



A RIGHTEOUS MARRIAGE

Part III

According to the Word of God, marriage is "...honorab^{le} in all and the bed undefiled..." However, it takes a lot of things to make a marriage truly work in righteousness: Patience, longsuffering, and diligence are just a few characteristics that need to be exhibited daily. However, one skill that is rarely talked about is the art of listening and effective verbal communication. The definition of Listening is "...To make an effort to hear something; to pay attention."

In **Part III** of "A Righteous Marriage" series, we will briefly discuss humble submission within marriages. If we are not careful, pride, selfishness, and arrogancy can creep in and begin to ruin the respect we have for the Lord's Word and our spouse. In many relationships, the Word is disregarded and problems become paramount. Many of those issues arise because we lose focus on what we are actually doing. We need to get back to submitting ourselves to God **FIRST**, and our spouse **SECOND**.

The design of marriage is modeled after God's own redemptive plan for all man. The scriptures call the parallel between Christ and the church and the husband and the wife a **solved** mystery. In other words, Jesus' love for the church has unlocked the hidden truths of marriage.

The earthly marriage model helps us better understand the Lord's overall plan for man...to be on one accord with God! However, for those that grew up with a poor marriage model, it is the spiritual truth that helps us to better understand how to improve our own marriages.

This gospel mystery was first revealed in Genesis Chapter 2: 21-25...

"...And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

...and then began to unfold when God sent His Son Christ to die for our sins. God loved us, the church, even though we did not love Him. Jesus' death was necessary for our sins to be removed and forgiven so that we could be **reconciled** to Him.

Definition of reconcile: To reestablish a close relationship between; To settle or resolve.

This is God's love through His Son, Jesus. This type of love, **reconcil-**



able love, is the first principle that we must especially shape our marriages around. Jesus loved us, chose

us, sacrificially bought us, and is currently waiting for us to **turn to him with all trust and humility.** Without these characteristics of a virtuous woman, we will not share His vast glory throughout all eternity. This is the real love of God that floods and radiates our

minds...even if we are loved by no one else. **His** love satisfies all of our deepest longings. We are to perfectly respond to our mates through His love even when our spouse is not faithful to God's Word!

While the husband is to imitate God's love for the church, the wife is to emulate the church's response to the Lord Jesus Christ. As the church faithfully responds to the Lord's directions, so the wife is to follow her husband's directions.

*"But as the **church** is subject to Christ, **so also** the **wives** ought to be to their husbands in everything"* (Ephesians 5:24).

With the responsibility to lead the church, Jesus also sets the example of humble submission to His Father.

"...For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." – 1 Peter 2: 21-24



As husbands, we can easily forget our true responsibility. We, as husbands, have unique positions...we are *husbands and*

*wives...Husbands in the flesh and wives in the spirit (in the bride of Christ)! Most arguments about submissiveness are, for the most part, negative...especially for those who are in "the position of power" in the relationship. Most husbands look at it as a sign of weakness....a means for the wife to get "whatever she wants and do whatever she wants" without penalty. The wife, on the other hand, looks at humility and submission as a synonym for "slave" to their husband. In **God's reality**, humility and submission are an essential part of the Christian walk. Without it, you cannot please God! We must see that God is working on our character, to be like Him, through our faith and submission to one another!*

"...Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." – Ephesians 5:21

"...But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.." – Hebrews 11:6

"...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." – Romans 10:17

Faith's Impact

When we simply obey, our trust is able to grow. Remember marriage is God's perfect design. It doesn't have any flaws. Imperfection occurs when we add our OWN thoughts and opinions to God's plan. So when we put our trust in God, we will be led along a road of blessing, which will strengthen our trust. We must acknowledge that this road is not predictable in where it might take us or how long we might need to travel in one direction or another, but if we hang on tight, we will end up where He wants us to be. (This is particularly important for wives who must regularly trust God to watch over their heart concerns). The love of God gives us the desire to please God. This motivates us to take steps of obedience although they go contrary to what we might feel. This submissiveness, then, actually is a step of faith. We don't know specifically how things will work out. We only know God is faithful who made the promises to be with His obedient children.

The *true* love for God will also move the husband or wife to a more complete obedience. He/she wants to please him/her. For the wife, she finds she doesn't need to contest him anymore because she can trust him to make the best judgment. For the husband, he doesn't need to argue or complain anymore because he trusts her to exhibit holiness in the Lord. Love melts fears and doubts away. Even if one doesn't find the perfect love they would like from their spouse, they can still find it in God's love. This faith then enables the wife to take the daring steps of being subject to her husband in love, and enables the husband to dwell with her according to knowledge and respect in God. One can see that if there is any hope for a good relationship, it will need to be restored through steps of trust and love. Submission is a critical aspect of this growing relationship.

Our ability to love comes from being loved and accepted. There is a great deep security that is brought about when we are perpetually and unconditionally loved....the love Jesus shows us through his ultimate sacrifice for his spouse...the church! This unconditional acceptance leads to openness and humility in our lives. Fears and doubts can be put aside. As we do this, we are further amazed at His great love for us.

Fulfillment By a Growing Trust

In a Godly marriage, each spouse is looking to God to meet their needs. Every problem is an opportunity to trust God for a solution. Trust enables each of the participants to put aside their fears one by one. Instead

of being rigid and hardened, each of you become increasingly calm, soft, and humble. Just as the warm spring sun causes flowers to open wide in their brilliant glory, a husband's consistent, Godly love breaks away those reserved fears that hold back her total trust. Her budding trust for her husband enables special growth to occur within that married relationship. The command for wives to subject themselves to their husbands directs them into the best life possible. **Obedience leads to trust and love.**

"...And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us."- Deuteronomy 6: 24-25

"...Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." – 1 Peter 5:7-8

By shining God's love on his wife, like the sun blossoms the flowers, she is fulfilled. Furthermore, when her husband devotedly loves her, she becomes a very satisfied woman full of God's love and glory. Have you ever met such a woman? Would you want to be such a woman? Why not pray and ask God to make you like a radiant flower exuding God's love.

Conclusion

Husbands: Are you filled with zeal in honoring and cherishing wives? **Wives:** Are you filled with zeal in serving and honoring your husband? Have you made those heart-rendering decisions where you no longer serve yourself but the living God?

When we respond first to the Lord and then, from the abundance of that relationship, serve our spouse, we are ready and able to meet each other's spoken and unspoken requests. As we respond to the Lord Christ, so the we will respond to each other.



Vulnerability and abuse are not times to give up on God's love. God's love and power never stops even in the midst of persecution. God works through the crisis to display His great power. He enables us to bear up under great pain and love when being hated or tested. Our fortitude is displayed when we respond using His love in difficult circumstances. We are filled when we

trust Him and His Word to work out any situation... despite how bleak it may seem.

God's love is sufficient for our every circumstance. When we can submit to His love in these situations, a great testimony goes forth. This is the response he desires from us as true followers of His example of love toward us!

There should never be a reason to excuse a man's irresponsible treatment of his wife. Through that type of action, it shows his lack of understanding. Husbands **MUST** endure! Just as a husband's love must endure a mean wife, so a wife must endure her foolish husband. A wife cannot say she will be responsive at certain times and hardened at other times depending on her mood at that moment or how her husband treats her.

God's command to submit for the husband and wife to submit to one another shines as a beacon of light in this dark world and shows all the true love of God for us!

"...See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. – Ephesians 5: 15-33

Be sure to look for the final excerpt, **Part IV** of this series in our next issue of The Scroll!

Peace in Jesus name,
Bro. Deuel, Pastor

the Israel of God®
4957 Redan Road
Stone Mountain, 30088



Phone: (404) 298-9393

Fax: (678) 620-2224

Email: iogatlantaoffice@yahoo.com

Website: www.theisraelofgodatl.com

Your comments, suggestions, pictures, or editorials for
the newsletter can be sent to iognewsletter@gmail.com

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

372 Fougerson Street
Buffalo, NY 14211
Phone: (716) 897-2270
Fax: (716) 897-1013
<http://www.theisraelofgodbuffalo.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Harold Walker

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - Headquarters

2515 E. 75th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60649
Phone: (773) 374-6413 or 1 800 96-BIBLE
Fax: (773) 374-9798
<http://www.theisraelofgod.com>
email: theisrael@earthlink.net
Contact Person: Bro. Henry Buie

DALLAS, TEXAS

2903 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75215
Phone: (214) 421-0600
Fax: (214) 421-0615
<http://www.theisraelofgoddallas.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Mike Murray

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

625 Stassen Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
Phone: (269) 381-1926
<http://www.theisraelofgodkalamazoo.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Jacmauzs Jaraudakarr

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

4485 Elvis Presley Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38111
Phone: (901) 332-6221
Fax: (901) 332-2925
<http://www.theisraelofgodmemphis.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Harold Robinson

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

1537 Glenwood Ave. North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405
Phone: (612) 522-0619
Fax (612) 374-1241
<http://www.theisraelofgodminneapolis.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Tony Johnson