to do them. He need to be built up by her submitting to him and showing appreciation of what he does for her.

God gave man all he needed so that he could be in a direct relationship with God. He realised man could not run a family by himself so gave him a helpmeet. The arrangement father, mother, child also parallels the trinity.

Eve was made to compliment man and to not be his slave. She was Adam's balance to fulfil and complete him physically. This is how a husband and wife should see each other, that as a couple they are complete because the other completes them.

Women are therefore made differently to men or they would not be a compliment to man and have needs that man only can fulfil through the way he loves her. When a woman has been abused before or during the marriage she cannot be the helpmeet she needs to be until she is delivered as the demons in her stir up things that prevent the unity in the marriage that God wants.

The Character of Women

When examining the character of women it appears God has made them emotionally fragile (not emotionally weak) requiring affirmation from a male for their self worth to be encouraged. IT SHOULD BE FROM THE FATHER BUT OFTEN IS NOT THERE. This means many women enter a marriage in a bad state of emotional stress and low self-esteem.

Deliverance can remove this but it requires the husbands lover and attention to keep the woman felling secure and worthwhile. Unless a husband constantly affirms the value of his wife to himself and appreciates her in all she does then she will have emotional problems and have trouble loving him as she should.

Communication

There should be no secrets in a marriage so that information important to the marriage is not hidden from the other partner. If there are such secrets there is deception and Satan will encourage this as he is the father of deception. A

husband and wife should be emotionally and spiritually naked before each other so any problems in these areas can be dealt seen and dealt with so that God can mature them and guide them in His work and also so that intimacy and sex are not hindered in anyway. Unless there is complete openness and communication in a marriage then Satan will get in and eventually destroy that marriage.

Remember, It it is not what you say at Times that is important but how you say it.

It is no use speaking words of love in a way that shows you are not sincere or you do really mean.

When you talk to your spouse, mean what you say and she will be secure in the relationship with you knowing That there is no hidden agenda towards her that you are covering through hypocritical speech.

You need to find the words, phrases and behaviour patterns that your spouse loves to hear from you that communicate your love for them in a way that is special to them.

You also need to find what words, phrases and behaviour patterns upset them and make them feel criticised or rejected.

Then you need to find those words or behaviour patterns your spouse considers special to your love for them which only you and your spouse know are special. These special words are not just for making love but for use in every day conversation so when they are said your spouse knows you are telling them they are special to you!

Sins prior to marriage

What has happened before the marriage, unless it is necessary to know for the purposes of deliverance of a spouse, is no business of anyone. Sin is between the person and Jesus, unless there is an offence that needs to be dealt with. No one else but Jesus need know and no one has a right to know either, unless it affects them now and means deliverance is required in some way or an offence needs to be dealt with.

Intimacy

She needs to feel she is worth listening to and that her inner most feelings are worthwhile communicating. If the man will not listen to her, her self-worth drops as does her belief in his unconditional love for her. She will feel unacceptable and

will be hesitant in approaching her partner in an unreserved way. His love for her will allow her to express herself unreservedly.

The same applies for her husband.

Sharing fears

You should have both said the deliverance prayers in the front of this book so you should be free in many areas. So should you tell your spouse your fears about them or things they have done wrong and offended you by this?

A spouse should do everything they can to remove the fears of their partner to stop Satan using these fears to cause problems in the marriage relationship.

You should express these fears only if they do not have emotional damage that will top them being able to receive and deal with what you say to them. You need to deal with this emotional damage first before they can deal with the problem you want to discuss with them. If you do not remove the damage telling them will actually harm the relationship in some way. You may both need deliverance to deal with the fear or situation. The Holy Spirit will show you what to do.

A danger that arises is not to see your spouse as trying to help you but to react to her because she appears to be relating to you the way a former abuser related. You could be reacting to someone completely different but projecting it onto your spouse. This is why you should never react but ask The Holy Spirit what to do.

The three lessons to learn from this are:

- 1) Do not confuse your spouse with the person who hurt you or you will react to our spouse as you react to the person hurting you
- 2) Some deliverance may be necessary before you can tell a person their weakness
- 3) Do not react but stop and sort out who you are reacting too: spouse, abuser, your hurts? Ask The Holy Spirit what to do and then do it.

Sex

A woman responds to the way her husband treats her, especially in the day, before they have sex. But the way he treats her in t the day, before they have sex, must be consistent with the way he treats her normally on days the do not have sex.

If a man is always loving and gentle to his wife because he loves her as Jesus does she will always gladly give herself to him. But if he is loving and gentle because he wants sex she will not feel the desire and will feel used and at times even like a prostitute.

The husband needs to be submitted to Jesus so he can develop as a husband and man. He also needs sex as it feeds his self-esteem as a male, as does his need also to satisfy her in sex. She needs to communicate what gives her pleasure and he needs to know how his wife responds to his touch. If lust is involved it will be a desire for selfish pleasure. If love is involved it will be a desire to give the wife pleasure before his own pleasure so she can respond and give him pleasure.

This is how you get the best response from your partner by putting their pleasure before yours. Serving them with your body without the need to get pleasure except from her response to you. This also removes lust as the focus is on our partner's pleasure and not your own pleasure.

Love, in sex, seeks to primarily give the other spouse pleasure. As she is given pleasure and sees the love behind it she will respond and give him pleasure. Remember! Man is the originator and the wife responds to his love. This does not mean he has to start everything all the time but if that love is not there the wife will have problems responding as she should to it.

Security

The woman's spiritual security in the marriage should be Jesus as she serves Him and He is responsible for her spiritual needs so she can serve Jesus as He wants her to (1 Pet 2:25). If both spouses walk in The Spirit this will not be a problem.

A woman needs the security a husband provides to develop and mature in the safety and provision he gives her.

This stops her worrying as the love her husband has for her (shown by the things he does for her) allows her to function as she should, comforts her and takes away the worry about things so she can concentrate on her role as a wife, mother and partner as well as be a good housekeeper and meet the needs she is suppose to in the relationships of the family

Physically, her husband will keep her secure as a reflection of the spiritual security Jesus gives them both. Their position in The kingdom of God will also give them physical security in the kingdom of the enemy.

The husband should show the love of Jesus towards his wife in all his interactions with her. This will encourage her to submit and obey God in headship knowing all the husband does for her will be out of love for her.

In this unity of The Holy Spirit they will serve Jesus as He wants them too. It is when one partner is abused and needs deliverance that problems and disunity arise.

On the domestic side of things the woman needs a secure environment without the need to obtain provision for her family so she can do the work of a wife and mother. It is the husband's responsibility to support the wife so she can do her work in the house. This is in recognition of the different character/temperaments and abilities of males and females that occur because of the different roles God has ordained for them.

Headship needs to be in place (it is domestic and not spiritual) so the wife does not need to concern herself unduly about the finances and protection for the family but only about her responsibilities as a wife and mother.

This does not mean she cannot work or make and sell things but that this is done after her other responsibilities are met and that any such trading is not essential to the support of the family; They add to the quality of life of the family and are done out of love for her family and not just for the sake of making money.

Order

He needs to come home to a place where there is order and he does not have to compete for or look for things or resolve bickering. This makes his home a place to desire to come home too and builds his self-esteem making his daily effort worthwhile to maintain this haven from the world.

A Husband is to head the house so the household is in the order God wants it to be. If the headship is not in order the household will not be in order.

In a house where Jesus is Lord all revolves around His Will and Purposes and all will be in order

A husband who nurtures, develops his wife and accepts His wife's wisdom and knowledge and treats her as an equal will be a happy husband.

Beauty

1 Pet 3:3-4 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

This verse does not mean a woman does not wear make-up or jewellery. It means a woman should not get her worth or value from her appearance but from who she is in Jesus because of her relationship with Him and the results that this relationship has on her as a person.

Jewellery, make-up and clothing should always be moderate and in accordance with what The Holy Spirit tells you have gone beyond the modesty God wants His women to have and at times will tell you what you are to wear.

If you get your value or worth from your appearance and what you wear then deliverance is probably needed.

Clothing

A man is not to wear a woman's clothing or a woman to wear a man's clothes. This means a woman should not wear trousers but can wear slacks.

Clothing is designed to differentiate between male and female and should heighten a man's masculinity or a woman's femininity. Clothing that does not do this should only be worn when The Holy Spirit tells you to.

Any other occasion is against the will of God!

What a Wife Needs

The following discussion was with a young lady in a chat room and summarises beautifully what women want:

Me: men do not understand women

She: What's to understand? Lavish us with love and tenderness and respect and we are putty in their hands. Ignore us and we are she devils!!

We Are little girls at heart, we need the love and tenderness. You guys don't need it. We don't understand that, but you don't.

Women need to be appreciated for who they are. Not what the world says they should be or the husband thinks they should be. They need to be appreciated for

the way God made them, the mind they have and the gifts and abilities God gave them. They need to be loved as they are - a fellow Christian and not a just a wife under the domestic control of the husband.

They need to need treated spiritually as an equal and physically as the weaker vessel but still an equal partner in the marriage (but under the domestic authority of the man, except for the areas he has delegated to his wife). Their feelings and viewpoint needs to be listened to if they are to feel worthwhile.

In other words women have emotional, sexual, mental, spiritual, physical and intellectual value and needs and these should be nurtured by their husband and peers and she should be able to express herself as she needs in these areas. Not being able to do so will eventually destroy the woman.

If a husband loves his wife, he will put her needs before his own and she will respond and be able to satisfy his needs as domestic head of the house and as spiritual partner in ministry.

It is remembered a woman gives up a lot to marry a man and exposes herself in many areas in which she can be emotionally destroyed.

She leaves the security of a home to live with someone for whom she will make a home for and serve the rest of his life, whose children she will bear in the pain of childbirth and selflessly care for while he is at work providing her with a house to live in and her other needs to live on this earth. She also gives up her rights domestically as he becomes her 'ruler' domestically as she submits to him in obedience to Jesus. The least she can expect is to be appreciated and thanked for this as well as having her husband emotionally support and comfort her as needed and provide a secure environment for her.

A Husband is to love his wife as Christ Loves the Church and died for it. A wife is to respect her husband and submit domestically to him. Love is a bonus for the wife. In fact the marrying for love is quite a recent notion in many parts of the world where arranged marriages were and still are normal. Note that there are no exceptions for the husband loving his wife or a wife submitting domestically to husband and respecting him as there is no exceptions to each loving the other as Jesus loves them. This type of love is a must if you want to obey Jesus and have a proper relationship in the marriage.

A wife should respect her husband for providing for her and supporting her and placing her needs first in all things. I said needs not greeds. A need is something a person has that enables them to cope with life. A greed is an unnecessary thing

and is really a luxury as it is not required for daily living. Greeds are also selfish and will be used by Satan to draw you away from Jesus and what He wants (requires) you to do.

Sometimes it is necessary to do something or buy the wife something special and out of the ordinary such as a piece of inexpensive Jewellery (The Holy Spirit will show you what to buy or do). This is done to show appreciation of her and not because you are rich and can afford it. This action must be done to meet an emotional need of hers (as directed too by The Holy Spirit) and not because of greed or covetousness (which is bad stewardship).

So if you want to obey Jesus and not live in continual rebellion; a husband is to love his wife selflessly and a wife is to respect her husband and submit domestically to him.

Through his control of media and society Satan has removed for relationships criteria the need to appreciate or respect another person. All good relationships requires these two attitudes to be in them. This is why the world in the west is as it is as these no longer are in the attitudes of most people. Never take your wife for granted but always appreciate and respect her.

How to keep a wife or future wife happy

- Keep Jesus and the purposes of His Kingdom central in all you both do
- Encourage her and help her build her faith and trust in Jesus and trust in you
- Worship and pray with her
- Read The Bible together
- Accept her as an equal partner in ministry as she has gifts that compliment yours and is the person God has given to you to help you in any ministry you have been given by Jesus.
- Give her a consistent godly example of headship
- Protect her
- Trust her
- Give her complete security

- Support her in all that she does that is not wrong and gently help her overcome weaknesses or problems that she has. She should also support you in the way you support her
- Intimacy without sex will show she is appreciated for who she is and not just her body
- In sex seek to please her before yourself
- Develop other ways than sex to be intimate with her
- Listen to her and show she is worthwhile as a person and acceptable as she is.
- Be a gentleman to her: open car doors, support her at buffets, serve her in love as the weaker member. In all things you do to or for her you should be a gentle man exhibiting the fruit of gentleness in the relationship you have with her.
- Never stop romancing her until you draw your last breath
- Meet her fears so Satan cannot use them to put a division between you and her
- Plan with her in all things that affect you both and support her, where possible, in the things she decides for herself (her clothes, appearance, hobbies and other forms of how she expresses herself as a person) or decides on your behalf (the areas in which she has been delegated authority by you).
- Allow her to be the person she is and not what people think a wife should be except where spiritual values are involved then it is God wanting her that way not the husband (but he needs to be supportive of her to help her get to where God wants her to be spiritually and maturity wise).
- Do not criticise her in a destructive manner but in a constructive way so that she is encouraged as a person and not made to feel worthless.
- Never raise your voice to her or shout at her.
- Praise her when it is appropriate, especially to others
- Ask her to do things and be appreciative and thank her when she does it.
- Show God's Love you do in all things you do to her.

Remember husbands, you will be accountable to God if you do not do these things.

A husband also needs to be aware of the tone of His voice when he communicates with His spouse. The voice can communicate love, acceptance, rejection and so many other positive or negative attitudes to a person. Prov 31:26 shows how the Godly wife communicates with her husband and family and he too should communicate this way to her and the family.

(KJV) She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Remember also that every loose (idle) word will need to be accounted for on the day of judgment (Matt 12:36).

It is so easy for a husband to crush his wife. All he has to do is:

Criticise her loving service towards him or

Criticise her achievements in front of her peers or children or

Make her feel irrelevant by not listening to what she is saying or

Walk away from her rather than discuss things with her..

He needs to show his love and support even though she may not be perfect or that capable in some areas and he needs to show it in a way that indicates he is not lying about it.

If your spouse does not meet your standards in an area:

Ask The Holy Spirit:

Are your standards are too high

Are they what Jesus expects the standard should be

Ask why, in case you need deliverance

Ask The Holy Spirit:

Is the matter is of eternal significance:

If it is then pursue it

If not then you may need to change and not your partner

Does the spouse need help to do what you expect of them?

They may not know how to do it

They may need additional information or things to do it

Does the spouse need deliverance to do it as Jesus desires it to be done.

In Summary

The key to a successful relationship such as in marriage is to never stop appreciating the other person for who they are or what they do for you and to love them as Jesus loves them and you. In this attitude of thankfulness for who they are and what they do for you it is hard to find fault with them or criticise them.

This attitude is one of the signs of God's Love in you and really should be expressed to all not just to your marriage partner. You should

Respect them

Appreciate them

Communicate how you feel with them

Share everything

Minister as an equal

Love them as Christ Loves them

Serve them in Love

Fathers authority in the Home

In every child there is the need to know the authority and love of their father. This because God has made the man the head of the house and in every child God has placed a need for this to be fulfilled.

Thing is why the father needs to reinforce the authority a mother has because her authority is submissive to the man as head of the house. He needs to back her up or she cannot raise the children as God wants them raised.

A woman who takes over headship of a house, usurping the authority a husband has, can not do so by Godly means. This means all suffer and the children are usually abused emotionally as a result.

A Similar situation arises when a husband will not take up his headship role but the damage resulting may not be as great though.

Discipline in the house

A husband should back up his spouse in regard to discipline and punishment of those in the household. If he thinks it is excessive then he needs to discuss it with her. The Holy Spirit is the final judge in this. If they are both led by The Holy Spirit then this problem should never arise. In reality the father should discipline when home as he is the head of the house and the wife when he is not.

Praying for The Family

When is the best time for parents to pray for their family?

In the morning before they get up or at the breakfast table with the family is the best time to pray for the day's activities and protection over the children.

In bed at night, before sex but after ironing out any problems between them is the best time to pray for the events of the day, do any spiritual warfare you need to do over these events or activities as well as pray for the protection of the sleep of the family.

Staying together as a family

The family is a unit. The father steers, protects and supports it and the mother nurtures it and basically keeps it together her role is so central and pivotal to the emotional wellbeing of a family. No wonder Satan attacks the wife more than the husband usually.

The mother has the most influence on children as she is with them the most and if she is damaged the children will be damaged. This is where the father comes in to protect the mother spiritually and help free her from satanic bondage or attack.

This is why the wife must support a godly husband so he can love her as he should and she can respond in love to him and the family. If this support occurs then the family will pray together, do things together and communicate truthfully with each other. They will express hurts, problems and joy to each other and resolve offences caused by them to others in the family.

Jesus and His Kingdom will be central to all the family does and He will bless the family, The mother shows this to her children and the father reinforces this and

by the way he rule the family and His wife in the love of Jesus He gives a godly example for the children to follow.

It is as the parents are led by The Holy Spirit and the children are taught to be led by Him that the family will function as a unity in the way Jesus wants it to function and through this unity bring Him Glory and Praise.

What a husband Needs (apart from sex and food)

A man needs a woman who will let him fulfil his role as domestic head of the family. A wife who respects him and fulfils her role as God intended it to be and not as Satan has convinced the modern world it should be. The biggest problem in marriages is wives not fulfilling their Biblical roles and causing the husband to feel rejected and unloved so that he compensates with other things and/or other woman rather than relating to the wife. "After all, it is not worth the effort" the man argues and blithely goes out and looks outside the marriage for fulfilment, acceptance value and self-esteem.

The woman who desires her husband to love her all the days of her life must obey God and be led by The Holy Spirit in all things or she will lose her husband emotionally and have a loveless marriage.

If a spouse has trouble with headship then one or both may need deliverance.

Sex in Marriage

Yes, there is suppose to be sex in marriage and it is suppose to be enjoyable but too many women feel like prostitutes, used or defrauded by their husband who seems to express only lust in sex and not the gentleness, tenderness and Godly love they desire expressed in sex. This abuse is a result of the way the world portrays sex and because God's original plan for it has been hidden by Satan.

Sex is the only thing a husband and wife can do with each other which they cannot do with anyone else. This is why it is so important. A marriage that is falling apart either goes bad sexually or ends up with it being the only thing they can share and that it is done for the sake of their own pleasure and not to give the partner pleasure. At times they say there is a marriage only because they have sex. There is no reason why sex should not be adventurous and joyful. God gave it to be enjoyed not frowned upon as 'dirty'.

When a desire for a person is from the heart (pure love) and not from the flesh there is no lust in it so sensuality is not a part of the relationship and sex is on a completely different experiential level.

Because it is from the heart of love the husband will patiently and even joyfully prepare his wife to be able to accept him entering her in a way that makes them both feel complete and one with each other.

Sex is not two individuals giving themselves pleasure. It is a couple united as one in the eyes of God giving the other pleasure.

The joy of being together without the need for sex is a foretaste of heaven where there is no sex just the joy of being with each other and enjoying heaven together.

If you love your spouse as Jesus does sex will not be important as being in their presence and it is this joy express in sex that makes it so wonderful!

The parallel in the Bible is drawn between God and the church and a Husband and wife. The former is a spiritual relationship and the latter a physical relationship. They are both based on Love for each other, firstly to God and then to the spouse. On earth sex is the ultimate pleasure. In heaven it will be being in the presence of Jesus.

We obey God and offer Him our bodies to use as He will. In marriage, one use He has for our body is to give our spouse pleasure in sex. If we seek our own sexual pleasure it is lust and the spouse will feel used. If we give our bodies to

Jesus and use it to give our partner pleasure then we have holy unity. The giving of our body to the partner is an act of worship to God as we use our body as He directs. So we are in unity of purpose with Him in an act He has decreed to be done which is necessary to fulfil His command to populate the earth. Holy union occurs when love is the motive for all things and not lust and there is common purpose in the hearts of both partners to place Jesus Lord and His Principles first in all things including sex.

It is love for the spouse also that drives us to give them pleasure before our own. Love seeks the benefit of another before their own, the pleasure of another before their own. So an act of sex in this holy unity will be Godly, a form of worship and give glory to God. In this relationship there are no sexual problems or relational problems as the love needed for this is first worked out in the marriage outside of sex and what happens in sex is a reflection of this.

Sex is an expression of the spiritual relationship between a husband and his wife and reflects the degree of love, intimacy and trust in the marriage relationship. If there are sexual problems in a marriage then get the relationship right and then you will find many other problems are sorted out. When the relationship is what God wants it to be then all will be in place and He can bless the marriage.

Before sex and even before going to sleep generally, each partner should make certain the other partner has not been offended by them or has nothing against them as this will hinder their intimacy, sleep and holy unity before God!

At times, rather than having sex a woman just wants to be held close to feel comfort and security in the embrace of her husband. Sex at this time may make her feel all you are interested in is her body and that you do not appreciate her as a person who has emotions and feelings that need to be met. Sex may follow your showing your love and appreciation of her and not asking for it but it will be a natural response to your love for her and not something demanded because she is your wife.

Sex should not occur when the wife has an emotional need that needs to be met first. As you meet this need in her she will see your love for her as a person and will be able to respond to your advances.

Sex that is based on love is gentle and secondary to the joy of just being next to their spouse.

Lust results in passion and getting what you can sensually out of the act.

Love results in serving the spouse and giving them pleasure before your own.

A man who loves his wife will delight to give her pleasure before his own pleasure and will rejoice in her response to his giving her pleasure and by this obtain the desires he wants from sex. He does not take them but accepts them as a response to his love expressed physically to her.

Marriage is very tactile (touchy/feely) and if this is missing something is missing from the marriage:

The touching ranges from holding hands to full body contact (in sex) and a woman that does not have the supportive loving touch of her husband as well as words that shows his love for her will not be as secure in the matrimonial relationship as she should be.

It should be a loving touch that will draw her to him and not a lustful touch that will drive her away!

Unions in sex

In sex, souls unite and on this physical plane there is great pleasure because of this touching of souls and the ties that are made as a result. You have a soul tie to everyone you have sex in that demons can use to access you and these need to be dealt with before marriage. They need to be broken and healed in Jesus' Name and all the demons, that have use them at any time, sent to Jesus to be dealt with.

Where the union is of both spirits because of their unity in The Spirit the pleasure is purer and of the type that is experienced between husband and wife when they are in heaven (when they agree to live as a couple). This is where spirits are one and love is the basis for the sex act on earth. This is when sex is gentle and peaceful and the couple can release all their love and emotions to each other as lust and desire for the other person's body is not there but a desire for who the person is replaces lust with all the consequences in the spiritual that occurs in the subsequent expression in the physical (sexual pleasure) of their spiritual desire for each other.

This is why good sex is on a spiritual plane while that which Satan promotes is on a physical plane and is a poor inferior version of that which God has ordained for married couples.

Sex - the approach to the other person's body

You should approach your spouse's body with reverence. Your spouse has exposed herself to you with the object of giving you pleasure at the expense of her own pleasure so you should appreciate them for this. Their body is also the Temple of The Holy Spirit and should not be polluted by lustful acts!

So you approach your spouse's body gently and reverently in love showing these qualities to her as you seek to give her pleasure before your own.

Your caress and touch of her body should be gentle and delicate and not violent or lustful so that your love for your spouse shows through all you do to them.

The spiritual element of sex should also be present and if you approach her body gently this will be there and it will draw you closer together and the love expressed can only come from the spirit and will strike a chord in the love of your spouse for you and draw her closer to you.

The joy of just being next to her should also be there so lust does not become the reason for the sexual encounter. It is the joy of doing something with someone you love which should be present in all you do together and not just the sex act.

Lust has no part in sex as God meant it to be which is why Satan promotes lust in sex and uses it to trap people through it.

God is love so sex should be an act of love and done in a loving, gentle, tender way and all the qualities that epitomise love should be shown in the way you caress and stroke your partners body.

Do not forget to thank your spouse for the pleasure she has given you through the sex act as she has exposed herself to you emotionally physically, spiritually and mentally and for this you should thank your spouse that she has loved you enough to risk doing this.

Sex done this way us an act of worship to God as it an expression of the type of Love he has to people and by this will also bring Him Glory!

If sex is done as an act of love it will be gentle and preoccupied with love for each other flowing between them. It is only when it is selfish and lustful it is passionate and/or violent as each seeks to use the other to obtain maximum pleasure for themselves.

Shyness

A woman may be shy and not want to be naked before her husband. She may feel ashamed being naked. Deliverance is needed for the fears that her body may not be acceptable to her husband. There may also be sexual abuse or other damage to her self-image from childhood or a previous marriage that needs to be dealt with.

A husband who loves his wife spiritually will not criticise her body as it is the one God has given his spouse and he should accept it as such. To criticise her body is to question God's allowing her to be like that. There may be a need to lose weight but it needs to be for health reasons and not for her appearance to please her husband.

Using sex as compensation

Sex should not be used to:

- Fill up your emotional tank
- as a reward
- to feel accepted
- to feel loved
- to fulfil through guilt your sexual role
- to show you are a mature adult

If you can not love your spouse or meet their emotional need then you need deliverance.

Sex is an expression of love to another (your spouse). It should not be used to meet a need God or your spouse should meet. If it is used this way then the purpose of it (an expression of pure love to each other) is defeated.

Defrauding the spouse sexually

We are told not to defraud our spouse in regard to sex. This can occur in two ways:

Not giving them sex when you should

Not giving them sex in the way God wants you to give it to them (in love putting their pleasure before your own).

How much control do you have over the body of your spouse? None!

They are stewards of it and not you but they must not deprive you of sex (the pleasure of their body) if there is no valid reason to do so.

When sex is a result of love, it does not need to be demanded by a spouse. It will be a natural out flowing of the love and desire on the relationship to each other.

If you demand sex then one or both of you need deliverance. Sex is a gift of your spouse and not a right for you to ask for. If you need to ask or beg for it then you or your spouse need deliverance in an area of your life.

Sex is a gift from God

God did not need to make it necessary to have sex for reproductive purposes or to make it pleasurable. So we should thank God for this great gift and the pleasure we get from it.

A wife makes herself vulnerable so they can give their husband pleasure in sex. A husband should appreciate this and show his appreciation of this to her even if it is only by holding her close without asking for sex and by this showing she is loved for who she is as a person.

What one does not appreciate becomes misused or cheapened after a while. Appreciate your partner for all they do for you and your love will never wane.

Sexual Techniques and problems

You must listen to the Holy Spirit so He can Tell you what God does not want you to do in your sexual activities as not all that the world considers to be normal sex is from God. If you listen to your spouse they will tell you what gives them pleasure as well as what they feel comfortable doing.

You must never force your spouse to do something sexually they do not want to do as that is not love and they will be offended and Satan may bring fear into the relationship. At best they will have unease. At worst they will be afraid to have sex with you and will used or like a prostitute.

The husband must put His wife's pleasure before his own. The reason a woman feels sex more keenly than a man does is because it is a reward for child bearing and childbirth. The man feels it less keenly as for him it is a reward for protecting the wife and providing for her which is far less painful than childbirth so to not put her pleasure first is to misunderstand these rewards.

Many women complain their spouse does not satisfy them and leaves them unfulfilled and at times they feel used and like a prostitute (their words not mine). It is the responsibility of the man to satisfy the woman before himself. That is what love does in a marriage. It satisfies the needs of the spouse before their own.

All women need preparation before their husband can penetrate them. The preparation is not just spiritual and emotional but also needs to be physical through appropriate foreplay and possibly an orgasm for the woman. The husband who loves his wife will prepare her in whatever way she needs to be prepared for him to enter her and give her pleasure as he does it.

When having sex remember a woman likes her husband to look at her and kiss her. So focus on her eyes and let her see your love for her in them and do not neglect her lips. She will see your love for her in her eyes and that will help her prepare you accept you into her. as well as heighten the pleasure once you are in her.

Do not fall for the trap of trying sex positions that require gymnastic agility or that cause her discomfort or unease. Sex is a merging of spirits expressed in the flesh and should be comfortable as well as pleasurable. Anything that reduces sexual pleasure for a partner is wrong and may cause the partner to feel unloved to a degree as you may be getting pleasure but theirs is lessened.

Love also does not demand sex when the other is unwell or does not feel like it because of other problems. It meets these needs of the spouse before thinking of their own pleasure.

Miscellaneous Matters

Femininity

Femininity is an attitude. It is not something you can act as it is a part of your core nature as a female. It is a result of correctly appreciating who you are as a woman and approaching your God-given roles in a correct way.

It is a result of correct self-value, self-worth and self-esteem and is found only in a correct relationship with Jesus which is why people who do not follow the values of Jesus have a warped femininity in which lust is involved. Because you are whole emotionally you can show yourself to others as you are: a Godly, feminine, woman expressing womanhood as Jesus meant it to be expressed.

Deliverance is usually needed for a woman to express her femininity and approach her God-given female roles as Jesus wants her too.

Communicating Femininity

A woman can only express her femininity in its fullest expression if she does not need too:

Defend herself, or

Needs to seek appreciation from her husband as he does not show it to her,
or

is not abused by abusive or incorrect headship, or

is loved conditionally by her husband, or

has no hurts requiring deliverance that stops her expressing herself.

Do you want to have a wife who can express her femininity to its fullest then love her unconditionally and appreciate her for who she is and serve her in all you do especially in headship.

Woman, do you want a husband who will express headship and masculinity correctly to him then do to him what you would he do to you!

Why does a woman need to believe she is beautiful?

Why does a woman want to be told a lie that she is beautiful when she is not?

Why does she need to believe a lie to feel good and have self esteem?

God has made her as she is. Why does she not accept herself as God made her and want to believe a lie about something she is not?

God does not work this way of getting self-esteem through lies. Only Satan does.

A woman should be appreciated and love for who she is and not whom she wants to be. A husband should not have to lie about her looks to her and be a hypocrite so that the relationship in part is built on lies. She is to be loved for who she is as God made her and not as she would like to be.

A husband who loves his wife for who she is and not what media or Satan says she should be is doing her honour and is loving her as he should so that the relationship is built on truth and not in part on lies.

How can God use a woman whose esteem is based on lies when He wants her to speak His Truths.

Satan trains women from childhood to get worth from what people say about them. This is possible because of the insecurity of men and the attitude of society generally in which women are at times considered second class citizens or inferior to men. The fact he controls the world's media also assists him in this.

Women are trained from infant hood to get their worth from people around them and not from Jesus so if someone says something that implies they are inferior in some way they go to pieces and attack the person instead of going to The Holy Spirit and asking Him if there was any truth in that statement. In otherwords, how does Jesus see the situation.

Cindi wrote : I agree with what you wrote. Women that are pretty though often need deliverance from rejection because they are pretty. No one judges them by who they really are but what they look like. This is just as bad as being ugly. Women no matter what they look like need to take it up with the creator as He made them the way He pleases. He thinks we are all beautiful

Jacqueline wrote: Where does true beauty come from ? it comes from within us. The world has other criteria and totally misses the point. If there is true love between the couple, the question you raise is not an issue at all. Cause the man sees her as beautiful. It is in the eyes, the window of the soul. The real ugliness, lies in a person who is not delivered from her hurts, her pain and bitterness of past traumas, this will

be shown on their whole body, especially in their faces. This is the real ugliness, not the features - me thinks.

The Bible says:

Pro 31:30 Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades. The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-GOD.

1Pe 3:3-4 What matters is not your outer appearance--the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.

When a woman reacts to comment about her appearance or abilities it is because her worth and esteem are based on these and not on who she is in Jesus and so she has to defend these because she will have lesser or no self-esteem if these are removed or found wanting. She should not react but ask The Holy Spirit if anything said is true and if she needs to change something or ignore the criticism and rest in the Love of Jesus for her.

To believe she is imperfect or is not as she believes she should be is to say to God that He has made a mistake with how she is and at that moment God does not know what He is doing as He has made her inadequate or imperfect for the situation she is in. This of course is a lie of the devil .

To react is also to be offended and hurt so these compound the situation and also need to be dealt with.

The husband who loves his wife for who she is and how she looks will always find her beautiful both physically and spiritually. The husband who wants a model for a wife will always be unsatisfied either physically and usually spiritually and the marriage will fail as the premise for it is wrong. It is not based on who she really is but who they want her to be.

The Love of God in a person will never react or attack in self defence but ask The Spirit what to do. It is the spirit behind beauty in the world which demands that all be beautiful that will attack through a person whose beauty is criticised in some way.

So one should never react at a negative comment but ask The Spirit what to do about it. This will stop problems in the marriage as nothing will offend your spouse if their worth is in Jesus and not what they think they should be.

A husband should love his wife as she is and not as he thinks she should look or be. He should not have to lie to love her in the way she wants to be loved and appreciated. They both should get their esteem from Jesus and who He has made them and not from what the world says they should be. When their esteem is from Jesus then they can serve Him as He desire them to serve Him.

Releasing the woman's Potential

One of the benefits of loving your wife as Jesus does is that she will have no defence mechanisms when she relates to you so that she can be the woman God wants her to be which will allow her femininity to be a part of the way she relates to you.

This will allow you to release your masculinity towards her without fear of rejection and in this type of relationship you will both be able to carry out your God-given roles as God intended them to be done of which giving you partner pleasure (sex) is one.

When you love your wife as Jesus does she will respond to you in all areas of her life: emotional, physical and spiritual, so that you will be fulfilled by her love as she is fulfilled by your love. She will express her femininity and be an ornament to the marriage and to you. Both of you will be able to fully express yourself without fear of rejection and defence mechanisms being triggered and in this relationship will the Lord Jesus be expressed and Glorified.

Relaxation and Entertainment

If you love your spouse you will desire to do things together because you enjoy each other's company as well as giving your spouse pleasure through the activities you do together. When necessary you also give each other time to be alone with God and their thoughts, hobbies or activities she likes to do alone and deny yourself time with them that allows them to do these things because you love them.

You will do things to please them even though you do not enjoy them because your love for them takes away the effort of doing the activity. In all this you love to serve them and ensure they enjoy the activity with you.

The couple that plays together as well as works, communicates truthfully how they feel and prays together will be strong in the Lord and serve His Purposes.

Wives and their temperature

Women feel the heat in different ways to men. They feel either colder than men or hotter than men and a good husband will find out his wife's preference for temperature and modify their living environment to meet her needs in this area.

In-laws

While parents and parents-in-law are ones to consult with the only inputs they should have into a marriage is:

- to draw the couple closer to Jesus
- to draw the couple closer to each other
- to help them with a real need or problem

Anything else is not showing love to their child as love ministers and a minister is a servant and not a master.

They are to be servants to the marriage, guided by The Holy Spirit and not controllers of the situation unless the children give them this control as it is necessary for them to have it to help them.

If the children do not want help or do not take the advice of the parents then the parents need to withdraw and let the children make their own mistakes and be ready to help them pick up any pieces they need help with.

They should always be praying for their children, spouse of their child and grandchildren.

Wives and Exhaustion

When a wife marries a person it is not because she has responded to an add like the following:

Wanted: Sex Slave, cook and housekeeper who can cook and keep house like my mother and make love like they do on Television. No holidays. No guarantee of a good night's sleep. Must be good with children and be able to provide a few for me. Preferably looks like a super model but attractive females can apply. No holidays or pay is provided or guaranteed rest periods for the first 15 years. This is not a performance pay occupation and wages are minimal if at all etc.

If that is how you got a bride there would be few children ever born.

When a woman says “I do”, and places a wedding ring on her finger, she is not saying:

“I promise to be your slave till one of us dies, provide sex on demand and expect you to do no housework”. She is saying: “I do love you and ask out of your love for me to help me with the housework and support me in my roles when I need it”.

The wife always has more to do than the husband unless she is an invalid.

A wife has stresses a husband often does not realize which can exhaust the wife physically, emotionally or mentally. A husband needs to realize these and help his wife through them. Common ones are:

Housework that is too much for the wife as there is disorder in the house

Unrealistic demands being made on the wife by the husband

Childbirth and the events following (such as the midnight feeds, looking after the additional workload of a baby).

Things that are additional to her workload because of his activities at work or recreation

Additional work resulting from her doing things he should be doing.

If a husband is correctly carrying out his role as head of his wife domestically he will also be carrying out correctly his role as her steward, the steward of a great gift God has given him. It is failure in his being a good steward that results in the wife becoming exhausted.

In the normal course of events of daily living a wife should never get exhausted if her husband is a good steward of her as he will help her bear the load so she will not get exhausted. He will also back up her discipline in the house and ensure that the children will also be trained to keep the house tidy and help their mother when needed. This will be because of his love for her that does not want to see her hurt or weary unnecessarily that will cause him to serve her and help her with any additional burdensome load she has at that time.

It will also be because of the love for the children that wants to see them able to look after themselves and run a household one day.

Even though there are defined roles and service in a marriage there is nothing stopping the husband or wife helping the other as needed or requested. Love

does not see boundaries to service but only a need that someone has that they should help them with.

So if one spouse is tired then the other will help them and help bear their burden so they will be able to cope and not be exhausted.

While a husband may not be able to bear the activity that causes the stress, an example is childbirth or menstruation, he can help the wife by doing things for her that will not cause her additional stress or exhaust her.

He cannot carry the emotional or spiritual burdens that occur from past hurts but he can support her and help her through the deliverance necessary to deal with them.

He cannot help her with the stress of submitting to headship but he can show the love that removes this stress and help his wife by making commands to her that are out of love for her and also by helping her with any deliverance necessary to submit as she should.

There is no excuse for one spouse placing on the other spouse stresses that will exhaust them. Love does not do this. If this occurs then there is need for deliverance or changes in attitude that will allow the love that should be there that will stop their being stressed and exhausted.

This is different to a spouse refusing to relate to the other or let them help them. Major deliverance is necessary in a case like this.

Remember that you are also stewards of each other as God has given you each other to be as one in heart, mind, body and spirit so in a sense what you do to them you do to yourself.

Christmas Day Preparations

It is Christmas week. The husband has come home happy and relaxed from the Christmas party, sits down and relaxes.

The wife is in the middle of:

Doing the Christmas card

Organising food for Christmas dinner

Organising table presentation for Christmas dinner

Preparing to cook Christmas dinner

Organizing presents

Organizing the children's social life in the holidays

He watches television and relaxes and goes to bed refreshed and relaxed and wonders why the wife does not feel like sex and has a 'headache'.

On Christmas day she:

Gets up while he sleeps in

Sets the table

Cooks

Serves the meal

Clears up the table

Washes up

Puts everything away

Has to serve the evening meal

Repeat most of the above steps again.

He sits with his friends or the relatives or watches television. After all he has mowed the lawns and made the outside of the house presentable so his work is done as far as he is concerned.

She goes to bed exhausted. He once again asks for sex and wonders why she rolls over says she has a headache and treats him as if he was not there. She probably does not have enough energy to even reply to him.

The Bible says for husbands to love their wives. If a husband loves his wife he will help her when it is necessary so the burden on her is less. She will appreciate him and be able to respond to his advances in some way to show her love for him, even if it is not sex but appreciation of what he has done for her. A husband who loves his wife will serve her as needed.

In sickness

When a wife is sick some husbands expect their wife to continue to do their normal duties. If a husband loves his wife they will ask how they can help them with housework or other duties as well as look at ways to help them get better quickly.

A wife will also help her husband when he is sick.

Gal 6:2 "Bear ye one anothers burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ"

Exhausting a wife (by Susan)

In our betrothal period Susan wrote the following:

Oh how profoundly wise and how you have been gifted to speak and tell the nations. This is of UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

Not many or extremely very few men realise this. You have written it perfectly!

My heart and i would dare to say the heart and deep desire of every woman. It is a common discussion between women that men never understand the harshness of childbirth and their physical problems. -As soon as the baby is born the mother is often forgotten and is expected to be in total health and believe me I remember the first 6 weeks -2 months as the hardest of all as the body is recovering from a huge ordeal from labour.

Sometimes it takes longer!

Women keep going beyond their exhaustion levels as they are conditioned usual to do so even by their own mothers and fellow women as the thoughts of judgement and failure according to their opinions is profound.

Pressure, Instead of the Biblical role of the older women teaching the younger it is mostly unreal stories of triumph and great pressure of not being able to do as she should or must be able therefore she feels inadequate and then the husband comes in with demands and there is an extra and most personal judgement and burden from him which has a lot to do with conditions such as depression and indeed post natal depression.

I suffered a mild form after Brendan was born as I was told I was a masochist and destructive mother as I had him circumcised.

A choice I made through my medical knowledge and my Obstetrician's advice.

As well as the terrible physical onslaught of a first birth that left me with a dreadful infection and sick the absolute pressure to be smiling and perfect - up at 5 am after being up most of the night - having the house perfect and a happy quiet baby I can assure you it takes it's toll. I became obsessed with him being uncomfortable or hurt and visions of seeing him wounded made me paranoid. I sought the Lord and had deliverance from him on my own, however it was a very difficult time. Just a little background All my births had problems and exhaustion became a common reality and perfection an obsession - I was known to change my babies total clothing nearly 5 times a night if they dribbled at all! lol

Any way I must sound quite insane to you!

However I loved my babies with a passion! I saw them as a gift from the Lord and I had to be a perfect steward of them for Him. Now my message will be one of experience I assure you!

Wish you were there my beloved!

My first husband was very good especially with colic nights but not in understanding my feelings - he said it was a choice and get over it.

This is an area men often run from and say it is women's business when it is the couples most intimate business and bonding time. The wife is at her most vulnerable and many women carry the hurts of these times with them forever. I hear 90 year olds recall their stories with such clarity as if it was yesterday in regards to their husbands treatment of them during those times.

Men do not realise this I am sure.

Legalism is not kind and indeed causes love to diminish overtime. Men must become aware of that as well.

Women usually bear long and through much but over time that will birth resentment and the result may be as in the case of Brendan's friend's mum. Suddenly it becomes too much and poof they run out of survival mode, or give up and live in sadness, depression and sickness as a result. It is true the wife's health may be in the husband's hands to a great extent - that may well be why Paul said that men should love their wives as Christ loved the church! The health and life - salvation - belonged to Him and according to His loving sacrifice.

A thought!

I am a person and a child of God and in marriage should have equal say in dealing with any problems and expression is a very large part of a woman's role if her husband describes it as 'nagging' then he is disregarding the attempts of his wife to be honest and making an excuse to ridicule her and run from the problems blaming her and exonerating himself from all part - in that ruining her love and respect for him.

A wife's respect comes from the every day dealings she encounters with her husband or betrothed.

I thank you for your insight and love, I respect you so much more my dear!!!!

Bless you for hearing the Holy Spirit!!

Love'

Just as faith without works is dead so love without works is also dead

The Covering of a Wife

The concept of covering as used by the church is the protection (covering) of someone or something because you have authority over it. People are told to come under the authority of this covering if they are in a church. Outside a church they are told to join a church and come under the covering

In a sense the concept of covering is an extension of stewardship or ownership. Jesus owns us so He is our covering spiritually and physically when He is our Lord. Our covering is our position in His Kingdom as His citizen and adopted 'son of God'. He is our King and has this responsibility so for a person to say they are our covering is assuming the position Jesus has over a person (1 Pet 2:25).

Jesus may ask people to carry out the responsibility of physically protecting people and providing for their needs but this is either because they have been made a steward of that person or they have been made a spiritual mentor of that person (only in respect of the lessons they have to be taught) for a period of time. To assume physical protection and also assume spiritual protection is to abuse the spiritual covering of Jesus over that person. Peter himself says that Jesus is the covering of our souls (spiritual covering):

1Pe 2:25 For you were straying like lost sheep, but now you have come back to the Shepherd and Protector of your souls.

We are stewards of the things of God which means we work in the physical protecting them but as all are stewards of the things of God no one has authority over another in this.

1 Cor 4:1 states: Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

We are stewards of the knowledge of God and His Kingdom in this world and the ministry that Jesus has of deliverance of salvation and from the effects of Satan's kingdom on a Christian and comforting those in need. Nowhere does it say in the Bible we are spiritual stewards of another Christian. We may be used to guide them spiritually (and in this sense have spiritual authority over them) but do not have the spiritual authority to command them to do anything.

Eph 5:1-2 I Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Eph 6:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

There is no principle of spiritual headship in the relationships between Christians as we are to submit to each other as necessary for the purposes of The Kingdom of God and the purposes of Jesus.

The only example of submission (giving authority to another over your life) is in Eph 5:22 and that is for the purposes of The Kingdom and order in the family. This headship is only physical and not spiritual and is for the purposes of providing for and protecting the wife.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

As it can be seen the concept of covering can only be applied to Jesus except where He has delegated domestic headship authority for the protection of the wife and family or a partial spiritual authority for the purposes of mentoring.

No where in the Bible is his role as our shepherd and bishop delegated to another. Ministries to others are in accordance with His guidelines to help them mature in Jesus

Eph 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of

People are given to the body to help them be like Jesus. The Holy Spirit is their guide. He may use them to guide people but they are not sent to be leaders but servants to the church. A servant does what their master tells them too and does not tell the master what to do. When they do express authority it is only because the master has told them what to do and not because they have had the authority to do this.

Submission in the Bible is for the sake of serving another in Love where you place yourself at their service to meet their need, or the submitting to the maturity of another Christian so they can help guide you to maturity or advise you on problems. This type of submission is not permanent and lasts only as long as the need for submission is there. Note it is not control but allowing another to dictate in part or whole what you are to do as you serve them and this controls what you do

for them . In this service or mentoring alone is partial spiritual authority given to another over a person in spiritual things and even then it is only because the person represents Jesus and what Jesus wants to tell or do for that person and it is only for the season of mentoring and no longer.

The laws of the land give authority to one over another but that is for administrative and protective purposes of the land and is not for spiritual things.

The Covering of Women

Headship and the physical 'covering' of a wife go together. Whoever is your spiritual head is said to be your covering. In the case of a wife it is said her husband is her spiritual covering as he is her spiritual head. We have shown that headship over a wife is only domestic and not spiritual so this statement cannot be true in a marriage.

The covering of the husband is only domestic as he has been given care and protection of the wife (only on earth) and is to be a good steward of her but needs her to submit to his decision making for this to happen. Even then marriage is more a partnership of equals than a dictatorship.

Who then is the wife's spiritual covering. Jesus is her spiritual covering. She serves Him and she answers to Him spiritually so He is her authority and her covering (1 Pet 2:25). She submits 'as to The Lord' and then as result of this to her husband (Eph 5:22).

Her spiritual protection is not from man but from her position in The kingdom of God as a citizen of Jesus who she calls and obeys as Lord and Master. She is under the spiritual protection of Jesus and as long as He is her Lord she has His protection.

Submission to the husband is purely because Jesus asks her too and if she loves her husband it is also out of the desire to serve him out of her love for him.

The covering of single women is Jesus and He is their spiritual and domestic head unless they are still children under their parents in which case the parents are their covering as the parents are their provider and protection (stewardship of them) as God has declared that the children be submissive to them.

There are two passages to do with headship (and thus covering) in marriage where the term is usually applied: Eph 5:22 ff and 1 Pet 3:1-7. In the passage in 1 Peter, (dealt with previously) the domestic relationship only is dealt with as the Christian wife belongs to a different spiritual kingdom (that of The Father) to the

husband (that of the Father's enemy, Satan) so there is no connection of authority lines in the spiritual. If we say there is then Ephesians and 1 Peter 3 contradict each other and the Bible does not do that so headship can only be domestic as the passage in Ephesians must agree with the one in 1 Peter 3:1-6.

A non-Christian cannot be the spiritual covering of a woman and can only be a physical provider and protector of her. This passage alone must remove the man as a wife's spiritual covering as he belongs to the kingdom of Satan and God would not place a Christian wife under the authority of Satan again.

The wife is covered by whoever is in authority over her, so spiritually it is Jesus and domestically it is Husband. In a church to place the pastor as your spiritual covering is to take away Jesus. I see no delegation or appointment of this role by Jesus to a pastor as there is with the casting out of demons. There are qualifications mentioned but no delegation of authority by Jesus. (1 Pet 2:25)

A minister is not the covering of a congregation. Jesus said the minister is a servant so cannot be the master except by example or people submitting themselves to learn from them or be guided by them but then this submission is only as long as they need to submit themselves to the minister for these purposes to be fulfilled.

There is the problem of serving two masters if the minister has authority over a congregation. You cannot serve the minister and Jesus usually as the minister is not perfect and does not know the plans of God to advise you each individually what to do. Only The Holy Spirit can tell us our part and that is why He has been given to lead us and not another person.

An elder has to rule his household well domestically before he can be given spiritual oversight over others (note not authority but the right to help them spiritually – mentorship). Unless he can rule the physical area of his life (himself and his family) in accordance with God's requirements, there is no way God will let him have an spiritual oversight of other people.

One who has oversight of another has care of it for Jesus and must do what they are told to do in regard to that person while one who has authority over something can usually do what they want with it. Ministers are given oversight and must do what Jesus says to do with what they have been entrusted with as stewards. Until you are led by The Holy Spirit in all things you cannot be given oversight of anything as you do not know what Jesus wants done with it (unless the Bible clearly shows you what to do with it).

A leader is a servant and advisor not a master to command others. He serves spiritually through meeting the spiritual needs of others . He is not a ruler but a mature person people come to consult for help with problems and as such he has oversight in the sense of meeting their spiritual needs rather than command them to do things. He can only advise them. It is up to the recipient of the advise whether they accept it or not.

The moment a mentor controls what another does rather than advising them what to do they usurp the role of Jesus by becoming their master instead of Him.

Unless it is a denominational matter a leader cannot warn you or tell you to stop doing something. He is not your moral judge. Jesus and The Bible are! The denomination minister can only advise you what denominational guidelines are as well as what the result of breaking them could be. They can exclude you from denominational premises for breaking the guidelines of the denomination though but that is only breaking man's laws not those of God.

It is to be noted that if you cannot love and minister to your wife whom God has given He cannot give you others of his flock to love and minister too on His behalf.

Whenever the family is mentioned, the relationship is domestic as the spiritual relationship is between each member of the family and God as part of the body of Christ. It is reflected in your relationship with others but for a wife call her husband Lord or Master spiritually is to remove Jesus from this spiritual headship. This is idolatry.

When God created everything he did not make women. They were made after the six days of creation and were not created from the dust of the earth but from Adam's flesh. Thus showing their dependence on man and the oneness they can have in Jesus as well as the incompleteness of man without them.

If a man ignores this dependence of his wife on his provision and protection as well as the unity they both can have in Jesus he will have strife in his marriage all the days of his life. If a wife does not submit and depend on her husband's rule in the family, she will have strife all the days of her life.

A rib was removed. A rib is used to protect the lungs where the breath of life is. So from the life of man woman was made and he is to ensure this life continues in her spiritually as a helpmeet to her in her spiritual life and not as master of her spiritual life.

An Example of failed headship

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

This command was given to Adam before Eve was made and it is assumed Adam then relayed it to her after she was created. Thus there was a spiritual element and a domestic element.

Adam's Sin

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Adam was commanded to protect the Garden and cultivate it as a service to God. The Garden was part of the Kingdom of God and in it was the tree of good and evil (v17). So having been given care of the Garden He was also commanded not to eat the fruit of one specific tree. His sin was not doing what He was told so that the tree was not protected. He failed in his stewardship of eve and the tree and as a result she ate of the fruit. So both sinned as a result of Adam's poor stewardship.

Through this disobedience sin entered the world through Adam and not Eve. Because of sin, death and decay entered and will not be removed until the new heavens and earth is made by Jesus and all that was under the effects of Satan and the fall are removed forever from the earth.

Perhaps this is a wake-up call to Christians to tend what they have as a good stewards of it as to do otherwise is sin and will lead to more sin.

Adam was held responsible for sin entering the world. Why? Eve ate the forbidden fruit and gave it to him to eat so she ate first. Why was hers not the first sin?

If he had guarded the tree properly he would not have allowed Eve to eat so he appears to have given into Eve's desire for the fruit or was negligent in his stewardship of the tree. Adam also had not fulfilled his headship role in protecting Eve. As a result of this she sinned. He did not apply his headship to stop her eating the fruit of the tree and so was guilty of abusing his headship and being a bad steward of the wife he had been given by God.

The consequence was that eve sinned but his sinning in stewardship and failing in his headship responsibilities were really the first sins which crystallised the moment she took the fruit and not just when she ate it.

This was when Adam and Eve rejected the authority of God and as a result were no longer citizens of the Kingdom of God and were expelled from the Garden of Eden which was part of The Kingdom of God. They had listened to another god. Satan, the god of this world.

Now if Eve had obeyed God (spiritual obedience) then there would have been no sin. If Eve had obeyed Adam (domestic headship not spiritual as his authority over the earth was only domestic) then there would have been no sin either. If Adam had been a better head of the household then Eve would have obeyed him and not eaten the forbidden fruit because of her love for him and the care he had given to her. He did not do his role of protecting her from evil but actually joined in with her in this sin and thus compounded further this fall from God's Grace.

It shows the wife has two authority figures over her. If spiritual authority over her had been given to the man Satan would not have said:

(Gen 3:1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

If Adam was the spiritual authority over Eve Satan would have not used God's Name but Adam's name as he would have been the one she was to answer spiritually to, being the one placed above her in line of spiritual authority. But God was used, as He was the spiritual authority over Adam and Eve.

This is first and perhaps the best example of the dangers of headship in a family not being in place.

While a man does not have spiritual headship over a wife he has responsibilities to help her keep from sin and grow in the grace and Knowledge of The Lord Jesus the spiritual head of them both and their covering.

People say men are covered by other men but nowhere in the Bible is this arrangement mentioned

If a person has been given protection of another through the laws of the land they are their physical (legal) protection. The person who is their covering can be either male or female as it is to do with man's laws and not God's. The law cannot give a person spiritual covering over another which is why denominations cannot give the right to their minister to be the spiritual covering of a congregation. For the purposes of the domination a minister has legal right over a congregation but

for the purposes of the body, of which Jesus is the head, a church (which is part of the body) cannot have anyone as its head. It can have an overseer but their role is not to rule but to develop and protect spiritually the faith of those in it and not to judge or rule over their faith.

It is because churches confuse denominational authority with the headship of Jesus that the confusion arises and ministers think they have spiritual headship/cov-
ering over the body of Christ which worships in their denominational building.

The example of the failed headship of Abraham (Gen 16)

Why does a man fail in headship? Because he ignores what God has said or promised. Abraham disobeyed God as He did not believe the promises of God. He listened to reason and tried to bring the promised heir into existence using the methods his wife suggested (her maid bear him a child).

Failed headship always results in problems. Adam's sin lost paradise and resulted in death for all. Abraham's sin resulted in a son, Ishmael, who has been the enemy of his natural son Isaac for thousands of years resulting in many wars, death and destructions.

Both these men had seen God, had spoken to him yet ignored what God had said or promised to them. Even though they spoke face to face with God they did not believe him!

To fail headship take your focus off Jesus, His Commands and the promises He has made to you so listen to another or Satan as they ask you to do things contrary to what God has asked, promised or said to do.

Like all things God commands you are not judged because you tried and failed but because you purposely did not do what He asked or commanded you to do.

Sanctifying the non-Christian spouse

1 Cor 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy

The Children of a marriage belong to God until they can decide for or against Him. For this reason a Christian spouse 'sanctifies' a non-Christian spouse. This is why a Christian should not leave a non-Christian unless their body or mind is in danger and if they leave they should take the children with them.

The sanctification referred to is not spiritual (in other words because they belong to God) as the non-Christian is still a member of the kingdom of the enemy. Sanctification means to identify as belonging to someone and God is saying the non-Christian spouse is under God's covering for the sake of the Christian spouse and the children. This means God will bless them because of the faithfulness of the Christian as a parent and spouse.

The moment the non-Christian leaves the marriage they are no longer sanctified for the purposes of the marriage and is now fully at the mercy of Satan.

So this sanctification is recognition by God that the Christian spouse and children belong to Him and the non-Christian is part of the family group so that God deals mercifully with the non-Christian for the sake of the wife and children.

More on Marriage

The attitudes/emotions we should have in a marriage

Satan has convinced the world that marriage is sex, emotional pleasure and doing things together. He has managed to remove God's Love and Lordship from the marriage (as they should be expressed by Christians to each other) and from the attitudes and emotions we should have in marriage.

As a Christian, your spouse is foremost a fellow Christian to love as Jesus loves as well as a fellow servant in ministry. An equal in the eyes of God (Gal 3:28). Therefore we are to love them as Jesus loves them - putting their needs first in all things.

While the man is the emotional support for the wife he is only a support to help her rely on Jesus Spiritually and should help her to focus on Jesus and His spiritual protection of her.

The differences between a relationship and marriage is the same as the difference between a brother and sister and your spouse and you. You are able to do things brothers and sisters cannot do or should not do.

- You spend more time together (live together) and work jointly at the ministry Jesus gives you.
- There is intimacy and sex and other physical pleasures you are allowed to indulge in
- You are authorised (by God) to have children as well as raise them. (Some may only be able to raise spiritual children others physical and spiritual children. God can give you children if He needs you to have them if not then He will give you better).
- You have some one to lift you if you fall or to encourage you through the deepest trials as no other can (Ec 4:9-10)
- You are able to fulfil your role as male or female in a way you cannot fully do if you are not married.

Satan has tried to make marriage an emotional exercise so you cannot minister as you should to your spouse or others. Love is not emotion driven. It releases emotion. By making love emotion driven Satan has made people react emotion-

ally and not stop and ask Jesus what to do. This is why so many marriages are not as they should be.

Satan will try and guide your reactions, emotions and reason if Jesus is not Lord of them so that you will do what he is suggesting you do. He cannot control what you do not let him have control of and the best way to stop Satan having control is to make sure it belongs to Jesus and is guided by The Holy Spirit.

People are reacting and not standing back and asking The Holy Spirit what to do - what Jesus wants done in the marriage or situation. They are listening to their emotions or reason and thus clouding The Voice of The Holy Spirit.

To obey Jesus you must die to self so emotions and reason do not cloud your hearing Him. This is the problem with marriages. Emotion and feeling have replaced hearing Jesus as people have believed the lie that these are proper reactions to things because of what Satan has declared the acceptable way to relate to others through his control of the media.

Dying to self is controlling our natural reactions and stepping back from them so we can hear The Holy Spirit and this is how we should relate not just in marriage but in all situations.

Unity of behaviour

A spouse will expect the character and behaviour of their spouse not to change after marriage. In fact their love for each other should grow even more as the marriage progresses. If the character and attitudes of your spouse change after the marriage it means before marriage they were a hypocrite pretending to be something they are not or they need deliverance to remain consistent in their behaviour.

In Sickness and in Death

Love does not require the other person to love you back in return.

What happens if your spouse becomes:

Mentally ill, or

Physically debilitated through illness or accident, or

Is dying from a terminal illness?

Jesus may heal them. If he does not ask why.

If it is demonic blockage you need to remove it.

If it is not His Will to heal then ask why

If it is any other reason then deal with it

These answers will make the situation easier to bear.

If He does not say why there is no healing then you must fall back on three principles:

You do not need to know

It is not time to know, or

He is testing your faith

Mat 6:33 applies. You need to trust Him and leave it in His hands

The spouse may be incapable of showing love to you. You may not be able to show the love of a spouse but you can still show the deeper love of a Christian towards them (to the degree they will let you show it)

Jesus will help you, The Father will Provide, and The Holy Spirit will strengthen and guide you.

The Second Witness in a marriage

In a marriage of two Spirit led people you have the two witnesses required by scripture to confirm or witness something. The husband and wife should share plans and ask each other what they think about issues that may be uncertain or need confirmation of scripture. The other partner is the second witness where decision needs to be made, that are not clear from The Bible and its principles

While the wife is submissive domestically she still has a say in what happens and spiritually is an equal so in spiritual things she is the second witness and also in domestic things as necessary but the husband has the final determination in the area of domestic matters.

Susan says

The woman and the man are second witnesses to each other as they are in a union and are made to be one in working through life and family and relationship.

This includes the daily things such as sharing thoughts, ideas, shopping, planning etc. When a partner cannot communicate or express his or her thoughts, ideas or plans due to being ignored or belittled it develops into rejection and a division between the marriage partners. Rejection causes deep devaluation hurts and spiritually wounds a person. Deliverance is the key to healing

however the victim is not the only one in need of deliverance as the other partner has a problem in that they need to be overwhelmed and control. Both need prayer and deliverance to overcome and it IS possible!

Essentially, God gave Adam a companion and when this ceases the marriage is out of its rightful place.

It is a great blessing to live the fulfillment of companionship in marriage.

It is one of the greatest blessings of marriage on earth, to behold and cherish each other forsaking all else. That is with God at the head or steering wheel.

Neville this is what my heart longs for my dear!

Why is hearing The Spirit not taught?

People do not teach how to hear and be led by the Spirit so this second witness does not arise in their concept of decision making. Also, if the man is considered wrongly to be the spiritual head the wife does not have a real part in the decision making and is not considered necessary to witness to the man's decisions.

God meant the wife to be the prophetess or similar and the man the deliverance minister so to speak, but he meant both to be spiritually equal except the wife is usually more sensitive to spiritual things usually as women are more sensitive than men in these areas. So this has to be a plan of Jesus that they would witness to what God told each other or else it would be ridiculous saying that marriage is a partnership and then saying only one has authority to make decisions.

Advice to a husband on ministry

Husbands! Do not neglect the gifts God has given your wife! Stir them up! Encourage her in them and you will have a ministry partner in the ministry God has called you both to do and will have a wife who will love you even more because you are helping her be the woman she can be in Jesus!

Are women equal in ministry?

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

This verse plainly says that when you are in the body of Christ (in Jesus) there are no cultural, racial, sexual or ministry differences. You are all equal before Him as individuals He died for. Any of these differences exercised are from Satan who seeks to destroy this oneness in the Body of Christ.

This means that the sexual roles we have in our domestic relations are not to be used as a basis for spiritual authority as they do not apply. In other words, a man is domestic head of the house but he cannot use that relationship to assume spiritual authority over the woman as this verse says the sexual roles in the domestic relationship are irrelevant for determining spiritual relationships and roles.

The implication of this for ministry is that women can have the same roles as men. They can be leaders, pastors prophets etc. and not just be submissive to the males in the church.

The only requirement is that their relationships with Jesus and others is in place and they carry out their domestic roles properly. This is because in God's scheme of things spiritual maturity (developed through obedience to Jesus) is the determining factor for any temporary mentoring or guiding spiritual authority and not man's schooling or promotion.

So people who are against women being ordained or leading in churches and who claim spiritual authority over them are disobeying scripture. No wonder so much strife occurs as Satan has a wonderful time playing men and women off against each other.

Can a wife minister or lead in a ministry.

A wife can lead or minister if she has her headship in place, her home in place her relationship with Jesus in place and she is sufficiently spiritually mature to lead. If Jesus directs her to lead there should be no human restriction placed on her as The Holy Spirit will be leading her. God is sending out couples for ministry in these ends times as equals, so that ministry is a shared one and not just the male ministers. However the domestic side such as accommodation, transport and similar the husband has responsibility for while the wife would look after the clothes and any food requirements. In other words they are spiritual equals but the domestic roles still apply while not ministering.

The one admonition is for a woman not to teach a man. Note 'man' singular, not crowd of 'men' (plural). This admonition stops possible sexual immorality when people get too close in ministry. This is especially so on a one to one basis of ministry where both are alone with each other. Where there is a great distance between the people (like on the internet in another continent) this is not so important.

With ministry of one individual to another it is better the same sexes minister to each other because of the different emotional make-up God gave each sex that means men and women have different perspectives on life and look at things differently.

Happy is the man who understands headship, covering and the role a wife is to play in the joint ministry Jesus has given them

Note that during the years the children are raised their joint ministry is to the children and not to the body. When the children have reached a certain age then from their experiences in this ministry they can then, as a couple, teach others.

Ministry Desires

Women look at female speakers on the stage and say things like:

"I wish I was like her!"

"I wish I could minister like her!"

That is wrong. God does not want you to be like someone else. He wants you to be the person He made you to be and to minister how, when and where He designed you to minister.

Firstly you minister to Him and as He tells you to others. So He wants you to spend time with Him to know Him better so you can hear Him better obey Him better and serve Him better.

Secondly, to minister to your husband and family. If you cannot minister too and look after those closest to you whom you love how can God entrust you with others outside your family.

Thirdly, He wants you to get your life and house in order. If you cannot be a good steward of things close to you then He cannot entrust you with anything else.

Lastly, He wants you to serve Him each day as He asks you to and not as you think He wants you to or should do. It is in the small routine matters of daily life that most of our service and worship is done.

Do not seek to do great things for God but seek to do each day what He gives you and as you walk this path of Mat 6:33 you will receive all God has for you in this life and in the next and will minister as He desires you to on His behalf.

There is a principle that is very important. God will not allow you to teach another something unless it is a part of your life so that you have demonstrated you are able to fulfil the requirements yourself and are worthy to teach them to another. To teach when you are not able to do adequately what you are teaching is a form of hypocrisy (unless God is using the teaching as a learning experience) and does not bring Jesus honour or glory.

Plans for your spouse

Do not desire your spouse to be something they are not. You will have problems relating to them if they do not satisfy your dreams and you will become bitter or discontent and the marriage will be destroyed or will be a poor semblance of what it should be.

You must accept them as God made them as well as wait on God for what He desires to do with you both.

God desires to use you as a couple otherwise there was no need to marry for God to use you as you would have been single as He required you to be to be used..

The wife may only play supporting role while the children are young but that does not mean she cannot minister with her husband at home or in public.

If you want your spouse to be something God does not want them to be then as long as you ignore God and hold to that dream, that dream is an idol and will stop God using you both as He wants to use you.

If you want God to use your marriage, give to Him your dreams (the five steps), let The Spirit guide you and walk in Mat. 6:33 and The Spirit will lead you on the path God has for on which is all God has planned for you.

Blessings

Service

Maturation

All He has for you.

While you tell God what your spouse should be doing you are not on the Mat 6:33 path any and are missing on all God has for you in marriage, ministry, rewards, and whatever else He has for you.

Abortion and Birth Control

God commanded married people to be fruitful (have children) and populate the earth. This command has never been rescinded. Any act that wilfully hinders or stops this fruitfulness is sin as it breaks this command of God given only to married people. This problem should not arise before marriage as sex should not be done before marriage.

Abortion and birth control both disobey this command and are a lack of trust in God's Control of a person's life that God cannot help them bear or look after the child financially or in any other way.

Hindering this command to reproduce also stops God blessing you with children and in some cases will prevent children being born at a later stage when the hindering event is no longer carried upon by the married couple.

In the case of abortion it also stops bringing into the world a life God wants born as He has allowed it to come into existence.

The aborted baby goes straight to heaven so Satan by removing the baby, stops a life God could have possibly used greatly. The mother he then destroys through guilt and grief and make her ineffective as a force to fight him and to teach others how to fight him unless she has deliverance for the emotional effects and damage of the abortion.

Until the mother has deliverance from the abortion and forgives herself and those that made her do it she cannot be used by God in any real way.

Satan has effectively crippled the woman and bound her so that she cannot effectively minister for Jesus and may even take her life through the abortion or damage her so much she cannot have any more children.

There is forgiveness for abortion at Calvary so spiritually there is healing there but the physical damage may possibly be only healed after death.

Abusive Spouse

I firstly make two comments

Every person is required by God to be a good steward of their mind and body and to protect it from damage.

If your spouse breaks their marriage vows by abusing you or rejecting you as a spouse and not honouring their commitment to the marriage then the marriage is broken before God and only the legal (earthly government side of it remains). Unless there is adultery so you can divorce him the only thing you can do is separate in the hope he will repent and obtain deliverance so that reconciliation is possible. God came to reconcile so until this avenue is no longer possible divorce is not an option. Usually the abuser divorces so the abused person is innocent in the matter of the divorce.

Physical Abuse

You may need to separate from your spouse to protect your body.

A non-Christian cannot be approached by the church elders so escape from them may be the only solution. There is no marriage before God after the abuser drives you away through the severity of the abuse and only the legal side needs to be dealt with (divorce). If the abusive spouse repents and becomes a Christian before divorce then, and only if they are no longer abusive, can the marriage be restored but both spouses would need to go through deliverance before this was possible.

If the abusive spouse is a Christian the elders of the church need to be approached and if they are ignored by the abusive spouse then it is time to flee if you are in danger of physical abuse. If they have deliverance then perhaps the marriage can be restored otherwise it is broken before God and only the legal side needs to be dealt with (divorce).

You must remember a Christian makes the vows of marriage to God and not the state. So a marriage can be broken before God but still have a legal marriage under the laws of the land.

The Holy Spirit will tell you if a marriage is no longer valid before God and until he does by the mouth of two or three witnesses you are still married as far as God is concerned. The legal side is to protect the woman in the earth environment and really confirms the marriage before God of a Christian but is not necessary for them to be married in the eyes of God.

Sexual abuse is an intense form of physical abuse that has emotional and mental abuse as well.

Mental Abuse

You may need to leave if mental abuse is very bad for the sake of your mind. The only exception is where the person is mentally ill as you have vowed to stay with them in sickness and death (in the wedding vows) and they really cannot help themselves. God will give you the strength to cope with the situation and will eventually deliver you from it.

Divorce is not an option in this situation. To divorce is to say Jesus has asked you to care for someone then not given you what you need to care for them.

Warring Spouses

The war with your spouse starts the moment you stop loving her as your wife and start loving yourself more than you love her and continue in this attitude. You stop showing the type of love Jesus has for her and start loving her with worldly love. A marriage struggles when worldly love is the attitude spouses have to each other as it is based on different principles to God's Love.

The only way a marriage can really succeed is if you show God's type of Love to each other in all you do. Only as The Holy Spirit guides you in all you do will you show this type of love and relate to your spouse as you should.

Do not look at another person who could threaten your relationship with your spouse.

What happens to your spouse:

When you flirt with another person

Go out with another

Start a relationship with another or

Stop showing God's type of love to them

They feel rejected, inadequate and wonder why you do not do that with them but with another. If they were adequate you would be flirting with them, taking them out and having a closer relationship with them. A wedge is formed in the marriage relationship which if continued will eventually drive the spouse away to protect their emotions.

So if you want to start to destroy your marriage flirt with another, take them out and spend time with them instead of your spouse and stop loving her in the way God loves her.

Hindrance to reconciliation:

The major hindrance to reconciliation is that the love of God is not in the relationship in the way it should be. The relationship has been damaged through fear and/or supposed or real rejection. We are commanded by Jesus to Love (John 13:34-35) and He states that we are His followers if we Love as He commands us too. This is not a discretionary thing. It is a command so we are to do it regardless

of the cost to us. This lack of love results in four things that further poison the relationship with God and their spouse:

Christ is not central to the marriage

Wrong attitudes and emotions towards our spouse

Anger

Unforgiveness

Bitterness and root of bitterness

Each of these has serious consequences for the person holding them in their heart. It also results in small things irritating them and causing further problems. Often the small things themselves are of no eternal consequence and are used by Satan because of this as they do not raise warnings about them in our spirit.

Unforgiveness is the most serious of sins as it stops you from going to heaven. Jesus said in Matthew 6:15:

“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

If you do not forgive others their wrongs against you (sins) then The Father in heaven cannot forgive you your sins and you do not go to heaven. It is not that He will not forgive you but that He cannot as He has to reward you according to your choices and if you do not forgive another he cannot do to you what you have chosen not to do which is to forgive.

Bitterness is the next stage after unforgiveness. It will always have a hearing. Bitterness will find reasons to criticize another and results in maligning others and often slandering them and will always find someone to tell these things too. It is gossip in its worst form as it is vindictive. Bitterness definitely ensures you do not go to heaven if not repented of.

The resultant offence caused toward your spouse ensures that you cannot bring your gift to God, so anything you do is not acceptable to God while you knowingly do not reconcile to your spouse (the person you have offended).

Jesus said in Matthew 5: 23-24 “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

The requirement for you is to try and reconcile. If they do not accept it then it becomes their problem but God can once again accept your ministry (your gift to Him). It is not the success of the reconciliation that restores you but the attitude of wanting to reconcile as in that is the love of God shown and not in the result which is an expression of the attitude.

The marriage covenant is binding. It is made before God and He alone can declare it broken. We are responsible to hold ourselves to the covenant regardless of the behaviour of our spouse and to try and sort out all the problems that arise in the relationship with our spouse. The fact that we follow Jesus as Lord keeps us to this covenant as it is really obedience, in regard to the marriage, of a requirement of His. The fact that a spouse is not keeping their part is irrelevant. We are responsible for what we do with our life and not what they do with theirs.

To break this covenant without His permission is to break the vows you made before Him to your spouse.

Spiritually, there may be no marriage as the other partner had rejected you as their spouse for various reasons. The vows made before God still stand though, unless the other spouse or yourself have committed adultery. The legal impediments of the land need to be removed through divorce though so you can remarry and protect each other legally. The vows made to God are removed through adultery or remarriage (which is adultery if the Lord has not declared the marriage over).

Not all marriages are put together by God. Many marry without asking God who to marry. God has to allow them their choice but it is not His Will for them. If you definitely know God has put you together as a couple then divorce is disobedience. You need to do all you can to make the marriage a success or it is disobedience also.

Jesus is merciful and if a spouse is too damaged to deal with necessary issues in their life. He will often take them home before they lose their salvation or He will appear to them and give them a choice. He is merciful and not legalistic.

Both spouses need deliverance and healing to be able to relate as they should. I recommend that couples both have deliverance ministry before the marriage vows are taken in order to remove hurts and pain that will cause problems in the marriage.

Unfortunately many do not do this and later in the marriage one spouse usually gets deliverance while the other does not and the problems in the marriage worsen. One suffers while waiting for the other to go through deliverance. The

spouse who has had deliverance has the responsibility to pray for the other until they are free of hurts and pain and can relate as they should. If the abuse is too great then the abused spouse can leave (for their own safety) until God deals with their marriage partner or removes their marriage partner from this earth.

The abused spouse is a steward of themselves and the children they have been given so must remove these from any danger they face from their spouse or other until it is past

Sometimes one spouse becomes a Christian and the other does not. The responsibility, then, is for the Christian spouse to pray the other into The Kingdom of God and not nag them into it. There is a promise in 1 Peter 3:1-6 for a Christian wife who is married to a non-Christian spouse.

How does this war of the spouses begin?

Satan needs to stop communication between the partners so they do not know how they feel about each other. He knows that if they knew their love for one other he could not poison their minds toward each other.

He starts by sowing doubts about whether or not their spouse loves them. Next he tries to make the husband/wife uncertain about their own love toward their spouse so doubt and fears start to occur. Uncertainty about their love occurs and fear of the other partner's motives starts to rear its ugly head. Fear of rejection, fear of inadequacy, low self esteem (fear of being worthless) all come into play and the walls and masks come up. Any attempt at communication with or relating to the spouse is rejected (as it threatens their self-worth), so that each spouse lives their own life and relates as little and as best as possible or divorce. There may be unrepented anger at the other spouse which stops deliverance and will prevent the angry spouse going to heaven.

The unforgiveness must be deliberate and not a result of hurts so that they do not realise they have it. God is merciful and understands and it is only for actions we have any knowledge of that we are judged. So if the person does not know they have unforgiveness then God will show them and only after they are shown are they in danger of losing their salvation if they still refuse to forgive.

The relationship becomes stilted and each partner looks elsewhere for fulfilment and meaningful relationships, so adultery or inordinate friendships occur. Each spouse devises their own coping mechanisms intended to restore self-worth and to cope with the situation. Coping mechanisms can include hobbies, more involvement in paid or volunteer work, religious service, and other external activi-

ties that do not need to involve the other spouse. When hurts are taken into a new marriage, these breakdowns can accelerate quickly and after a short time they wonder what they saw in the other person.

If the emotional hurts are really bad, addictions occur to ease the hurt (sex, drugs, pornography, smoking and alcohol are common ones).

The Right to be offended

If I hold onto my hurts and choose to be offended I am saying I have a right to be offended. Jesus told us that we do not have this right to hold onto an offence and not forgive the person offending us. By holding onto this offence and not forgiving you are really being self righteous and in danger of losing your salvation.

In a marriage, no spouse has a right not to forgive their marriage partner through holding onto hurts or offences. Doing this indicates a 'holier-than-thou' self-righteous attitude which destroys relationship and implies one spouse is better than the other. It also kills love for the spouse as love and unforgiveness cannot exist together.

It all shows the need for deliverance from low self esteem or low self worth that allow this attitude to occur to make the person feel worthwhile so that they can survive as a person.

If you love your spouse you will give up all selfish rights so you can carry out your love for them as Jesus wants you to. Love ignores hurts and pain as it seeks the betterment of the other and the meeting of their needs (not greeds) before their own and any selfish rights they have are ignored to do this.

The is no self-interest in marriage. You are either helping others to realize who they are as a person or serving Jesus and expressing His Kingdom in all you do to your spouse and others.

For a marriage to work each spouse must die to self interest and express Jesus in all they do.

Judging your spouse

*James 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy:
who art thou that judgest another?*

Jesus alone is your judge so you have no right to judge another. All you can do is to say “The Bible says this and as far as I evaluate what you are doing you are not doing what it says.”

Then you help them to see what they are doing wrong, how to fix or deal with it and help them pray the five steps is needed. All this is to be done out of love for them and not for any feelings of superiority or control.

You are to deal with in the same Love Jesus deals with them or you sin.

This attitude also applies to all other relationships we have as God’s Love does not change to fit the situation.

Fault finding

If a person loves their spouse as Jesus does, when they see a fault in their spouse they discuss how to deal with it rather than criticise them for it and walking away.

They will determine their part in helping the spouse to deal with the problem and will lovingly support them as they work their way through the problem no matter how long it takes to resolve it.

If deliverance is needed they will help each other in this until they are free from the demons using the fault.

There is no self-interest in marriage. You are either helping others to realize who they are or serving Jesus and expressing His Kingdom in all you do to your spouse and others.

For a marriage to work each spouse must die to self interest and express Jesus in all they do.

Healing the relationship

You should never condemn, shame, judge, criticise, pour guilt on or abuse physically your spouse. This is a definite way to destroy love and marriage, and in really damaged people, destroy them as well.

Shame is triggered by guilt (you have failed the standard) and occurs where legalism rules instead of love. If you shame your spouse you need deliverance for perfectionism and legalism and the self-esteem problems that allow these to be present in you. Your spouse will need deliverance from the results of your actions towards her.

Shame is tied up with pride. The person needs to be important and have self-esteem by what they do but they fail so are ashamed of themselves. This also shows a need for deliverance in the person for low self-esteem and wrong attitudes to service and acceptance of themselves.

When these attitudes occur in a relationship both spouses need healing before the relationship can truly be like it should be. This deliverance should have been done in the betrothal stage and not in the marriage which is why I recommend deliverance be gone through by betrothed people before marriage.

Perfectionism

Perfectionism is a sin.

It denies the Grace of God as well the forgiveness of Calvary

It places a standard on us that God does not place on us.

God does not expect us to be perfect only to do our best.

Perfectionism denies this and states that God requires more than this of us. In the Bible, a 'perfect' person is one who lives according to their level of spiritual maturity and not one who does not make a mistake in anything they do. Only Jesus was perfect in its true sense.

We are to use our God given abilities as best we can and trust Him for the result. To do more is to fall short of His requirements which is technically sin.

So do not let the devil convince you to be a perfectionist but work within that which God allows and expects and trust Him for the rest.

A perfectionist sees all others as inadequate to them and no one can satisfy their standard usually which is why this attitude is so dangerous to a marriage. Their spouse can never meet their standard, will always feel inadequate and unloved and as result will never be able to fulfil their role as a spouse as they should.

Problems with apologising

A person apologises for a few reasons:

They are actually sorry for hurting the person they are apologising too

To stop the person from attacking them further verbally

Out of habit as it is the easy way out of a situation

If you apologise for the last two reasons you, the other person or both of you need deliverance in some way.

If you cannot apologise then you definitely need deliverance.

If it is not worth trying to apologise to a person as they will not receive it you must still try but it is obvious that the person needs deliverance.

Problems with apologising usually do with :

Fear of rejection

You feel so inadequate or unworthy you do not believe it is worthwhile even trying to apologise

Pride

In a marriage where love is supreme there should be no fear of apologising as there is no fear of rejection by or being unworthy to the other person.

There is no fear or pride in love!

Adultery

Marriage is an act of two people. Two individuals committing their lives, hopes bodies and spirits to one another under the headship of God. Two becoming one.

When adultery occurs it causes a breakage of these deeply committed parts of an individual. The Bible states that if a person even looks upon another with lust they have committed adultery. Adultery is the lusting for someone outside the marriage to fulfil what is meant to be performed only in the married.

Adultery occurs because hurts are not dealt with and brought into the marriage so that a partner goes elsewhere to have their needs met emotionally. It is when these needs turn sexual either as lust in their heart or physically as a result of this lust that adultery occurs. The physical only occurs because the heart has already decided to do the sin.

A person comes into the relationship with problems they do not realise they have and a sense of imperfection or guilt makes them believe they can't go to their spouse for help, especially if the spouse is felt (either correctly or incorrectly) to be the cause of the hurts. They go to another for help and often before they realise they end up in adultery and wonder how it happened.

Marriage was designed by God to show His Love for the church through the use of marriage as a parallel of the love he has for the church. Anything that mars marriage mars the illustration of His love and needs to be dealt with, usually through deliverance before the relationship becomes so bad that adultery occurs.

Recognition of the hurts in a marriage that lead to adultery and the dealing of them with deliverance is the key to prevent Satan from getting any further hold in the area. and repentance and asking for discussion and forgiveness with God and the partner is the key to healing.

Dealing with adultery

Both partners are responsible for adultery when it occurs. One has not had their needs met by the other and has found acceptance elsewhere. Often this adultery would not have occurred if the hurts Satan used to cause this situation had been dealt with through deliverance (preferably before the marriage had occurred). Deliverance removes the hurts allowing restoration of the spiritual relationship in the marriage.

Marriage is a spiritual act and the spiritual relationship must be dealt with first. The physical does nothing but reinforces the spiritual so to use the physical side to heal the spiritual damage fails and results really is no finalisation of the situation. This is why having sex does not solve any problems and that the love = sex belief fails to heal anything.

Sex is part of the roles of marriage and is discussed separately in another booklet.

Reason does not help either as it is usually controlled by emotions . You need to step back, not react or assume things and listen to The Holy Spirit as to what you are to do. You need to reject emotion and reason and listen only to The Holy Spirit.

The person who sinned feels guilty and dirty usually and unable to be forgiven. The person sinned against feels hurt and wounded. Deliverance is needed by both before the relationship can be restored to what it should be.

Both need to examine the reasons that resulted in the adultery and both need to realise each has contributed something to the hurts that will lead to divorce and need to repent of these before there is a chance for reconciliation.

Each spouse must repent and reconcile to the spouse for the offence occurred or Jesus cannot hear their prayers or receive their gifts

The party sinned against party (through the adultery) must forgive the sinful spouse or they do not go to heaven

The hurts in both spouses need to be dealt with

The hurts in the person sinned against need to be dealt with

The problems in the marriage that resulted in the adultery need to be dealt with.

There is usually sin in both sides of the camp or the adultery would not have occurred.

Jesus is their judge not the person sinned against

There is forgiveness and healing at Calvary if the adulterer is truly repentant. This is spiritual healing and will result in physical healing but cannot stop events like pregnancy which God will help you both to cope with.

Trust and love have been bruised. How does one restore these? How does one learn to trust the other person again and let down the defences to be able to love them again as their spouse?

If your spouse is truly repentant and asks forgiveness for any hurts or offence caused it shows they love you and are sad for hurting you

They show by their actions that they love you (service and not sex)

The hurt in their heart needs to be healed so they can love again

The hopes that were dashed need to be rekindled. Both need to be seen together in the future God has promised for them

If God says to accept them back you must trust Him to prepare you for the reconciliation and that it is worth being reconciled to them.

You may need to recommit to the relationship to Jesus and to each other and say your marriage vows again

You must still Love them as God does even though you may have trouble loving them as a spouse

You will need deliverance from”

Things put on you by Satan without your consent

Deep hurts you do not know are there that Satan is using (Framework of the five steps to deal with the root causes of these hurts)

Wrong emotions hidden in you that you need to deal with

Whatever else The Holy Spirit shows you to deal with

You will also need to give the whole situation of reconciliation to Jesus using the framework of the five steps.

Above all be led by The Holy Spirit in all things as He knows what is best to do in all situations including adultery and the subsequent reconciliation and rebuilding of the Marriage.

Pastor Abuse in Churches

You wonder why pastors are so ineffective at stopping divorce in the church. Perhaps it is because they do not do deliverance on both spouses or they feel it is not their responsibility or they may even have a wrong viewpoint about women and their role in marriage. You wonder about the latter point when you read the experience of Susan that follows:

Susan narrates her experience as follows:

In the Pentecostal church we were fellowshiping in and also were in leadership as Children's Pastors and lay pastors, the times when the women went to the senior pastor or his second in charge pastor to ask for help according to the Bible as their husbands would not listen to them and the marriage in some cases had become abusive, they were told that they were in sin or the marriage would not have problems because their submission would cause the marriage to be successful and to go away and seek God again for themselves and to be better servants to their husbands.

Many belonged to Promise keepers which was ideologically meant to encourage men to be Godly men encouraged to keep their promise as husbands to their wives however the submission issue became religious ad all issues in marriages were directed back to the wife and her seemingly obvious disobedience or the marriage would be fine as far as the man was concerned. I was sent away when I went to the associate senior pastor about my husband and his abuse emotionally and issues with pornography. I too was sent away to seek God for my sin as my husband appeared to be a good man to this man who had befriended him and

stated he had brought him to the Lord so there would be no issue as far as he could see as my husband was his spiritual baby.

I found no solace in the church as another of my friends who in fact was held down against her will to be exorcised as her husband watched because she was an intercessor and warned the church about some issues and asked for help also about the secret abuse she was enduring and her husband's pornography issue.

SADLY HER HUSBAND FELT EMPOWERED BY THIS AND THE PROBLEM HAS NEVER BEEN DEALT WITH TO THIS DAY. SHE NOW PREFERS TO HIDE AND NOT INVOLVE HERSELF IN THE CHURCH OTHER THAN TO PRAY FOR THOSE PEOPLE GOD PUTS IN HER HEART. SHE CANNOT BRING A WORD NOW AS SHE IS TERRIFIED.

Another marriage has ended from this same church as the wife sought help re a pornography issue and it was not resolved but the woman told she needed to be more submissive.

These are examples from one church yet there are many similar where the women are encouraged to silence their needs and problems in fear of retribution as a less than 'above rubies wife'. This scripture was always quoted when the women sought help and they were told they were lacking or God would have intervened Himself.

Women need to be able to seek advise and counsel from the church leadership. They are NOT second class citizens of the church and their issues may be a warning of a sin taking hold in the body as was in this church. Incidentally this church closed 2 years later.

I remember when we went to the senior pastor to tell Him the Lord had told us it was time to move on and the Lord had told us where to fellowship the pastor then told my husband that he was aware of his sin issues and they were exactly as I had pleaded for help years prior but he was too timid to speak into another man's life and God would have done it if it was necessary I was floored as this issue grew not dealt with but hidden and allowed to grow till adultery occurred and divorce followed when if dealt with at the root it may have been avoided.

Women need to be heard as equals to men.

My comment is that any pastor who does not deal in equality with any problems of his flock is not a pastor but an imposter especially where he shows preference for the position of men over women. He also does not understand headship and marriage and really follows a gospel where people are not equal before Jesus.

My Comment

Be warned you who minister that you treat the daughters of the father as you would treat men or you will give a greater account of any evil you have done to His daughters in protection of the 'headship' of the man.

On Divorce

Jesus does not like divorce. Divorce means Satan has won the battle for that family and part of the Kingdom of God has been lost.

The family has not used or not effectively used the weapons they have to fight Satan and defeat him and have not listened to The Holy Spirit as they should have to be guided in this battle. They usually have not obeyed Jesus and have not loved their spouse as He does.

A woman who is loved by her husband unconditionally should never end up being divorced. If she has problems responding to his love then she needs deliverance. If she will not get deliverance then the marriage may be doomed and end in divorce. It is no use if one partner loves unconditionally and the other cannot respond as they should to this unconditional love.

Likewise a husband who cannot responds to his wife also needs deliverance.

No man goes to another's fountain unless his (or hers) has first dried up! When the emotional tank in a person is nearly empty and their spouse does not fill it then that person will go elsewhere to get filled or divorce or both.

There is also a warning for people not to separate (or divorce) those whom God has put together. Unfortunately Satan arranges many marriages and they are not God's choices and there is no warning about breaking up these marriages, however God has allowed it so it must be His permissive Will so these also should not be broken up. Deliverance is needed in these cases and then if there is irreconcilable differences and no adultery then separation seems to be the only answer.

The following scriptures mention divorce:

(Mat 5:31-32) It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

(Mat 19:3-9 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall

cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Mark 10:2-12 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement (Deut 24:1), and to put her away. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Luk 16:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

1 Cor 7: 10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

To summarize these passages:

- 1) A Man and wife have been allowed to come together by God and what He has put together man should not separate. The sex act in marriage consummates the marriage and certifies it before God.
- 2) If they separate then they should not remarry unless one dies
- 3) Divorce is not of God's plan or purpose
- 4) A bill of divorce was permitted to safeguard a wife that was divorced by her husband. If she did not have one she would be an adulteress. If she could not be divorced an unscrupulous husband could murder her to remove her. Only a male could write a bill of divorce.
- 5) Anyone divorcing their wife and remarrying commits adultery. This was not a problem if there was not a bill of divorce as the guilty parties were stoned to death.
- 6) We are commanded not to separate or divorce our partners.
- 7) We are under Grace. The above was said to people under The Law and before Calvary so if divorce occurs now there is forgiveness for anything done wrong in regard to divorce.

Can you Divorce?

Read Matt 19:3-9 (previously)

God intention was for marriage to be till we die. If marriage is joined by God (the couple know it is God's Will they marry) then to divorce is disobedience. Divorce was only allowed for adultery because the Jews would not forgive the adulterer (hardness of their heart and they were usually stoned to death so there was no adulterer to stop marriage Jn 8:1-11). We are under Grace and should live by God's Law of Love and forgive the adulterer and if they truly repent take them back.

However if the adulterer turns their back on the marriage they have rejected God and broken the marriage covenant so there is no more marriage. Then a spouse is free to remarry. But if the adulterer repents and wants reconciliation to try and restore the marriage they are being obedient.

As there is deliverance available there is hope if the adulterer truly repents and goes through deliverance.

The only exception to reconciliation is if the spouse is violent or abusive emotionally and has not changed as you are a steward of your mind and body on behalf of Jesus and must protect it against Satan and the people he controls or uses against you.

Christian Love stops Divorce

A Christian husband should love his wife as Jesus loves her so she should never feel rejected or unloved by him. She will not react and defend herself as she knows that she has nothing to fear from him and will respect him and submit to him. What woman does not want a husband whose sole purpose is to look after her needs, appreciates her for who she is and does always what is best for her.

Divorce should not arise if the woman loves him as a fellow Christian and appreciates his love for her so that she respects him and submits to His domestic authority.

The attitude of Christian love to their spouse stops all that Satan can do to break up a marriage.

As for the hurts and pain Satan can use to attack a spouse Jesus sets you free from these through deliverance.

Remember that Satan will use things that are in themselves of no eternal consequence and by your attitudes to them use them to cause division in the marriage. Because they are of no eternal significance Satan can cause wrong attitudes in a person before they realize they are there as there is no warning bells in regard to these apparently spiritually neutral activities or objects. It is the attitude that is the sin and this is why you are to consult The Holy Spirit about neutral things so Satan cannot use them to cause you wrong attitudes in you and through these wrong attitudes in you guide you to sin.

People enter into marriage, starry-eyed with hurts from the past believing or hoping the marriage will solve these problems but in fact it increases their problems. What they needed was deliverance and not a spouse.

I believe deliverance should be undergone by engaged couples before marriage to remove that which will hinder their marriage so that can see clearly what they are getting into as well as really see what the other person is like.

I have come to the conclusion that divorce is not an option for a Christian. If you marry whom you believe God wants you to marry (and this should always

be the case with a Christian) then to divorce is disobedience and second best for your life.

Because Jesus came there is deliverance and healing for the hurts in a marriage or the hurts that occurred before marriage that cause any marital problems. As a Christian you are to do all things in love which means you need to forgive your partner and help them grow in Jesus, which is the only real solution to any marital problems. Unfortunately, most forget this and react and cause division in the marriage and divorce and do not use God's remedies of deliverance and healing.

Divorce is not an option for a Christian and as Paul says separation is the only solution possible. If people separate there can be reconciliation and God's order restored. Divorce is final and the disobedience to God by one or both spouses is then complete.

Separation should only really occur to protect one spouse from the actions of another. Any spouse abusing their partner so that the partner needs to leave them is not following Jesus and may have lost their salvation. The abused spouse has been given stewardship of their soul, mind and body and must protect this from harm. This is the only real reason they can leave, to be a good steward of what God has given them.

What happens if you divorce? It could be rebellion and thus 'sin'. After Calvary there is forgiveness for sin and mercy so that we no longer stone people committing adultery. The Holy Spirit is there also to guide as to what to do and His advice should be followed. Each case is different and God alone knows what is best. The Holy Spirit will also guide you as to what to do in regard to repentance for any sin you have committed or deal with any offence you have caused to another and any problems you have to deal with in yourself. Non-Christians can divorce as they are not bound by the guidelines of Jesus.

After Calvary, The Law no longer applies - Grace does (Acts 15). So while you are forgiven your sins, you still have to deal with the physical consequences of your actions. Jesus can help you with these if you give them to Him to be Lord of them.

Divorcing to marry a better person is dangerous and divorcing to survive as a person is really a statement both partners need deliverance so they can understand and love each other as Jesus loves you and your spouse.

Predivorce separation

What responsibility does a man have for his wife if she refuses to live with him and has rejected him as a husband as usually happens in a pre divorce situation.

She has remove herself from her husband's protection and domestic authority so he has no responsibility for her. However, he should pray she will forgive him as if she does not she could be heading for hell. God is merciful and usually gives plenty of opportunity for the wife to repent but the husband should at least pray for her and bind demons stopping her forgiving.

If the husband leaves then the wife should submit as much as The Holy Spirit tells her too but usually this is impossible. Jesus then becomes her keeper until he gives her a new husband or the old one is reconciled. She should also pray for her former husband that he will forgive her as if he does not she could be heading for hell. God is merciful and usually gives plenty of opportunity for the wife to repent but the husband should at least pray for her and bind demons stopping her forgiving.

Support during Divorce

A person of the same sex or a married couple who hears The Holy Spirit clearly should play a major spiritual supporting role to a person being divorced so they can fight the demons behind the divorce and do any deliverance and healing that is necessary.

What Hurts to Deal With

Hurts from before the marriage that may have caused some of the problems in the marriage leading to divorce,

Hurts from the marriage itself,

Hurts from events including the actual advising of the divorce up to and including the actual divorce decision,

Hurts from after the actual divorce itself (during and after the divorce).

A hurt is anything that causes you pain or grief or binds you emotionally in some way or causes you to have a wrong attitude of another such as fear or anger.

Types of Emotions and Attitudes

Those that are known and can knowingly be repented of,

Those that are unknown and require the Gifts of The Spirit to discern,

Those ones you do not know you have and do not want face as it is unchristian to have them (and which also require the Gifts of The Holy Spirit to discern),

Any additional ones Satan tries to put on you.

Correct Attitudes of the Spouse Being Divorced

Love their partner as a Christian should, and forgive them for what they are doing to you

Worship God to ease the pain (in His presence all else is irrelevant),

Give Him your all your problems, emotions, wrong attitudes, hurts and pain (the framework of the five steps),

Declare His Love and control over your situation,

Declare He is working for your good,

Remember up to actual divorce you are still legally married and must try as much as possible to fulfill your role in the marriage according to the degree your spouse allows you to perform them.

Listen to The Holy Spirit's Guidance in all you do.

Support for the spouse

People to guide in deliverance and teach them how to do it themselves,

People to advise on different aspects of divorce,

Legal advice,

Spiritual advice,

Financial advice,

People to comfort and support them emotionally and spiritually,

People to comfort and support them with their physical needs (clothing, food, accommodation etc).

Miscellaneous Advice

Do not accept shame, guilt or condemnation from others or yourself. The opinions of others are not important as it is what God thinks of you that matters.

Do not accept shame, guilt, condemnation or judgment from yourself or self-recrimination. Shame, guilt and condemnation in regard to spiritual matters were dealt with by Jesus at Calvary and any of these you feel after salvation comes from Satan. These should all be cast to the abyss in Jesus' Name and The Holy Spirit asked to take their place.

You must seek to be blameless before God and not man,

Matthew 6:33 Seek His Will for you and all you need will be given to you,

Emotional,

Physical,

Spiritual,

Mental,

Financial.

You must trust God implicitly, that in all that happens He is making the best for you of a bad situation.

Do not Let Satan rush you into hasty decisions as Satan will use your assumptions and reactions against you so:

Never assume anything

Never react to anything

Always ask The Holy Spirit what to do

Do not make additional life-changing decisions at this time: change of job, change of location (where unnecessary), new partner.

You need to hear the Holy Spirit and be led by Him,

You need to know how to find the Will of God.

These are some of the attitudes and truths (information) that will help you fight the devils behind the divorce and keep you walking close to Jesus through out it as well as after it is finalised. Whenever you have a problem use the five steps immediately so Satan cannot use the problem to try and cause you more pain or grief. The key to surviving divorce is to take all that is a part of it to Jesus to be Lord of (using the framework of the 'Five Steps') especially that which causes you

emotional pain or hurt or will lead you not to love your partner and sin against them in some way.

Learn Spiritual Warfare

Remember this is a spiritual battle fought with spiritual weapons and must be seen from a spiritual perspective. You did not ask for the emotional trauma of divorce, but rather it was thrust upon you. God has thrust you into a spiritual battle for which you are ready (or he would not have allowed it) and for which He will provide all the spiritual weapons you need to fight the battle with and provide all the people you need to stand beside you and help you in this fight. The battle before divorce was to save the marriage. The battle now is to keep yourself from the ravages Satan will want to place on you, your children, as well as the possessions you are stewards of with the objective of destroying you.

Remember! God Loves you and all that happens to you is a result of His Love and is best for you. So never doubt God's Love, Control, Purposes or Plans for you as there is nothing else left if you do and you will become depressed and despair. All you need to do is repent and use the framework of the five steps to deal with these things and as you are taking all to Jesus you will have a strength that others will wonder at and will be kept by your faith in Him and His Love and control through this most trying of times.

Divorce is a release to a new life and the freedom to be the person God wants you to be. The old must go for the new to come and the more you hold onto of the old the more painful will be the divorce. But if you give it all to Jesus there is no past to hold onto (Luke 9:62) and He can restore of it what He wants too or replace it with something better.

Spiritual danger of divorce and affairs

A Christian who ignores the Holy Spirit, rejecting their spouse and Children, moving in with another and setting up home with as their marriage partner often commits the unpardonable sin and loses their salvation, They are unable to repent and be saved again (Heb 6:6-8).

They are then carnal, no longer have the Love and Goodness of The Holy Spirit in them, and as a result this causes very nasty divorces.

This change of nature (from Spirit led to Carnality is why you are not to remarry them.

This is why divorce, where another is involved, are so terrible at times.

If involved in one of these divorces you will need to fight a strong spiritual battle, binding Satan's plans and removing attacking demons continually, You will need to be led by The Holy spirit to know what and when to bind and/or cast out.

Divorce as a result of people just drifting apart is different. Deliverance may save that marriage and if no other has married your spouse, remarriage after deliverance of both spouses is possible.

The Holy Spirit will guide you what too what to do if remarriages is desired!.

In Conclusion

We all make mistakes but there is no fear in love so there should be no fear in going to a spouse that loves you and saying "I am sorry". There is also no shame, condemnation, criticism, or judgmental attitude in love so there is no reason for not going to your spouse and saying "What did I do wrong and how can I fix it". Love also is demonstrated and not just by sex so there is nothing wrong in going to a spouse and through your service to them saying "I love you which is why I am doing this".

My desire for your marriage

May this booklet help your marriage grow into that which Jesus wants it to be for your sake and for His Glory so that your marriage becomes an act of worship to Him and demonstrates to the world the reality of a relationship with Him and by this draw many to Him and His Kingdom.

Introduction to Deliverance

What follows is an excerpt from my book on deliverance. I have placed these prayers here as I believe they should be said by all betrothed and married couples to remove problems from the past that will cause trouble in their relationship that may hinder and possibly even destroy these relationships.

This recommendation is from years of counselling women, taking them through deliverance for problems which should have been dealt with before the marriage was entered into. As a result of these problems they living in unhappy marriages, full of low self-esteem, divorced or in the process of being divorced and feeling God had passed them by and can not use them. They are unable to function properly as a wife or mother and to minister as God desires them too.

It is suggested that both spouses say the prayers together. One reads them and prays them in their heart and the other agrees with them in their heart. There will be a need for deliverance later in some areas that are deep or hidden but these will be worked through as a couple as you support each other in dealing with these weaknesses or past events. The spouse who is less abused should say the prayers.

If a person cannot pray the deliverance prayers then all they need to do is agree with the prayers in their heart.

They just need to say:

‘Lord Jesus, I agree with these prayers in my heart’.

It is the heart that agrees and the prayers that are spoken are an expression of its attitude to God and their desire for deliverance.

So all they need to do is to agree in their heart with the prayers of deliverance that are prayed.

Deliverance is between you and God. The deliverance minister is really a facilitator to turn your heart to Jesus in areas that Jesus is not Lord of your life. It is as demons are removed from these areas that person is delivered in the prayers.

These prayers aim to help you do this, to give your life to Jesus as Lord and then tell Satan to go as He no longer has a place in you.

If you do not believe you need to say these prayers say them with your betrothed or spouse if only for their sake.

Deliverance' Prayers

I define self-deliverance as doing deliverance without the need for another to help you through the 'Five Steps to Victory' on which these prayers are based..

This section contains three lengthy prayers. The first is for re-dedication of your life to Jesus and may even be a salvation prayer for some. The second is for sexual or other types of abuse and should be said before the General Deliverance Prayers that follow it. All the prayers should really be said as they deal with areas that are different to each other and the abuse prayer does not cover everything the third prayer (the General Deliverance Prayer) covers.

Unforgiveness

Mat 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Unforgiveness can result in you losing your salvation if will not forgive someone. It does not mean you agree with what they do bur God is their judge and not you so you are to leave judgment to Him and do what He tells you to do about the situation which is basically:

Forgive them as He forgives you

Love them as He Loves them.

Offences against others

Mat 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

If you do not forgive others their offences against you God cannot accept anything you bring to Him until you are reconciled to your brother. God is a God of reconciliation and expects us also to be of a similar mind as Him and try and reconcile where possible.

Rededication to Jesus.

Before praying the 'abuse' prayer (the second set) it may be necessary to rededicate your life back to Jesus through the first set of prayers. This rededication de-

clares you belong to Jesus and that you desire Him above Satan. From this basis, of declaring and desiring Jesus to be your Lord, deliverance occurs.

Father, Lord, in my pain and hurts I gave Satan a hold on me by accepting his things were more acceptable than those of Jesus. I repent of wanting to die as I want to live and Serve Jesus. I repent of anything I gave to Satan and declare I reject what Satan offered me in the past and all I gave to Satan or accepted from him I give to you Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I give you my life. I want you to be my Lord and Saviour, to serve you as a citizen of your kingdom. I choose you and life.

Satan! you placed things on me without my consent so I command you In Jesus' Name to remove them and all the consequences of them such as any walls, enclosures, or any thing placed on or in me, around me or binding me as well as any demons associated with them in any way either in me or out of me.

Satan I have given my life to Jesus so you have no right to me any more so you must go in Jesus Name and take your demons and every thing you did to me to the abyss.

I declare in Jesus Name I am healed of all the damage Satan did to me .

Holy Spirit fill me and take the place of the demons that have left.

Thank You Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit

Amen. I declare it to be so

Prayer for Abuse

The prayer for sexual abuse can be used for any type of abuse. Just change male to female as required. Any abuse is damaging to a person and in all types of abuse the damage varies according to the intensity of the abuse. Sexual abuse is the worse as so people who are sexually abused are amongst the most damaged of any abused person.

I come to you Jesus, my Lord, my Brother, my Friend. I have been abused and hurt and need Your deliverance and healing touch.

In Jesus Name I forbid any spirit of darkness from in any way trying to stop me praying this prayer, from trying to block The Holy Spirit speaking to me, from trying to cause me to be fearful or from understanding God's Love and forgiveness towards me .

I give you my mind, thoughts, emotions and attitudes Lord and in Jesus Name I forbid satan from attacking or influencing them in any way.

Help me to have faith in Your Word and its promises of deliverance, restoration, wholeness, cleansing and purification and Your acceptance of me as I am, and not as I think I should to be. In Jesus Name I forbid any demon from blocking or hindering me in any way in these areas.

I know I have to forgive those who hurt me (mention the names of these people). I also have to forgive others who should have helped me but ignored my abuse.

I repent of every inordinate (wrong) affections/relationships of any type and of the idolatry they became to me

I repent of unforgiveness and forgive all the people who hurt me or allowed others to hurt me (name the ones you can). I repent of bitterness, any roots of bitterness, anger and any other wrong emotions I have in me towards these people. I know that if I fail I am not rejected by You but you still Love me as I am and wait for me to repent so I can be restored to fellowship with you as your Bible promises happens when I repent. I repent and forgive all those that hurt me.

Lord give me the grace to forgive myself for all I have done wrong. I forgive myself by faith through Your Grace

Help me to do this, Jesus, as it is so hard. I want to repent in my heart and not just say it, Lord!

In Jesus' name I break every wrong soul tie I have. In Jesus' Name I command any demons that have used these soul ties at any time or in any way to go to the abyss. In Jesus' Name I command healing on these soul ties as well as any other damage done by Satan to me and ask you, Holy Spirit, to fill me and take their place.

My precious Brother Jesus, I give you all the events that hurt me in any way in these areas of abuse as well as the consequence of these abusive events. I give you my coping measures, any walls or masks I have and repent of any hypocrisy that occurred, and I say to Satan:

These areas have been given by me to Jesus so you must leave them in Jesus' Name and go to the abyss, and take all you placed on me, in me, over me or around me with you to the abyss!

In Jesus' Name, Satan, I command you to remove everything you have placed upon me or in me without my consent, as well as any walls you have placed in me, all the consequences of these events and any demons that have used these things in any way. In Jesus' Name I command you all to go to the abyss.

In Jesus' Name I command healing, and restoration of all I am emotionally, physically, spiritually, mentally, the heart of flesh be healed, the wounded spirit be healed, the sound mind restored, my personality, soul, mind, memory, emotions, and all that I am integrated as a whole.

In Jesus' Name I command cleansing of all the pollution, impurity and uncleanness Satan placed on me and command these to go in Jesus' Name along with any demons associated in any way with these things. I ask You, Holy Spirit, to fill me, cleanse me and restore me.

Jesus, I give You my sexual desires and the ways I desire to fulfil them now or did fill them previously (if applicable). They are damaged and need Your healing. I repent of the wrong way I utilised sex to compensate and to give me pleasure.

Lord I give you all my insecurities as I trust you. I am sorry for any time I did not trust you and repent of this and declare I will trust you as all you allow is for my good. You are my provider and my protector. Thank you Jesus.

Lord, there is a vacuum in me that you alone can fill. I give it to you and ask you to fill it Holy Spirit as I do not want Satan to be there. I want Jesus to be there. Thank you Holy Spirit.

I give You my relationships to myself, people and God as they are damaged and need healing. I also give You my fear of close, personal relationships with You or others.

My love and emotions are damaged and I have incorrect emotions as a result of this. I give these and my love to You to be healed.

I give You my fear of man and my fear of authority, as well as any fear I have of You and also any damaged relationship I have with You, The Father, and The Holy Spirit.

I give You the incorrect self-image, self-worth and self-esteem I have. I give You my self-rejection, my fear of being unlovable and worthless as well as all the wrong attitudes and concepts I have in these areas and the other areas already mentioned.

Jesus, I give You my negative self-image as well as my (femininity/Masculinity) sexuality and gender, all the God-given gender roles You have called me to as either mother, father, sister, brother, wife, husband, or celibate servant of Yours (as applicable).

Jesus, my Brother, and my Lord, there are probably wrong attitudes in me I cannot face and which I have suppressed as they are unchristian. I give them to You now and repent of them as I do not want any thing in me that is not of You or which hinders my relationship with You in any way.

So I give You all I am, have been and will be to keep and protect as my Lord.

Satan, I have given all these areas, events, circumstances and things to Jesus to be Lord of, so you no longer have any right to these areas or any part of my life. In Jesus' Name go to the abyss.

In Jesus' Name I command healing and restoration on my whole person, the heart of flesh healed, the wounded spirit healed, the sound mind restored, the emotions, memory, personality, all I am healed, restored and integrated as one.

Holy Spirit fill me, integrate me as one and anoint me to serve the Lord as He desires me too.

Lord take the place of all that was removed and guide me to draw closer to you. Show me how to be led by Your Spirit so I can serve you as I desire.

Thank you Father for your Grace each day, that your mercy is renewed each morning and that your loving faithfulness never changes whether I sin or not. No matter what happens nothing can separate me from your Love, forgiveness given at Calvary, Your Mercy and Your Loving faithfulness to me.

Thank you Jesus my salvation does not depend on whether I am good or bad but on my continually repenting (turning away from) of all that does not please you as well as trying to keep you as Lord of my life and that it is the relationship we have that saves me and not any activity I can do. Thank you I am a child of The Father and a citizen of Your Kingdom with all the hopes and rewards you offer me.

Thank you Holy Spirit that You are always with me because You are in me guiding me and helping me each day.

I thank you Jesus that you protect me because I want to serve you and you not because I am doing anything wonderful for you and that your love for me does not depend on what I do but in who I am, a child of The Father He desires to have with Him in eternity.

I know all guilt shame and condemnation were removed at Calvary and all I feel now in these areas comes from Satan so in Jesus Name I command guilt, shame and condemnation go to the abyss.

I know all my sins were forgiven at Calvary so I do not need to ask for forgiveness as of sin as that has already been given to me at Calvary and all I need to do is repent and keep on trying to live as you want me to live.

I thank you Father that I am Your son/daughter and no one can take that away from me and that You are my Father who loves me gives me all I need. Help me to appreciate this please Father.

Lord I know my experience of being abused will help me minister to others. Holy Spirit show me how to use my experience of being abused to minister to others so I can be used to free others as I was freed by Jesus so that they can be closer to Him.

Thank You, my Father, my Lord and Brother, and Holy Spirit my Guide, for accepting these hurts, pain and sorrows, healing and restoring me to wholeness.

AMEN! I declare these things to be so!

Satan will try and make you believe you are not delivered by raising many temptations you have been freed from but these will no longer cause you a problem as he is outside trying to get back in and not inside controlling things. The Holy Spirit will tell you what to do. The Five Steps should be used to defeat Satan for the first year of attack and not just casting off attacking demons in case there are areas rising up from deep within you that need to be dealt with.

General Deliverance Prayers

These prayer can used when there is no serious abuse.

These prayers can be used for individuals or groups. All that is needed is to be change are the pronouns to reflect whether you are saying it for yourself, for another or for a group.

As you read these prayers agree with them in your heart. It is not important to say them out aloud as Jesus knows your heart's response and that is all that matters but the 'casting out prayers' need to be said even if only whispered.

I approach you Father through The relationship I have with You and The Lord Jesus and I thank you Holy Spirit for being in me and guiding me in these prayers.

In Jesus Name I forbid any demon from manifesting in any way as these prayers are said, doing anything to stop me having deliverance, blocking me from hearing and understanding the truths The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit want me to know.

A prayer to forgive all who have hurt you and also to repent of wrong attitudes to anyone:

Lord, I completely forgive all those who have offended me as well as myself, even if only by faith. Help me to do this please. I repent of any unforgiveness, bitterness, root

of bitterness, anger and any other wrong attitudes in me towards anyone Lord. Lord, help me to repent of unforgiveness, bitterness, root of bitterness and wrong attitudes toward those with whom I have trouble doing this too. I also repent of offending others and ask You to show me what to do about it.

Things put on you by Satan

Satan, you have done things to me without my consent. I did not agree to them and do not want them now. In Jesus' Name I command you to take all you did to me out of me, off me, and away from me, along with any walls you built in me as well as anything around me covering me, blinding me or binding me. I command you in Jesus' Name to remove along with you the walls you have placed in me, the demons hiding behind the walls that were in me as well as anything else done to me along with all the consequences of the actions of any of these demons in me.

In Jesus Name I also break any wrong soul ties in me and command healing of them as well as of any damage done by you and the demons that have used these soul ties at any time and for you to all go to the abyss now in Jesus Name.

Father I am sorry for anything I have done wrong in these areas to allow these walls to form and for not looking to you, Jesus or The Holy Spirit for help in dealing with these events that hurt me.

Curses and contracts with Satan

Satan! I now belong to Jesus and I renounce every contract, vow, other arrangement, promise or anything similar I have ever made to you either knowingly or unknowingly. If I have accepted anything from you I give it to Jesus to deal with. If I have given you anything I give it to Jesus to deal with. As Jesus is my Lord I declare you no longer have any rights over me or my descendants so in Jesus Name I break every curse, contract, vow or similar arrangement made by another over me or through me to my descendants .

In Jesus Name I declare all curses were broken at Calvary including the curses over Adam and Eve and if I have caused a curse on myself or anyone else I break it in Jesus Name and ask you to show me what I need to repent of in regard to these please Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' Name I command any demons associated with these curses to go to the abyss.

The Mind

In Jesus' Name I command arguments, theories, reasonings, proud and lofty thoughts, vain imaginations, weariness, heaviness, oppression, fear, doubt, unbelief, rebellion, confusion, disorder, distraction, lying and deceiving spirits and anything in me that sets itself up against Jesus and the true knowledge of God to go immediately in Jesus' Name to the Abyss. Lord, I ask for the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

In Jesus' Name I command anything that binds me, encloses me, covers me or blinds me in any way to the things of God to be broken or removed and the demons enforcing these to go immediately to the Abyss.

General Repentance

Lord, Jesus, I want you to be Lord of my life. I give it to all You, as well as anything that stands between You and me. Show me these things Lord that separate us so I can deal with them as you want me to deal with them. I want to do Your will in all I do Lord, and I ask You to help me to do this.

Lord, I give You myself, my purposes, plans, desires, hopes, ministry, everything I seek to do, have done or will do or be in this life. I want to do only what You want me to do and be what You want me to be. I want to be a faithful servant, steward and citizen of Your kingdom. I give You all that I once thought to be important, but were actually against Your will, for You to remove from me so that I can do Your will as You desire. I give You my worship, as my life is my worship to You, and I also give You my prayer life as that is also part of worship. I want to be a faithful citizen and servant of Your Kingdom. I repent of anything I have done wrong in these areas.

Lord, I give You my gifts and abilities to use as You will, any ministry you give or have given me as well as all my purposes and plans. I am sorry for the things I have done wrong with them, as I want to use them as You want me to.

Lord, I also repent of anything that hinders intimacy with You, learning of You, hearing from You, and from correctly worshipping You, Father and Holy Spirit.

Lord, I repent of rebelling against any authority you have placed over me or of not using properly any authority you have given me as I want to use any authority you have delegated to me correctly in the way You want me to use it and to obey You in all things in the way you desire me to obey you.

Lord, I repent of any word I have spoken, thought I have had or action I have done that was wrong or anything I accepted that was wrong, in word, thought or action, because I did not resist as I should have.

Lord, I have emotions and attitudes in me I don't know about because they are ungodly so I have suppressed them because I can not face them as a Christian. I give them to You and repent of them and of not taking them to You. I forgive all who have offended me and caused those wrong attitudes Lord and also forgive myself and repent of any hidden unforgiveness and bitterness, root of bitterness or any other wrong attitudes in me that I have suppressed because I cannot face these were ungodly.

Lord, I know I have worth and am acceptable, not because of what I have done, or because of what people think of me, but because You died for me, and that I am acceptable to You as I am and not as I think I should be. My God, I thank you that you have planned my life so I can be like Jesus and that You have provided all I need to live and do this.

*Lord, I want my esteem to be based on what You think of me.
My value, because of the value You place on me
My self-acceptance to be because I am accepted by You.*

I repent of getting my self-esteem, worth or value through other things or through my personal achievements.

Lord, Since shame, guilt and condemnation were dealt with at Calvary along with all my sins, I know that when shame, guilt or condemnation occur, these are now from Satan and I will cast them out in Jesus Name and ask The Holy Spirit to take their place. I also repent of any wrong attitudes toward failure as these failures happen because I am not perfect. I know You accept me as I am and not as I think I should be and all You require of me is to repent and then to keep trying to obey you.

In Jesus Name I command shame, guilt and condemnation to go to the abyss and ask you Holy Spirit to take their place.

Lord, I also reject all the works of the devil and his kingdom as I want only to do Your works in all things and to serve You alone and others as You direct. I am sorry for having done the things of Satan, whether I knew of them or not and will try not to do them in the future as I want to do only what you want me to do.

Lord, if there is anything in me that is not right or not in accordance with Your will, I reject it. I want to do Your Will as well as know and understand your teachings and I know you have promised I will know what I need to do this if I want too. I thank You Holy Spirit that you are my teacher.

Lord, if there is anything I have not given to You, I give it to you now.

Lord, I am sorry for what I have done wrong in all the areas of my life and will try to do what You want me to. I know I am not to look at past failures but only at what You have done in my life and I repent of not doing this and looking at times to the past instead of you and the wonderful things you have for me.

Lord, I give You all the above areas. I also now give You all the events and circumstances that led to the wrong thoughts, attitudes and emotions I have or have had in these areas as well as all the resultant consequences of these events and circumstances as I want You to be Lord of all my life. I want to think and behave as You want me to.

Casting-out Prayers

These need to be said but can be whispered and do not need to be said out loud.

Satan, you no longer have a right to work in these areas as I have given them all to Jesus, so in Jesus' Name go the abyss and stay there.

In Jesus' Name I command complete healing and restoration of all the damage Satan did to me as well as and integration of every part of my being and personality .

I ask You Jesus to fill me afresh with The Holy Spirit and me anoint as You think I need to be to serve you.

Thank You, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. Amen.

What follows is reproduced here as it is important to know how to hear The Holy Spirit clearly as well as how to fight Satan. These are placed here in case you want to photocopy the prayers and hand them out to someone along with these two sections.

Some helps for your Christian life

When Tempted

Satan cannot make you do anything you do not agree to do. He has to deceive you into agreeing with what he wants you to do. So, the first line of defence is to reject what he offers. When you are attacked ask The Holy Spirit if you are being attacked from within you or outside of you. If attacked from within you then deliverance is needed. If attacked from outside of you then cast it out in Jesus Name to the abyss.

If you are attacked in an area often or have a weakness you are having trouble overcoming then you probably have a need for deliverance in that area.

When you are tempted and feel you need deliverance use the following framework (The Five Steps to freedom):

As it is a battle of kings you address the enemy king (Satan).

- 1) Give the sin, area of moral weakness, circumstance, problem, event or situation to Jesus to be lord of,
- 2) Forgive all who have offended you including yourself, repent of unforgiveness, bitterness, root of bitterness any wrong emotions or attitudes to others and also of any sins you are bringing to Jesus,
- 3) Tell Satan to go in Jesus' Name as he no longer has a right to these areas as they now belong to Jesus,
- 4) In Jesus Name command healing and restoration of all the damage Satan did to you,
- 5) Ask Jesus to send The Holy Spirit to fill you replacing all the demons

If there is no need for deliverance then tell any demon attacking you that you belong to Jesus and to go to the abyss in Jesus' Name then ask The Holy Spirit to take their place.

Any emotion, altitude or feeling that is negative is not from God but is either a suggestion from a demon or a demon playing on hunts in you.

Accordingly you will either cast out a demon from inside you using the five steps or command an external demon to leave using steps 3 to 5 of the five steps.

Whenever I get any wrong thought sensation, feeling or emotion, I command the demons behind it to leave and go to the abyss in Jesus' Name.

In summary:

If the thought is from God, you obey it.

If the thought is from you ensure it is given to God or dealt with as He tells you to. It may also be a need for deliverance in that area.

If the thought is from Satan, reject it after determining if either deliverance is needed or just casting out of the demon is required then do what you need to cast Him to the Abyss in Jesus Name.

The key is to take the thought Capture. In other words the demon placing the thought in your mind is cast into the abyss in Jesus name and commanded to stay there.

Just resisting the thought does nothing. It is capturing the the source of it that removes the demon and the temptation.

How to Hear The Holy Spirit

Preparatory Prayer

Lord, I want to hear The Holy Spirit so I can do Your Will and be guided to be Your follower and son/daughter by adoption. I give this desire to You and am sorry for anything I have done wrong in this area.

In Jesus' Name I command any demons that are blocking me from hearing and understanding the truths The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit want me to hear and understand to go immediately to the abyss. I ask You, Holy Spirit, to take their place.

How You Hear Him

Unless The Holy Spirit or Satan actually appear to you, they can only talk to you in your mind. When they are speaking it is as if they are your own thoughts or that you are talking to yourself. People often mistake this for a disorder as if there are apparently two personalities in them when demons are there speaking audibly in your mind. Also when The Holy Spirit is speaking, they usually think it is their own thoughts.

If it is not our thoughts then it is either The Holy Spirit or Satan. You can actually hold a conversation with the Holy Spirit or the demons representing Satan and ask them questions and they will answer if appropriate. Only answers from The Holy Spirit are 100% truthful. Demons will answer in a way that furthers their purposes for you.

You will need to silence your mind. You may have trouble hearing Him (The Holy Spirit) especially if you are in a place full of distractions or in a place where Satan rules. Remember, The Holy Spirit, has a still, small (quiet) voice.

He will place an impression, picture, or thought in your mind, give you an emotion, or even speak to you in an audible voice. You will know it is from Him as it will not cause you to fear. He may speak in other ways than these, but these are the normal ways. You may feel a check in your spirit which is a 'no'. If He does

not reply it is also a 'no', so you ask Him the reason why He said no as He may tell you and you may find out more by this than by the answer you wanted.

The answer He gives will line up with The Bible, and you will have peace in your heart over it. Remember, God will not contradict His Word.

Remember that Satan will try and cause you doubt about what you are hearing then cause you to reason that it is wrong or impossible so that you believe you are not hearing correctly. Or at times Satan will block you hearing The Holy Spirit so you need to cast him out and stop him doing this and ask again. If you do not hear from The Holy Spirit, ask the following:

- Are you in a place in which Satan rules so that the spiritual atmosphere is blocking The Holy Spirit?
- Are you in sin and do you need to deal with it using the five points?
- Are you to ask this particular question of The Holy Spirit?
- If you do not get an answer, it may not be the time to ask
- It may not be the time to receive the answer
- It may not be an appropriate question to ask
- Are you to command demons that are blocking you from hearing the Holy Spirit to leave in Jesus' Name?
- Do you really want to hear the answer?
- Are you seriously listening or just going through the motions of listening

The Holy Spirit is your Companion in this life, so it is necessary to be in continual communication with Him as He helps you to navigate the traps of Satan and do the Will of God.

Background to the Five Steps

For years I practised deliverance the traditional way: finding out background information on the person (often intrusive and very personal) fighting demons, either individually or in families and both on and off the Internet I saw much deliverance and some healing. But the deliverance on the net exhausted me from all the typing. So I asked Jesus why it was not as easy as when He did it.

The Holy Spirit gave me understanding of why Jesus was able to deliver as He did and I started to apply this to the Internet ministry that I had been given at that time. Overnight the ministry changed. I no longer needed to know anything about the person, either their history or sins; Jesus knew them already. Healing became common and deliverance more complete with little energy needing to be expended. What used to take weeks could be done in an hour or less at times.

There is still follow-up deliverance on these people, but nothing as intensive as it used to be. Full deliverance may still require a few sessions, but I do not need to get life histories or work through all the sins of a person, saving hours and lots of embarrassment, especially where sexual sins are involved.

I was shown five principles which I use constantly and which I teach the people whom Jesus uses me to deliver. They are taught to use these principles to do deliverance on themselves and to fight the devil when he attacks them, as well as to help others to obtain deliverance. There is no need for the person seeking deliverance to know anything except Jesus as Lord, to give Him their problems and weaknesses, repent of any wrong attitudes or actions (sins) and to forgive all who have offended them.

The five steps are a framework (principles) on which to base prayers used for deliverance and to fight Satan. They are not a rote prayer or magic formula so should not be treated that way but are an expression of the lordship of Christ over all things.

Jesus gave us authority over demons (Mark 16:17), but we must live the lifestyle that allows that authority to rest on us in order to be used in this ministry. Jesus also gave us authority over sickness in Mark 16:17 as sickness is part of the works of the kingdom of darkness that occurs after sin has happened. Satan can only do his evil to us if we give him the right (or in the case of children the parent or guardian can give Satan a right) by allowing him to take control of a part of us thus placing it under the authority of his kingdom.

Satan can only get you to sin if you accept what he is suggesting you do. Agreeing to do what he has suggested to you creates an access, a legal right for him to station a demon in your soul. It is not thinking about what he suggests that is the sin. The sin is actually deciding embrace it or to do something about it even if nothing actually happens in the physical. You have accepted the thought in your heart so that Jesus is no longer Lord of that area. The fact you desire in your heart to do it is all that is needed for sin to occur.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Pray the following prayer

Satan has sent demons to try and stop people saying the five steps so you need to pray:

In Jesus' Name I forbid any demon from blocking or attempting to block me from saying the five steps automatically whenever I am attacked in any way by a demon..

In Jesus' Name I command any demon doing so to go to Jesus and to be severely punished.

I ask you Holy Spirit to take their place.

Thank You Father, Lord Jesus and Holy spirit.

The Five Steps to Victory and the reasons for them

These steps are not to be said as a magic formula as they are not one. They are only a framework of principles to use. They are a giving in your heart of these areas to Jesus for Him to be Lord of and then repenting of any wrong done in these areas.

First I give the step and then the reason for the step.

Step 1. Give the area, weakness, circumstance, event, oppression, sin or temptation to Jesus to be Lord over it.

What Jesus is Lord over, He can help you with and protect, so that Satan can not use it against you. When Jesus is Lord of an area of your life Satan cannot use it to try and convince you to sin as you do not want to accept what he offers. To control any area Satan needs to deceive you so you will accept his control over it.

Step 2. Repent of any wrong attitude in you, either known or unknown to you, or any wrong thing done by you. Forgive all those who have offended you as well as of repent of any bitterness, root of bitterness and wrong attitudes in your heart (whether you know of them or not) towards anyone.

Repentance is a turning away from the things of Satan to the things of God and is a confirmation of your decision to give Jesus Lordship in that area repented of. Repentance is usually of a blanket type when using The Five Steps and does not need to be specific (unless specific things are being given to Jesus or The Holy Spirit calls specific things to your remembrance). It is the heart attitude that is important not the words.

It is also necessary to forgive yourself and others or The Father in heaven cannot forgive your sins and you do not go to heaven. If you keep bitterness, root of bitterness or any wrong attitudes in your heart you are in unforgiveness.

Step 3. Command Satan in Jesus' Name to leave the areas or things given to Jesus and to go to the abyss.

It is a battle of kings, so you address the enemy king and tell him to leave control of the territory (in your soul) that has just been given to Jesus, otherwise he will not go. That is why prayer alone is ineffective, as it still leaves the demons around since you have not commanded them to leave. As the area is delivered from the control of the kingdom of Satan all that is in there of Satan (demons, illness caused by them) must go.

Jesus has the prerogative to heal illness when it is best for the purposes of His Kingdom so if healing does not occur ask why and you may find it is a timing issue or more repentance needs to be done.

Step 4. Command healing and restoration in Jesus' Name and if necessary, the healing of the sound mind, the wounded spirit, the soul and the 'heart of flesh given to you by Jesus as well as any integration that is needed of the personality because areas of the mind and personality were previously blocked off and controlled or badly influenced by demons that have now been removed from these areas.

This removes damage demons have done to you.

Step 5. Ask The Holy Spirit to fill you and to take the place of any demon(s) that have left.

This replaces demons that left your soul (house) with The Holy Spirit. Our spirit is filled by The Holy Spirit, so demons cannot get into it, and they complain about this bitterly. Our soul (house) is where demons live, so as they leave, you need to replace them with The Holy Spirit. If you do not do this, seven worse demons will replace them eventually.

The Five Steps are all based on Worship

- Step 1. We give these things to Jesus because He is worthy and can deal with them in a worthy fashion. We love Him and thus worship Him by trusting Him with the things we give him. We also declare He is Lord of all as we do this and that He is greater than Satan.
- Step 2. We repent (admit we have fallen short of His standards) and by this worship Him showing that we consider His values more worthy to follow than our own values and purposes and that we desire to live according to His standards.
- Step 3. He is more worthy than Satan having defeated him by His sinless life as well as His death at Calvary, so Satan must do what is commanded in the authority of Jesus (as he and his demons are now 'spoils of war' and the prisoner of Jesus). By using the authority Jesus has delegated to us over Satan, we show we consider Jesus to be more worthy of worship than Satan.
- Step 4. Jesus is worthy to be worshipped as He has authority over all the natural world as well as the spiritual world so He can command healing of body, soul and spirit. We use His authority delegated to us as an act of worship to Him as we command these healings in His Name in accordance with His Will.
- Step 5. We desire to be Like Jesus (as He is the most desirable person we know) and as an act of worship ask for His Spirit to take the place of the enemy that has been evicted from us so that His Spirit can guide us and mature into the image of Jesus.

An example of a general deliverance prayer:

This is a simple example of a prayer for self-deliverance, designed to be said by a person wanting deliverance.

The Start - binding demons

Usually this is not necessary but if they are stirring up the person wanting to be delivered then it is best to pray this command.

In Jesus' Name as I pray the following prayers I forbid any demon from manifesting in any way, or from blocking me from hearing The Holy Spirit, or from hearing and understanding the truths Jesus wants me to understand.

Step 1 - giving things to Jesus to be Lord of (Lordship Prayers)

Lord,

I give to you my spirit, soul, body, my spiritual house, mind, memory, emotions, will, personality, purposes, worship, ministry, giftings, prayers, all my relationships with anyone (God, family, self, others), all I have, all I am , all I desire, and all I want to be, every area of my life, whether I know of them or not, as I want You to be Lord of every area of my life.

Step 2 Prayers of repentance

I completely forgive all those who have offended me as well as myself, even if only by faith. Help me in this please Jesus.

I repent of any bitterness, root of bitterness and any wrong attitudes in me towards anyone (whether I know of them or not). Help me in this please Jesus.

Lord, I am, sorry for anything I have ever done wrong in these areas given to you.

Step 3 Casting out prayers

And I declare:

Satan, you no longer have a right to work in these areas as they have been given to Jesus. So in Jesus' Name be gone.

Step 4 Commanding healing in Jesus' Name

In Jesus' Name I command complete healing and restoration of every part of myself that was damaged by Satan as a result of the healing that flows from Calvary.

Step 5 Asking Jesus for The Holy Spirit to take the place of the cast-out demons

Lord, I ask to be filled with The Holy Spirit to take the place of the demons that have left.

Amen.

The basis of what to cast out in the framework of the five steps is the use of an area to be given to The Lord rather than fighting individual demons.

When a demon enters they invites others in so that there may be many demons. If you fight individual demons you need to remove them one at a time. If you give the area to The Lord then they all have to go when cast out from that area.

This is why you give areas, events, weaknesses, circumstances, agreements etc to The Lord so everything in that area is dealt with at once. You do not need to ask for forgiveness of individual sins as they were forgiven at Calvary so a general repentance only for the area is required. Such as:

Lord, I am sorry for all the things i did in this area and will try to not do them again.

It may be necessary to examine types of sins to determine the root cause so you know which area(s) to give to Jesus but usually it is not necessary to examine individual sins of a person to determine what the area is that is to be given to Jesus.

Jesus knows all our sins so we do not need to confess them individually but just the area of weakness they are in. All he asks is that we try not to sin in that area and if we do then we give it back to Him to be Lord of using the framework of the five steps (unless it is an external attack in which case we use the last three steps).

Note”

The five steps are not a litany or magic formula you recite by rote but are a framework of five principles to use like a ladder. Each rung leads to the next rung and on each rung you place what is appropriate to that rung, The first rung is the one that varies according to the situation, and is based on giving the situation to Jesus to be Lord of. The next four rungs really do not change as they really do not need to change to meet the requirements of the situation being prayed about. The fourth rung (healing) may change a little according to the situation so next is listed some guidelines as to what to pray for when commanding healing.

What is usually commanded to be healed in Step fourth step is as follows:

Spirit: The wounded spirit healed

Mind: Memories, emotions, wrong habits, attitudes and the sound mind restored

Soul: filled with Holy Spirit so demons cannot come back into it.

Heart: The broken healed, the heart of heart restored

Personality: Soul unified and mated whole to counteract its fragmentation from hidden nests of demons That have been removed.

Body: Healed of the ravages of demons on it that have now been evicted