

Marriage

Marriage

Neville Salvetti

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Foreword

Marriage is God's basic structure and the wedding is the beginning of this. But actually it begins in the engagement period as both learn how to relate to each other correctly as a couple in preparation for the marriage.

If the relationship is not good the marriage will not be good and a dysfunctional family will result.

So it is necessary to learn how a couple should correctly relate to each other as husband and wife as well as how to correctly relate in the engagement period to build up to the marriage relationship.

I cover the engagement period in my book on betrothal so this document will only deal with the marriage relationship.

A Warning

A prophet was given a vision of many prophets before the Lord and they were saying how they had persevered in doing His work. He was not moved by this.

He asked "Have you been faithful to the needs of your wife and family?"

He was not interested in what they done but was more interested in how they had been steward of those He had trusted them with. Especially your family.

Jesus has said that if you could not look after the family He has given you how can He trust you with others?

Preface

When a woman marries she gives up a great deal: Her independence, her home and family and may even move so far away she gives up everything but the marriage relationship.

Her husband must realise this and help her.

In every woman God has built a basic insecurity a husband must help her with and in fact God has designed wife to rely on her husband for her security and provision of all she needs.

A husband cannot take his wife for granted as she will become insecure and may even question his love for her.

A wife places her complete trust in her husband to provide all her needs: Spiritual, mental, Physical, emotional and love her as Jesus Loves her.

This is why you need to love your spouse with the same quality of Love with which God loves them with so that you can selflessly serve them out of love for whom they are as a person as well as the fact they are your spouse.

You would have a happy marriage?

Then love them as God loves them and serve them as He serves them.

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The Marriage Vow and its consequences

The marriage ceremony in its present form is only a few hundred years old

The oldest traditional wedding vows can be traced back to the middle ages to the ‘Book of Common Prayer,’ published in 1549. Before this, in England, you grabbed each others right wrists and before witnesses declared you were husband and wife. And so you were married in the eyes of God and man.

This caused problems for the Catholic church as many married in haste and repented in leisure and were going to the Catholic church (in charge of things like marriage disputes at that time) and requesting an annulment (Divorce not being officially allowed). So the Catholic church had so much of this occur that it was taking up its time so it basically said “we marry you or we will not recognize the marriage” which meant in the eyes of the Catholic church they were living in sin. Not a good thing to be thought of in the Middle Ages.

In a way modern Governments have recognized the original way of marriage by accepting as legally married men and women who live together as husband and wife who have not had a marriage ceremony in a church or registry office. This is called a defacto relationship, in other-words a marriage but not legalised by a ceremony recognized by the government. The government has even provided some legal protection for the woman like a legally married wife has.

In a sense the government has restored marriage back to what it was originally before God: the simple exchange of vows before witnesses and a wedding feast.

These people living together as man and wife still not cannot divorce as in the eyes of God they are married.

If a person loves a woman He will have a legally registered marriage as it provides protection for her greater in degree than people who do not have a recognized legal marriage ceremony but who live together as husband and wife.

Remember that people living together as a husband and wife are recognized as such by God and must live according to the guidelines He gives people for marriage.

The reason we have a prayer book ceremony is that a prayer book was instituted by the Anglican church so that the wedding vows were codified and so became a standard vow for all Anglicans.

This defacto arrangement was verified by Jesus when He took people to hell and showed couples in hell, who had lived together purely for sexual purposes, because they had not married each other but just had sex for lustful purposes.

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The Marriage Vows

The vows are made before God so are a serious thing. We are told:

Ecc 5:4 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.

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

It is better not to marry than make vows before God you will not or cannot keep.

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 (not spiritually) to the husband and respects 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.

Any vows not based on these principles in Ecclesiastes 5 are incorrect and do not negate these responsibilities to each other.

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 honourable 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

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*“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.”*

When the man says “with my body I thee worship” he is saying he will put her needs before his. It is not idolatry of worshipping her body but of holding her and it in high esteem.

Worship in this sense means ‘ to hold in reverence’ and treat her as something God has made. in a sense it is also a reverence for God as creator.

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.

If you believe God has called you to marry a person then to divorce or separation is disobedience to God. The Holy Spirit will help you resolve

problems and deliverance may be needed along with repentance of something by one or both spouses.

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 whose rules they under. 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

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incorrect, negative criticism and gossip by other ‘Christians’ about the fact God has not “blessed” their marriage or ‘joined’ them together.

This having a Christian minister will be for three reasons:

Not to cause other Christians to stumble through not understanding that marriage is before God

As a witness to order in the Christian life and that God holds Marriage as being very important.

To satisfy any legal requirements of the denomination and land in regard to marriage

A marriage is blessed 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.

God can still make it work out for the best for both couples and will bless their obedience to Him but it will not be as good a marriage as it could have been.

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: This is based on a person's 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. In this relationship the man looks on his wife as a Prov 31 woman and helps her to do those things she is not doing yet in this description of the perfect wife.

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Because it is a description of a perfect wife no woman can keep it all. God does not require you to keep it all but only wholeheartedly try to keep it.

Physical attraction: This is based on how the person looks, their abilities and their sexuality. Lust may often be involved. 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 (which 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 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 pajamas 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 attitude of marriage. 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 and they will agree on all things, even if it requires discussing it first to understand their differences over the matter.

There will never be any arguments or disagreements as they will go straight to Jesus and ask what His Will is in the situation.

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 fulfillment 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..”

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

As I said before, the word 'obey' originally meant not subservience. God calls the wife a 'helpmeet' and not a 'slave'.

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, in the domestic relationship on earth).

Unless the wife submits domestically and respects the husband spiritually and domestically, she will not be in the place she needs to be for the husband to love her in the way Jesus loves her and to be able to correctly carry out his stewardship responsibilities to her and the family.

It is like sex. Unless the husband prepares the wife for it she will not be able to respond and give him the pleasure she desires to give him.

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 one partner rejecting their spouse and so not fulfilling 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.

Where a physical disability prevents sex occurring, the love of God in them for each other will stop this causing problems in the marriage as the person is loved for whom they are and not their sexual abilities.

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 any remaining 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.

It is also a time to work out the basic routine of the household so that when you return from the honeymoon you know how things are to be organised in the household.

Notes on the Vow

The vows you make to God are listed in Ephesians.

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The wife is to submit domestically to her husband and respect but does not need to love him except as a Christian brother. The husband is to love his wife with the same type of Love that Jesus has for her.

This was the attitudes for many years when arranged marriages were the norm and wives did not get to choose their husbands.

However, as both are Christians they would also have to love each other with the same type of Love with which Jesus Loves each of them.

Jesus only spoke of one type of Love. When the Greek was translated it from the original they imposed their view of love on the translation so we have four Greek words for Love used. God's type of Love is the only one we are to have and its expressions only varies according to the type of relationship it is being expressed in . Which is why sex is only in marriage.

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 this sensuous world of the kingdom of darkness. It is through their love for each other that 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 stewardship He gave you.

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is tied up with Love, If you love someone you will be faithful to them.

As a steward

As a Servant

As a spouse

If you Love someone with Gods Quality of Love you will serve them not for your benefit as worldly love does, getting all you can get for yourself out of the relationship. But you will serve them faithfully for their benefit.

Only as you faithfully serve God out of love for Him and those He sends you To serve on His behalf, will you satisfy God's requirement of you as His servant.

Headship can only be domestic

Pauline Gill makes an interesting comment on the obedience aspect

Modern society may misconstrue the original meaning of the vows from the Book of Common Prayer. The word "obey" does not mean that one person is subservient to the other. The Latin dictionary offers the definition: "to mean, listen deeply." Biblical references further define the word. Paul's letters emphasize the importance of submitting to one another. "To thee I plight my troth" is in the Book of Common Prayer as well. "Plight" means promise and "troth" means faithfulness.

Pauline Gill

http://www.ehow.com/about_4675080_history-wedding-vows.html

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In other words, the original meaning of 'obey' in the wedding vows meant to respectfully listen to the other person to hear their side of the argument.

However that was misused by men quoting the infamous passage in Ephesians which implied women were subservient to men both spiritually and physically.

When compared to the equivalent passage in 1 Peter 3:1-6, it can be seen that the headship is only domestic or the woman would be placed under the headship of a man whose head is Satan.

Women are to obey a husband but only domestically and even then he should not command but ask so that when he commands the wife knows something important is happening he does not have time to explain to her. It also means he has the decision to break any deadlock but must do so out of His Love for the wife.

Having said that, if both are led by The Spirit, then headship is not a problem as Jesus is the head of the family and they obey Him guided by The Holy Spirit. This means there are no disputes or arguments as any problems arising are taken straight to The Holy Spirit to see what God desires done in the situation.

Now to explain why headship can only be domestic. I refer to the following passage:

1 Per 2:25 (ESV) For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

We are plainly told that Jesus is our spiritual head (overseer)

Now for the submission part. The EMTV puts it as follows:

1Pe 3:1 Wives, likewise, subject yourselves to your own husbands, so that even if some are disobedient to the word, that by the conduct of their wives, without a word, they shall be gained for Christ,

1Pe 3:2 when they observe your chaste conduct with fear.

1Pe 3:3 Of whom let it not be the outward adorning of braiding of hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on of fine clothes,

1Pe 3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible attitude of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious before God.

1Pe 3:5 For thus formerly, the holy women who hoped on God also adorned themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands,

1Pe 3:6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, of whom you became children, when you do good and are not afraid of any terror.

Note: there is a non-Christian husband and a Christian wife mentioned in this passage. If the husband is her spiritual head then she has been placed back under the authority of Satan from which Jesus has freed her from. So spiritual headship cannot be meant here. All that is left is domestic headship and so Ephesians must mean the same or these verses will contradict each other.

Note that she is not to hide her nature by clothes and jewelry so that her husband Will see Christ in her and not a woman of the world.

1Pe 3:7 (EMTV) Husbands, likewise, live together according to knowledge as with a weaker vessel, with the wife,

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showing her honour as also a fellow heir of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered.

The husband is steward of the wife and in his headship is also the role of steward which means he must do all he needs to do for her care and development, both spiritually and physically, as well as protect her and meet all her needs.

Like Jesus said, those in charge are your servants and not your masters.

In Summary

The key is for the man to love his wife as Jesus loves her and for the wife to submit to the man so he can love her this way as well as love Him in the way Jesus loves him. Note that she is to respect and obey her husband according to Ephesians as love may not be there because God has arranged the marriage. The promise in 1 Pet 3 is that as she does this, Love will develop.

The wife is to respect her husband as Jesus has made him domestic head over her and her steward. If she does not respect this authority she will not respect the man it has been given too (her husband) and will disobey Jesus.

If she does not submit to the man she is disobeying God as well as preventing the man from loving and serving her in the way Jesus desires him to love her. He will also not be able to serve her as God requires him too.

If the husband loves her in the same way Jesus loves her, she will gladly submit to him as all he does will be for her best.

This is why they never should argue, react, reason or assume things but ask The Holy Spirit what to do so you they not be disobedient to God in the marriage.

Invalidated Spouse

God has given you stewardship of your spouse regardless of their state or condition. Out of love and faithfulness to God you look after your invalid spouse as well as out of love and faithfulness to them.

The fact they may not be able to return your love is not an excuse for not loving them. After all, God's type of love does not depend on the other person being able to respond to His love.

This is why a person with God's quality of Love can love when the world would walk away.

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 to 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:

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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:

“v13. For there are these three things that endure: Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is Love.”

He pointed out that spiritual gifts will become redundant in heaven and that faith will not be necessary as we will not need these 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 summarised 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.”

Love was actually God's attitude behind The mosaic Law but Jesus had to tell them this because they had not realised it and so to them it was a new commandment.

There are no exceptions to this command! There is no escape clause! The only difference in its expression is is the degree that culture allows you to express it physically.

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. As an example. You can have sex with your wife but not your sister. You can shake hands with a woman but not passionately hug and kiss her if she is not your wife. But in all cases the love you have for them os equal, being the quality of love Christ has for them.

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

In a sense the Christian life is the repression of the love relationship we have with Christ and The Father guided by The Holy Spirit.

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.

It is only as you love others with a pure love that you will truly experience the joy this love brings to you which is why one of the fruits of The Spirit's expression of Love is joy.

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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.

Sec is a form of worship where you show the other person is a form of worship because God has decreed that relationship is the only one you can have sex in and you are showing He is worthy to be obeyed by only having sex in His parameters.

In a sense all obedience is a form of worship.

The ring is a symbol of eternity and symbolises the fact that before the fall Adam and Eve would have been married for eternity and not just for a short period on earth. The Garden was part of heaven so they would have been married also in heaven.

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. Deliverance is usually necessary for this to happen.

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 only a part of this. 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.

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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 in the ceremony marriages may be more permanent and God’s order be in them.

Conclusion

If you believe God has called you two to marry, then divorce is disobedience. Deliverance will help solve many marital problems so that divorce can be averted but this will only happen if you want to solve the problems. But then this wrong attitude is usually helped by deliverance and/or forgiveness.

If you have vowed before God to marry for better or for worse, then not to do anything to resolve problems is disobedience to God.

Remember that you fight Satan and not your spouse, so never attack her but attack the demons suggesting to her the course of action she is doing and have her obtain any deliverance you or her need.

The attitudes/emotions we should have in a marriage

Introduction to the chapter

Before I discuss these you must remember never to let emotions and reactions govern what you do. Satan can use these to cause problems in the marriage. Never argue, reason, assume or react but ask The Holy

Spirit what to do when you feel like murdering your spouse. After all murder is not allowed.

Also you serve Jesus so must do His Will and when there is a problem is a good time to ask Him what it is.

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.

He also has convinced it that sex = love so that if you love a person you demonstrate it by having sex with them. By this there are many single mothers and abortions. A situation God does not desire a woman to have because of the effects on her and her child.

If you love a woman you will not have sex with her until you are married in case she becomes pregnant or takes the birth control pill and murders her child.

Now for marriage attitudes

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.

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The only difference in the love shown to the other is that 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
| (Ecc 4:9-10)

You are able to fulfill your role as male or female in a way you cannot fully do if you are not married.

You are unified through sex so that your soul is in a sense shared with each other.

The principles is shown her:

1Co 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

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 emotionally and not stop and ask Jesus what to do. This is why so many marriages are not as they should be.

People are reacting and not standing back and asking The Holy Spirit what to do - what Jesus desires done in the marriage or situation. They are listening to their emotions or reason and thus cloud The Voice of The Holy Spirit.

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 the marriage belongs to Jesus and are guided by The Holy Spirit. In otherwords:

Give the situation to Jesus to be Lord of

Give the situation to Jesus along with all that is associated with it and command Satan to leave that situation in Jesus' Name and to take all he has done and/or is doing with him and go to Jesus to be dealt with.

Ask The Holy Spirit to take his place so Satan cannot come back in that area.

Satan will always try and place thoughts in your mind to indicate he has not left, but it is a lie of his as he is on the outside unable to get back into that area unless you let him.

To obey Jesus you must die (control) your self so reason and emotions do not cloud your hearing Him. This is the main problem with marriages. Emotion and feeling have replaced hearing The Holy Spirit 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 so we can do the Will of Jesus and this is how we should relate not just in marriage but in all situations.

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The flesh uses our self to try and make us sin by fulfilling the lusts Satan places on it which is why we are to control and discipline it.

We should never argue, be angry, assume or react as Satan can control these and through this control make us do what He wants us to do because we think we are thinking those thoughts and so do them. Instead both marriage partners should ask Jesus what He desires done in the situation as He is their Lord and it is Him they must please.

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 or even better, they are maturing in Jesus!

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 four 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

Remember that Romans 8:28 applies. Even though you may not see what God is doing you must still trust His Love for both or you.

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

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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. But then Jesus should be his guide and not his reason.

Susan, a friend, said to me once

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 personal 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 overcome and control. Both need prayer and deliverance to overcome and it IS POSSIBLE after deliverance to restore the love they originally had for each other.

Essentially, God gave Adam a companion and when this relationship ceases or is corrupted 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.

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 because 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 on only one person has the authority to make decisions.

The wife will be given spiritual gifts to help with the marriage so she needs to find them and develop them.

Advice to a husband on ministry

Ministry is to each other spiritually as you are both equal in Christ. However the wife is to serve the husband as he is the head of the household. Having said that there is a greater factor involved in that each has the love of Christ in them so they serve each other out of that love. While the wife's service to the husband is domestic the service to each other is out of love for each in the way Christ served us by His life and death.

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!

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The problem is that men fear being not as good as their wife so suppress them rather than be shown to be not as good as their wife. They have to show they are superior to the wife and by this suppress her love for them.

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.

So spiritually all are equal but domestically man has the final say but should be guided by The Holy Spirit in this.

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 the spiritual realms. 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 as long as their household is in order.

The only requirement is that their relationships with Jesus and others are 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.

As long as the household the woman is steward of is in order and she is sufficiently mature and she is authorized by The Holy Spirit to minister, then no one can stop her ministering unless they are led by Satan to do so.

Her primary responsibility is to run the household:

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.

Can a wife minister or lead in a ministry.

A wife can lead or minister if she has her domestic headship in place, her home in order, her relationship with Jesus in place and she is sufficiently spiritually mature to lead and is authorised by Jesus to do so. 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.

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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.

On this basis a man should not teach a woman because the same problems could occur.

As the old saying is: “Man to man and mam to mam!”

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 main 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. This is why God seems to wait until the children are grown up to send a woman into full time ministry.

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 Jesus 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 when it is time too.

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 trust 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 trust 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 or you are learning it so that you have demonstrated you are able to fulfill the requirements yourself and are worthy to teach what you are experiencing, or have experienced, 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).

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This applies to a mother training daughters and a man their son. You need to learn before marriage and childbearing what is required of a man or woman and learn how to teach it to your children.

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 will not respect her or relate to her as you should which eventually will lead to the end of the marriage. You will live together but not as a husband and wife should.

You must accept them as God made them as well as wait on God for what He desires to do with you both.

As you are led by The Holy Spirit He will show you what to do so that your spouse is developed as God desire them to be developed and not as you desire them to be.

God desires to use you as a couple otherwise there was no need to marry for God to use you.

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. Praying for a ministering husband is a mighty ministry and their are promises of rewards to those who stay and support and pray for a ministering husband.

1 Sam 30:24 (ESV) Who would listen to you in this matter? 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."

If you want your spouse to be something God does not want them to be 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 desires to use you.

If you want God to use your marriage, give to Him your dreams, let The Spirit guide you and The Spirit will lead you on the path God has for on which is all God has planned for you which is also the best for and has on it all you need to get to heaven and be fulfilled as a person.

While you tell God what your spouse should be doing you are not where God desires you to be and you are missing out on all God has for you in marriage, ministry, rewards, and whatever else He has for you.

Other Matters

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 willfully 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.

If you have aborted a child God forgives you but you need to plan what you will say when you go to heaven and the child asks you why you aborted them.

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 out by the married couple.

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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 in the womb.

When a child is conceived doctors have seen a flash of light as the soul and spirit are joined and in fact this is one way invitrofertilisation people know the egg has been successfully impregnated. 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.

The aborted baby goes straight to heaven so Satan by removing the baby, stops a life God could have possibly used greatly but loses a soul who may have one into hell with him. So in sense he may gain but also loses.

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 it may 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

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 to protect yourself and any children 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 or your children.

Escape from the abusive spouse 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 need 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

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woman in the earth environment and really confirms the marriage before 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.

Above All

You are a Christian and so must express God's quality of love to all, especially your spouse which means you express the fruit of The Holy Spirit in all you do. This means you need to discipline yourself so that you learn to control yourself to express these towards your spouse and others and it is up to you to learn to do this. If you do not do this then the marriage will be a poor shadow of what it can be.

Marriage Roles as defined in the Bible

Introduction

We must look at the lines of service a person has before we discuss the roles spouse have in a marriage. This is so we can obtain a true perspective of what service actually is in marriage.

Our first level of service is to Jesus, our Lord. He tells whom we are to serve as well as when, where and how to serve them.

Our second level is because we are Christians and so serve each other.

Our third level is in marriage. The Husband is domestic head of the marriage and its steward and so serves every member of the family and has a duty to help them fulfill the stewardship they have over the areas they have been stewardship of.

They are not in order of importance but describe the attitude you need in each area of service.

The husband has been given domestic headship so that he can carry out his stewardship responsibilities better. If he loves his spouse as Christ does then submission to him is easy because He will only do what is best for the family member and by not submitting to his love they are actually doing what is not best for them.

Stewardship is not just of physical things but of their spiritual life s he helps them become the person God desires them to be.

This is also why a man leaves his parent's family and goes to be with his wife so that his former family cannot interfere or hinder his stewardship of her. By being with her away from outside influences he is able to be a good steward of her and carry out his responsibilities without outside interference.

This does not mean his parents cannot advise him but they do not have control over his family.

Now to the discussion of the responsibilities Jesus has given each member in the family.

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Remember, a role is an overall description of what a person has to do while responsibilities are the actions a person does in that role. If you do not understand your role in the marriage you will not carry out or possibly not even carry out your responsibilities in the marriage.

Roles in marriage

Abuse is defined in Webster's dictionary as follows:

ABU'SE, v.t. s as z. [L. abutor, abusus of ab and utor, to use; Gr. to accustom. See Use.]

1. To use ill; to maltreat; to misuse; to use with bad motives or to wrong purposes; as, to abuse rights or privileges.

They that use this world as not abusing it. 1 Cor 7.

2. To violate; to defile by improper sexual intercourse.

3. To deceive; to impose on.

Nor be with all these tempting words abused.

4. To treat rudely, or with reproachful language; to revile.

He mocked and abused them shamefully.

5. To pervert the meaning of; to misapply; as to abuse words.

ABU'SE, n. Ill use; improper treatment or employment; application to a wrong purpose; as an abuse of our natural powers; an abuse of civil rights, or of religious privileges; abuse of advantages, &c.

Liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty, as well as by the abuses of power.

2. A corrupt practice or custom, as the abuses of government.

3. Rude speech; reproachful language addressed to a person; contumely; reviling words.

4. Seduction.

After the abuse he forsook me.

5. Perversion of meaning; improper use or application; as an abuse of words.

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 realise that, by inactivity or not speaking words of love and encouragement without their being a reason too, there is an abuse of the wife.

I am not talking about physical abuse or other abuses that hurt the person emotionally or physically This is obvious abuse. I am talking about the small things a wife would like you to do at times but you ignore when you know she needs these things. For example you:

Do not tell her she is beautiful and desirable

Do not tell her of your love for her and who she is as a person

Do not help her in the kitchen after a big meal but leave her to wash up for the family by herself

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Do not put her needs before yours in sex to show you love her and are not in it for personal pleasure

Do not do things she would like you to do at times. 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)

Do not help her make the bed in the morning if you are able to or even make it for her at times

Do not help her when she asks for help. 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.

Do not sit her down and serve her afternoon tea or in other areas to show she is appreciated

Do not do anything she needs done to help her cope with her role and responsibilities no matter how small or trivial the thing to be done seems.

The Holy Spirit will show you what He desires you to do for her and unless you walk in His Guidance you can 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 fulfill 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 Tm 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 the role they have is that which 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 fulfill the requirements of your marriage role.

Different roles between them

If God had wanted 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 desires them too and for them to be able to do the things He desires 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 desires 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 if this is not done at their request of the spouse be-

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cause she needs help in an area she has responsibility for and then it is not headship really but assistance with a form of control at times. By rejection of the roles Jesus has given them ministry the witness they have as a married couple is hindered or destroyed. They are not in the order Jesus requires them to be so He cannot use them as he desires too if at all. 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 (be a steward) of all God had created in His Garden. 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 someone to complement him and assist him as an equal and not as a slave. Adam was to look after the needs and protection of the family while Eve was to look after the children and the household. 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 had given 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.

The first sin is ascribed to the man because he did not fulfill his stewardship and protect the tree and stop Eve from approaching the tree.

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. Besides, before God they were spiritually equal so that the man did not have spiritual headship (authority) over the woman. It was not given to Adam in the garden and was not delegated by God elsewhere so that man has not spiritual headship over women.

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 and whoever is to be the spiritual head of the family does not come into discussion.

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 to be.

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.

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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 comparison 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.

The passage in 1 Pet 2:25 to 3:7 shows that domestic headship can only be physical and not spiritual.

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 inferior. In fact in some areas they are superior to men and husbands need to take advantage of these areas so the wife feels she is worthwhile. So you need to find what your wife is good at and develop it as well as strengthen her in the areas she needs development in.

This approach to them as being mentally inferior to mean 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 protec-

tion of himself (Satan) and his demons. Man in his insecurity goes along with what Satan suggests.

This also stops men being guided by the spiritual sensitivity women have in the gifts such as prophecy and words of knowledge and wisdom. By this ignorance of a woman's capability men are sadly missing out on much that would help them in marriage, work and ministry.

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 the man has self-esteem and is not threatened by a woman who are more capable in some areas than they are 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 fulfill 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 gifts under the guidance of The Holy Spirit and with the encouragement of the their spouse, they will properly complement each other and function as a unit in the way God desires them too. This means each will be an equal partner in ministry, each giving their gifts to the 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

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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.
She is worth more than anything you own*

*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 will never harm you in any way and should be treated that way herself

She diligently seeks what is needed to clothe and feed her family and meet their needs and does not pass this responsibility on to others to do.

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

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 and her heart has no evil in it to use what she does for personal gain but uses it for the gain of 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 hand to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

She makes certain her house is properly outfitted and comfortable for the family

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 and respected because his family is in order because the wife fulfills her role to make this occur.

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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. She has her priorities right so she does her part in meeting all the needs of her family: emotional, mental, physical and spiritual. Her speech reflects the Love of God that is in her as well as the wisdom of her maturity.

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 recognises her worth and praises her to all as does her children. She is not appreciated for her looks as she appears to be plain and appears to have no great abilities that make her stand out from other women. Hence the reference to appearance and abilities, 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 the finances of the family and in providing for all of its needs that she is able to meet. He liberates her from housework to other activities providing she fulfills the requirements of her necessary activities of caring for her family, household and husband. God is showing that both spouses 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 and meet all her needs: spiritually, emotionally, physically 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

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daily finances. She rules the house but in other areas is in partnership as an equal with her husband.

A man had been happily married 50 years and was asked with the secret of the marriage. He said that when they entered the house he said to her that he would look after the outside and her the inside and it was that way for 50 years. This is the secret to happiness that boundaries of responsibility are made and who ever has responsibility for the area being discussed makes the decisions after discussing it, if necessary, with their spouse..

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 in the way she needs too 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 look after its infrastructure and the outside of it. He will only interfere in the running of the household when The Holy Spirit tells him too or his wife asks him to help her.

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 the things and train their children to live godly lives 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.

I have noticed that God seems to use married women in ministry who have successfully raised their children so that they know what they are teaching and are not hindered by family concerns like younger women are.

The education of the children

A mother has one of the hardest jobs in the world. She has sole care of children the day until they begin schooling and often has the main care of them out of the husbands 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 teach and demonstrate the Christian life to his children 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 as well as for her to develop as she needs to carry out her responsibilities.

He needs to show strong headship to keep order and stability in the family so God can work in it.

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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.

He needs to love his wife and children in the way 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 without taking over her responsibilities in this area.

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. This means she needs to understand what good nutrition is.

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 healthy food is 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 or as usual after the body starts to deteriorate areas.

A wise mother will train her all her children to eat healthy food as well as 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 play activities with the children or

monitor their playing so it is godly. Both parents 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 that 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 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, serves her husband and children in this as well as any strangers or friends that come into her area of influence.

God 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.

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The Holy Spirit has been given to us to guide parents in this raising of children, another of God's Greatest gifts. Thus the need to learn to be guided by The Holy 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 spiritual 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 fail.

v4-5 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands as 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 Godly way to do something

Chaste: Pure from immoral language or expression of the body which includes the way they present their bodies in their clothes

Young Women: especially their daughters

The Word of God is Jesus and the wife calls 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.

However, stewardship of your body and children may mean you may have to leave an abusive husband when there is physical or mental danger to you otherwise you are not a good steward of what God has given you (your body and mind and those of the children that are threatened by the situation)

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). This is a different situation to where a man cannot exercise headship because the wife rejects it.

Women who usurp a husband's headship disobey God and need to repent or will die in their rebellion and go to hell unless there is a very godly reason for not submitting.

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 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.

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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

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

2:2 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 (but that does not mean you do not have a sense of humour. After all, God has one)

Temperate: Does not overindulge in things but does all in moderation

Gravity: Serious and soberness of manners and character and not given to flight 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.

The fact that God has specifically outlined in separate passages the duties of wife and husband shows how important these are to Him and so need to be carried out by the male or female spouses as a form of obedience to God.

Satan attacks these roles and tries to blur them so that the family does not function in the way God desires it to function so cannot be used by God as He desires to

In general

A wise husband will delegate responsibility to his wife in the areas she needs to control to fulfill 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 by The Holy Spirit in this then The Holy Spirit will speak to her and she will accept it. Likewise a wife will not undermine her husband's authority and role without a good reason from The Holy Spirit 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.

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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.

The spouses never argue or defend themselves but ask The Spirit what to do when there is conflict.

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 in humility 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 other 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 who she is 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 Judgement to be dealt with by God asking The Holy Spirit to replace them using the five steps.

Sex

Sex is a role in marriage and the health of the sex life is a gauge of the health of the marriage. In fact a healthy marriage always has a healthy sexual relationship behind it. Sex is the only thing they can do with each other they cannot do with others and so is important as a gauge of the relationship like nothing else is.

The husband needs to prepare the wife so she can respond. He needs to know what his wife likes him to do to her as preparation for sex as well as what she wants done in the sex act so he can do it and she can respond then give him pleasure. In this he is a servant also and not a controller.

His service to her in the sex act will draw a response from her which is why lust never provides sexual fulfillment in the long term because it uses her body and does not serve it.

Family Prayer and Bible Study

If the head of the house is to be a Godly man and fulfill 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. The wise parents know who is to deal with what.

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

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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. Perhaps the most important conversation is the one he will have with his wife in bed before they have sex or go to sleep.

His role is to warfare for the household and the people in it and to protect them from the attacks of Satan in any form they may take.

He will set the example of what a Christian father and husband is for the son(s) 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 used to take.

Just remember that God has allowed this singleness of parenting to happen to you (even though it is not His will it has been the result of your choices and He will not go against your free will) 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).

You need 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, in Jesus' Name removing any attacking demons and asking The Holy Spirit to take their place.

One of the activities of the five steps is to help you cope with problems either present or future.

Disciplining Children

A child should never be disciplined in anger. The anger is a result of the parent's 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.

Prov 13:24 (CEV) If you love your children, you will correct them; if you do not love them, you won't correct them.

Prov 22:6 (KJV) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Note that children need to be guided and the Lord gives us two verses to guide us in this. Discipline does not mean belting them but guiding their parameters of thought and actions so that they are correct or so that the child is prevented from doing something that will harm them now or in the future or punishing them in an acceptable way to show the action is not acceptable to God. In a sense it is teaching them self-discipline through how you treat what they have done.

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This will usually mean punishing rebellion when the child disobeys them. Punishment is only for rebellion against parental authority and even then the punishment should fit the rebellion and this is where you need The Holy Spirit's guidance to when and how this occurs and the child is not abused by incorrect punishment.

Disobeying the laws of the land or another authority over the child is also rebellion against the parent who has told them to obey the authority they are rebellion against. It is also rebellion against God who has told them to obey their parents

Problem Resolution

Whenever there is a difference of opinion or a problem do not react, argue, assume or reason but ask The Holy Spirit what to do because He is represents Jesus the true head of the household. Stop and analyze 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 you will place a wedge in the relationship with your spouse. Treat it 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 all 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.

This is how Jesus loves her and should be how each partner in the marriage love 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.

Remember, if you believe God has placed you together then divorce is rebellion against God. God has given you all you need to resolve issues and if you are led by The Holy Spirit then conflict should never really occur in the marriage.

5

Stewardship of Marriage

Every sin has two components:

A lack of love or indifference to a person or thing

Bad stewardship of that person or thing if only in a small way.

If any of these is deliberate then a sin occurs.

This is why correct stewardship so important in a marriage.

Introduction

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

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them as He is King and owns all things and that we are just caretakers of the things we have been trusted with by Him.

It is also a natural expression of our love for our wife and children. Because we love them then we desire to do what is best for them in every area.

← Which is why The Bible says:

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 an

Secondly to the earthly (family and possessions) responsibilities that you have been trusted with by Him.

Your attitude to stewardship determines 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 to 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 be 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 trusted her with. The stewardship is physical (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. He is a steward of the environment needed for her to develop spiritually.

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 in the way Jesus Loves her.

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 and to die for her if necessary like Jesus did for us. He is not to encourage her

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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 trusted 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 trusts 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 respective 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 through the media so that the roles of husband and wife blur and people do not realise 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 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.

If he did not need their roles to be different He would not have needed to create woman differently to men.

Good stewardship of your sexuality allows you to carry out your God-given role in the way He desires 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 with the children to protect them and herself. 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 protection 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.

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← Stewardship of possessions

Husband and wives have different roles and so have different areas of expertise 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 their role they have in a marriage. Anything to do with food, clothes for the children, housework the wife usually know best. Anything to do with the maintenance or mechanical things of the house the husband usually knows best.

However, if a wife has expertise in an area her husband should listen to her.

Any purchase is to be approved by The Holy Spirit so that you do not spend more than you should or on things God does not want you to purchase and you will have left what is necessary to do what God desires 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”.

Or

Darling go buy some groceries for me but don't buy bread costing more than \$5.00”

It is assumed she will be guided by 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 not choose to forgive. Jesus has shown people He has taken to hell Christians who lived a good life but would not forgive their spouse a wrong that they had done to them.

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 your spouse. It puts the needs of others before itself and any rights they have that would hinder this are ignored (having usually being suggested by Satan anyway).

Healing can only occur if you forgive and to hold onto your so-called rights stop healing and destroys the marriage.

There is no self-interest in marriage. You are either helping others to realise who they are as Citizens of The Kingdom of God, 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.

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← **Questions by your spouse if there is a problem**

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, dependent 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 on their behalf by you.

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 they need help.

For her to ask more than twice is either nagging or her husband is not listening to her.

If the spouse is checking for control purposes then they need deliverance in an area.

A spouse who loves 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 to do it. 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.

Only in the correct service of each other is correct stewardship possible

His Needs Her Needs

I deal with some of the basic needs of a marriage.

Her greatest need is for Him to help her develop in every area of her life so she can reach her full potential as a wife and woman. As he denies himself to do this, he shows her his deep love for her and she can respond with the same quality of love. His greatest need is for her to show she considers him worthwhile as a husband in every area and to help him develop in those areas he needs to work at,

Her first need is for him to build her up, protect her 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 who she is as a person and for what she does for him and also for the sacrifices she makes to do them and especially to tell her this as often as she needs it. He needs to be built up by her submitting to him and showing appreciation of what he does for her trusting God and her husband's love for her in what he asks her to do.

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.

So a wife is independent as a spiritual being related to God but tied to him as a person to found family and minister as a complete team, each contributing their different god-given skills and emotional makeup to the ministry team they make.

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.

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Women are therefore made differently to men or they would not be a complement to man and have needs that man only can fulfil through the way she allows him to love and serve 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 desires.

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 their father but often is not there. This means many women enter a marriage in a bad state of emotional stress and low self-esteem. Satan has also built up as world system that make makes women insecure and obtain value and self esteem through things most of them cannot do on their own. So a husband must appreciate a wife for whom she is and not what the world says a woman should be.

Deliverance can remove this but it requires the husbands love and attention to keep the woman feeling secure and worthwhile. Unless a husband constantly affirms the value of his wife to her 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 is not what you say at Times that is important but how you say it and what yu actualy do..

Remember that sins before marriage are past tense. Forgiven and forgotten by God and should not be be mentioned unless understanding is needed for communication or deliverance. No husband can judge a wife for her past sins as God alone is her judge. He needs to accept her as she is, reformed sinner and not live in the past (Luke 9:62). He must let her show she has repented and no longer do them before he says anything to remind her of them. Jesus does not and the husband has no right too.

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

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 hiding through hypocritical speech so that she can accept on face value everything ou say.

You need to find the words, phrases and behaviour patterns that your spouse love 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

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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.

When past sins are found out but have been repented of and no longer done they are to be forgotten and not remembered to use against the spouse. Love forgets but evil condemns. Love humbly advises and helps. Evil condemns and judges.

The quickest way to destroy a relationship is condemnation for something they have done.

If you love them and they still have a the problem then you will do everything you can to help them overcome the problem so they can be the person Jesus desires them to be.

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 should allow her to express herself unreservedly, uninhibitedly and unashamedly.

The same applies for her husband.

Sharing fears

Should you tell your spouse your fears about them or things they have done wrong and offended you in?

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. Fears hinder and destroy love because they cause self preservation which means the focus becomes on their self and not on Jesus or their spouse so that they cannot love or serve their spouse as they should.

You should express fears only if they do not have emotional damage that will stop 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 then 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 them because they appear to be relating to you the way a former abuser related. You could be reacting to someone completely different from your past 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:

Do not confuse your spouse with the person who hurt you or you will react to your spouse as you reacted to the person hurting you

Some deliverance may be necessary before you can tell a person their weakness

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

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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 the day, before they have sex, must be consistent with the way he treats her normally on days they do not have sex.

If a man is always loving and gentle to his wife because he loves her in the way 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 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 they are given pleasure and see the love behind it they will respond and give them 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 him.

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.

The husband needs to provide physical security for her and do spiritual warfare protect her.

A woman needs the security a husband provides to develop and mature in safety in the provision he gives her. He should do all he can to help her in this and not just allow her alone to do the necessary things for this.

This stops her worrying about the love her husband has for her (shown by the things he does for her) and 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 interaction 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 desires them too. It 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 is because of the different roles God has ordained for them.

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The woman in proverbs 31 trades, but it is only because her household is in order and she feels secure that she can confidently do this.

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 and they are not done at the neglect of any family responsibilities.

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 to 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 hid-

den 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. Also we are told to do all things in moderation so jewellery Jewellery, make-up and clothing should always be moderate and modest. The Holy Spirit will tell you when you have gone beyond the modesty God desires 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 and it will always be dependant on these things and not on who you are as a person. You will also show a false front to your husband trying to be something you should not be - a fashion statement instead of a Godly woman whose worth is whom she is as a person.

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. It more likely means impersonating the other sex or wearing clothes that typify the other sex, like a man wearing a bra e.g. Many clothes of men and women perform a similar function but it is the way they are styled that is different. And this also should be a consideration when putting into that practice the command of God not to look like the other sex intentionally.

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 too.

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If women cannot wear pants or the female equivalent then nearly one third of A is going to hell.

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 trained by Satan says they should be or what 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 peace 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 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 because Jesus has made him her domestic head and also because they are spiritually equal and as spiritual equals should respect each other equally. Love is a bonus for the wife. In fact to marry for love is quite a recent notion in many parts of the world where arranged marriages were and still are normal

The Bible says she is to respect and submit to her husband and requires nothing else of a woman, but as a Christian she is to love him as one. Note that there are no exceptions for the husband loving his wife or a wife submitting domestically to her 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.

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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 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).

It does not have to be expensive. I know of a couple who could only afford a very cheap engagement ring worth very little but to them it is worth far more than an expensive one as it symbolises the love they have for each other.,

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 from relationship criteria the attitudes needed to appreciate or respect another person. All good relationships requires correct attitudes to be in them. This is why the world in the west is as it is as these attitudes of love and service are no longer in the attitudes of most people.

Never take your wife for granted but always appreciate her love and service of you and love respect her for this and whom she is too you – a gift from God!

Pro 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

And he finds her because God has placed her before him and shown her to him not because he dates everyone he can in the hope he finally finds the correct one. Every good and perfect gift comes from The Father while Satan will provide all the wrong ones he can.

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

Support as she seeks to do things that will develop her as a woman

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

Share the family finances so she can spend what she need without asking you
If you trust her you will do this.

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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 for 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, serve and protect 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 either of you draw your last breath

Meet her fears so Satan cannot use them to put a division between you and her

Always listen to her as she shares what is on her heart or causing her problems

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 Quality of Love you do in all things you do to her.

Remember, The Holy Spirit is your guide in everything including how you treat your wife!

Remember husbands, you will be accountable to God if you do not do these things.

A husband 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.

Also a general principle

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Remember also that every loose (idle) word will need to be accounted for on the day of judgment (Matt 12:36). You will stand before Jesus and have to explain why you said them. (shudder!)

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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.

Show apathy towards her

Ridicule her in the sex act in some way or use her for personal pleasure and not for her enjoyment

He needs to show his love and support even though she may not be completely capable in an area or and he needs to show it in a way that indicates he is not lying about it and also help her to develop the skills necessary to be capable in that area

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 either of 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. In regard 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

The Father's authority in the Home

In every child there is the need to know the authority and love of their father. This is 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.

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This 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 desires them raised.

A woman who takes over headship of a house, usurping the authority a husband has, cannot do so by Godly means unless the husband has a disability that makes him unable for him to be the head of the house. This usurped headship 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.

Where a wife has to take over headship of the house because the husband is dead or disabled then God will guide her and help her to do her role.

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 privately, not in front of the children. 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 and do any spiritual warfare they 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 well being 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 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 rules the family and His wife in love 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 desires 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 an

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not as Satan has convinced the modern world it should be. The biggest problem 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, trusting Him for the consequences of her obedience, being 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.

Femininity and other matters

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 desires her too. This frees her from all the misinformation the media has put out about women.

← **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 you then show he is appreciated and loved for who he is and obey and respect him.

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.

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That is why his controlled media says what a woman should be even though a lot of it promotes Satan's agenda to destroy God's image of what a woman should be.

A woman should be appreciated and loved for who she is and not whom she wants to be or thinks she should 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. This will only occur if who she is as a person is more important than how she looks.

A husband can always appreciate the beautiful spirit she has as a woman even though she may not be attractive in other ways.

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 infancy 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 other words, how does Jesus see the situation and whether there is actually anything they need to change in them or their behaviour.

Cindi, a friend once wrote to me:

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 how she sees 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.

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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/or hurt in some way 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 he wants 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 desires 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. Anything that causes her problems she will be able to share with her husband because she knows he will not cause her to feel rejected in some way.

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 (e.g. sex and other intimacies).

When you love your wife as Jesus Loves her 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 doing them 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.

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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.

The in-laws 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, the husband and wife 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 realise which can exhaust the wife physically, emotionally or mentally. A husband needs to realise 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).

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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 desires 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 or if they need too. 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 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

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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"

A mother was in bed and did not get up.

Her son asked why she was not getting up

She said she was sick

To which the son replied. "You cannot be sick you are a mother".

True story

Exhausting a wife (by Susan)

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!

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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 back-

ground 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!

My 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.

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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.

Just as faith without works is dead so love without works is also dead

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 God states 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 her timing 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 as important as being with them 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 and The Father guided by The Holy Spirit.

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 fulfill 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 as their Lord and His Principles first in all things including sex.

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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 betrothal period 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 with God and your wife 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 and 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. This is when their 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 subse-

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quent 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 and uses the media to promote it in any way he can.

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 that problems occur.

Ask your spouse what gives her pleasure and give it to her. By this she will know you love her sufficiently to put her pleasure before yours and she will respond and give you pleasure.

← **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 criticize her body as it is the way God has given his spouse and he should accept it as such. To criticize 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.

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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 fulfill through guilt your sexual role
- to show you are a mature adult

If you cannot love your spouse or meet their emotional need then you or her 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.

She also risks pregnancy with all the suffering it brings on a woman.

How many men would have sex if they knew they would fall pregnant and suffer it for nine months then have the responsibilities of nurturing a new born baby with all the inconvenience it gives a mother.

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**

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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 your 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 feel 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.

Remember the needs are not sexual but also emotional in intercourse.

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 have they need to deal with before they can emotionally deal with sex. It meets these needs of the spouse before thinking of their own pleasure which will make their spouse love them more.

The Covering of a Wife

There are basically two coverings in a marriage:

The husband as steward of the wife and family

The husband and wife as spiritual protectors of the family warfaring for it.

The concept of covering as used by the church is the protection (covering) of someone or something because they have authority over it. People are told to come under the authority of this covering which is usually said to be spiritual of the husband over the wife or the minister over the church and is another name for headship.

Neither of these are mentioned in The Bible so are a concept of man and cannot be enforced.

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

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is our Lord. Our covering is our position in His Kingdom as His citizen and adopted 'son of The Father'. 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) and displaces Him.

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 teach them) 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 has given us to care for him which means we work in the physical protecting and in the spiritual warfaring against Satan over 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 or to correct their spiritual errors. Jesus alone has this Authority and He has not delegated it to us.

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.

Ep 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 domestic, for the household a wife is in and no other household or circumstances, and not spiritual and is for the purposes of providing for and protecting the wife and family.

Ep 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

This is more clearly expressed in 1 Peter 3:1-6 if you understand all is based on kingdom relationships.

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 and then only in the area being mentored and for as long as Jesus says to mentor.

Nowhere in the Bible is his role as our shepherd and bishop delegated to another. Ministries to others should be 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

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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 to do 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.

The fivefold has failed in its task as the body is divided by denominations that do not interact with each other.

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 on behalf of Jesus so they can guide you in this. 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. This is why in a denomination there is no spiritual headship over its members but only legal headship for the purposes of the law of the land,

← **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. Elsewhere 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 and if both are led by The Holy Spirit He actually guides them to the decision Jesus desires made.

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. He is also her physical protector on earth.

The covering of single women is Jesus and He is their spiritual and domestic head unless they are still under age 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

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in 1 Peter, 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 then that Ephesians and 1 Peter 3 contradict each other because Ephesians is said to give spiritual headship to a man and 1 Pet 3 does not, and because 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 (1 Pet 3:1-6) 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.

It is considered by many scholars that Paul did not write Ephesians so it is comments on marriage not written by an apostle. 1 Peter is written by an apostle so should be followed as it will be what Jesus taught.

The wife is covered by whoever is in authority over her, So spiritually it is Jesus and domestically it is her 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 to be anyone's spiritual covering as there is with the casting out of demons. There are qualifications mentioned but no delegation of authority by Jesus. (1 Pet 2:25).

Nowhere in The Bible is there a written delegation saying a pastor is the spiritual head of a church and thus its covering.

A minister is not the covering of a congregation. Jesus said the minister is a servant so cannot be thios and He said to call no man "Father" so they cannot be called 'father'. We are also told we are priests so they cannot be called priest and treated as superior to us or more special than us because we also are priests according to The Bible as we all minister to Jesus.

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 usually 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 spiritual oversight of other people.

One who has oversight (stewardship) 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 trusted 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 desires done with it (unless the Bible clearly shows you what to do with it).

A leader is a servant and adviser 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 advice 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 they are meeting the requirements of the land or denomination, in other words a physical/legal requirement and not a spiritual requirement.

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!

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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. They cannot remove your citizenship in heaven.

You are not excluded by them from The Body of Christ unless you sin and then it is because you exclude yourself through your rebellion against Jesus.

It is to be noted that if you cannot love and minister to your wife and children whom God has given you to be steward of 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 individually between each member of the family and God. 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 unless it is as legal requirement of the land.

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 she is to ensure her life continues as a helpmeet to meet the requirements of God for her.

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 (god) and a domestic element (Eve).

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.

The woman was innocent of the original sin which is why she was chosen to give birth to the Messiah.

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?

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If he had guarded the tree properly he would not have allowed Eve to eat so was negligent in his stewardship of the tree. Adam also had not fulfilled his stewardship role in protecting Eve or the garden. 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 crystallized the moment she took the fruit and not just when she ate it.

This was when Adam and Eve rejected the authority of God by being indifferent to it 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 so now were in the world he controlled.

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.

It is his work to teach hat sin I and help them not in.

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 else 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/covering over the body of Christ which worships in their denominational building.

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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, his head. 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 and 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.

More women have been damaged in the church through imposing spiritual headship on them than through any other abuse of them.

Spiritual headship makes a woman a second class spiritual citizen subservient to man and not God and lesser in spiritual status than a man. How can a woman have self-esteem when she is treated as the spiritual inferior to man who places himself between her and Jesus spiritually.

Treat your wife as a spiritual equal and minister as an equal but protect her as her domestic head if you would have a wife who can be all she can be in Jesus.

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.

Communication

Communication is very important. Unless a wife can communicate her fears or has positive feedback about her activities from her husband she can become insecure and Satan can sow doubt about her husband's love for her. At worst they live married but single lives where each lives their own life but under the same roof. At worst affairs and divorce occurs.

You can see why Satan tries to stop good communication between husband and wife and why they both need to work at communicating how they feel to each other trusting the other spouses love for them to be able to do this without criticism and/or rejection.

Where there is no communication there is no godly marriage and God cannot use it as He desires too for His purposes so cannot bless it as He desires too.

First I will deal to what hinders communication between people.

The main principle is as follows

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

And remember what Jesus said:

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

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Mat 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Hindrances to communication

The first requirement is that the person must want to communicate and hear what the other person wants to communicate. It is hard to communicate with someone who does not want to listen to what you are saying.

Effective communication enables a couple to work as a team in running the household and aids a relationship between them.

So, it is important to understand some of the hindrances that can cause breakdown in communication:

Assuming things without getting the facts can lead to misunderstanding and hinder clear communication. Never argue, reason or assume things or react to them but get the facts.

You just both have a clear understanding of what the words you use mean so that you do not misunderstand what is said because you have a different meaning in your mind as to what the word means to the other person.

If they do not understand any words you say then explain it clearly and simply so that they can understand what you are saying to them.

Remember not to rush decisions as that can lead to costly misunderstanding and mistakes and decisions made arbitrarily without the other spouse, when they should be involved, will cause them insecurity and a feelings of rejection which Satan can used to drive the spouses apart. Except in emergencies most important decisions in a marriage should be joint unless one spouse has been given complete responsibility to an area as they are experts in it.

Housework does not need the husband to jointly decide what to do. But new furniture would.

There will be differences in personality but God has done that to mature each spouse in preparation for heaven so they need to work at it and if you truly love your spouse you will work at any problems in personality you have.

Do not let personal opinions cloud your judgment so that you only hear what you want to hear. This causes division as you pursue your own agenda and not that of the marriage.

Be sensitive to the effects of what you say to your spouse in case you need to comfort or strengthen her so that she can handle what is being discussed.

If there are problems or disagreements remember you serve Jesus first then yourselves so you do not argue, reason, assume or react but ask The Holy Spirit what you are to do then do it.

Some requirements for effective communication

You must express clearly what you want to communicate which means you must have a clear idea of what you want to say so that impulsive, emotional or rash behavior should never occur as this can cause misunderstandings, insecurity or feelings of oppression if you ride rough shod over the other spouse.

Never accuse the other when you communicate as this caused them to defend themselves or collapse into self pity.

If they have done nothing wrong then you have no right to accuse them.

If they have done something accidentally wrong or for what they considered a worthwhile purpose then you have no right to judge them or berate them for the mistake. They need your love and help not your accusation because they tried to do something for the marriage that went wrong.

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If they have deliberately done something wrong then you need to confront them and help them overcome any problem they have. You have no right to judge them and all you can say is that God says what you have done is wrong. You might not love what they do but you are still to love them as Jesus and The Father Loves them.

What you say to them should be done in an appropriate way and at an appropriate time so that they can focus on it. As an example it is no use trying to hold a conversation with the wife when she is cooking and trying to control Children.

What you say to your spouse should always encourage or help them in some way be a better spouse. Even if it is just guidance in doing something or support in them doing it.

Overcoming barriers to communication

The only barriers to communication are

Prejudices in what you say or do

Not understand what is communicated

Insecurity so demanding the other person accept what you say or do
(needs deliverance)

Not expressing yourself in the way Jesus would express Himself to them

If people are guided by The Holy Spirit in all they do or say and seek to obey Jesus in everything then there will be no problems with communication.

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 quality of Love.

The only way a marriage can really succeed is if you show God's Quality 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 of the same sex as Satan will make sure this will 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.

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← **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 things that further poison the relationship with God and their spouse:

← **What happens when Christ is not central to the marriage**

We have:

Wrong attitudes and emotions towards our spouse

Anger

Unforgiveness

Bitterness and root of bitterness

Lovelessness

Indifference

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.

Deliberate 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. You also belong to Satan’s kingdom and The Father must let you go when you die to the king you chose to follow.

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 the anger behind it is 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 wholeheartedly wanting to reconcile as in that is the love of God shown and not in the result which is just an expression of the attitude.

Remember that God looks at our heart attitude and not our results.

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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 although divorce is a last resort and not desired by Jesus for any marriage. 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 or allowed by God (because we have chosen it). 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 and The Holy Spirit will help you any way they can to reconcile and it is usually through ignoring or rejecting them that divorce results.

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 may need deliverance and/or healing of their soul 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 or getting them really angry so that they will not forgive the other spouse.. Next he tries to make the husband/wife uncertain about their own love toward their

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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 or unforgiveness 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 fulfillment and meaningful relationships, so adultery or wrong 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 activities 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.

The other danger is to feel so unworthy you do not feel you can be forgiven.

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.

There 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 for 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?

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Jesus alone is your judge so you have no right to judge another. All you can do is to say in humility “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 as 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 them with the same Love Jesus deals with you when 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 criticize them for it and walk away.

They will determine their part in helping the spouse to deal with the problem and will lovingly support them as they both work their way through the problem no matter how long it takes to resolve it.

We are told too:

Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

If deliverance is needed they will help each other in this until they are free from the demons using the fault in the person.

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.

Healing the relationship

You should never condemn, shame, judge, criticize, pour guilt on, be indifferent to or abuse physically your spouse. This is a definite way to destroy love and marriage, and in really damage people and 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, guilt and condemnation were dealt with at Calvary so now are from demons so you need deliverance from them. The Holy Spirit convicts you of wrong doing but does not place guilt, shame or condemnation on you.

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-value, 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

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It places a standard on us that God does not place on us.

God does not expect us to be perfect only to wholeheartedly do our best. He knows we are dust and imperfect. When The Bible used the word 'perfect' it means to express maturity to the level you have it.

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 to work within that which God allows and expects and trust Him for the rest. There is a difference between doing something properly and trying to do it perfectly.

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 fulfill their role as a spouse as they should.

Legalism also is a result of perfectionism. Unless things are done their way then you fail their standards.

← **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. The other reason is that you think you are correct and do not need 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! Only selfless service for the benefit of another as the Love of Jesus is expressed through your life.