

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session XXXV

June 26, 2011

### “The Christian Family”

#### Part Four: “The Biblical Responsibilities Of The Husband”

##### Introduction:

A. We have pictured the “**good**” things God designed for meaningful marriage by putting them on the fingers and thumb of our hand. They are . . .

##### **--the “Good Hand”!**

1. Companionship – emotional intimacy (being “best friends”!);
2. Physical Union – physical intimacy (reserved for the marriage commitment!);
3. Teamwork – mutual contribution to the success of the marriage relationship;
4. Spiritual Unity – mutual agreement about the “work” and “will” of Jesus Christ;
5. Basic Need – of a woman (“security”); of a man (“self-worth”).

B. We have pictured the “**bad**” things Satan plans against a marriage – his “schemes” to undermine God’s “good” – by using our other hand. We called it . . .

##### **--the “Bad Hand”!**

Note: Every man/woman brings an “unwritten list” of **Expectations** to marriage. Satan uses these “expectations” as the backdrop of his progressive destruction.

1. Unfulfilled Expectations – the “disappointment” of hopes, dreams, agreements;
2. Hurt – the “emotional response” which follows recognition of ongoing problems;  
– “In light of what you have done, how can you say you love me?”

(Note: Most marriages experience some degree of steps “one” and “two”!)

**--Turning Point:** God wants me to “cast my care upon Him”, I Pet. 5:7.

Satan wants me to “hold on to my hurt”, Eph. 4:26-27.

3. Anger – The “unavoidable result” of **holding on to my hurt** (Satan has “foothold”!)
  - a. The stage of verbal abuse, Prov. 12:18;
  - b. The stage of physical abuse, Titus 1:7, a “striker” (KJV).
4. A Wounded Spirit – the “death” of the relationship and emotional feeling (even if the marriage and outward harmony continue), Prov. 18:19.
5. A Root of Bitterness – long-term bitterness produces rejection of the Word of God and is “justified” by focus on the pain, unfairness, and marital damage, Heb. 12:15.

--Note: The “**But**” of Bitterness →

“I know what God says, **but** . . . I am going to do what I think is right!”

C. We have listed the “**Five Priorities of Life**” on a third hand.

1. Jesus Christ.

*“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* Matthew 6:33

2. Marriage Partner.

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself up for her.”* Ephesians 5:25

*“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”* Ephesians 5:22

3. Children.

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”* Ephesians 6:4

4. Body of Christ.

*“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”* Hebrews 10:24-25

5. Work.

*“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord, rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”* Colossians 3:23-24

## **Biblical Guidelines For The Husband**

--The second most important issue in the life of a Christian husband is his **WIFE!**

--This priority is summarized for the husband in **two** basic commands:

### **I. The Husband Is Commanded To "LOVE" His Wife.**

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."*

Ephesians 5:25-27

#### **A. The "Command":**

1. The command of these verses is unquestionably clear!

--The husband is to “**love**” his wife!

2. The husband is to “love” his wife “**as Christ loved the Church**”!

--We see these words and we have some understanding of what they mean;

--But, our definition is often inaccurate or inadequate!

**B. The "Problem":** We don't have the ability to love as God loves!

--There are two kinds of "love".

1. Human Love:

a. Greek phileo = "to have common interests with" someone;

**"brotherly love".**

b. Greek eros = "love"; **"sexual desire"**; in Greek mythology, Eros, the "god of love", son of Aphrodite; to the Romans, "Cupid".

2. Divine Love:

--Greek agapao = "to love"; "to take interest in" someone;

--When used of God: **"unconditional, sacrificial, self-giving"**! (Jn. 3:16)

--**Key: We don't have "agapao" ("agape") in and of ourselves. It is the life of Christ in us; it is the work of God in us!**

**C. The "Meaning":** " \_\_\_\_\_ "!

--The Husband is to have a "sacrificial", "self-giving" **love** for his wife.

--The Husband does not have this kind of **love** within himself!

--The Husband must draw "Unconditional Commitment" from the life of Christ within him!

1. "Unconditional Commitment" means that the husband is not allowed to place **any conditions** upon his commitment to his wife!

--There can be no **"ifs"**: **"I will love you if you do what I expect or if you are a good wife to me!**

2. "Unconditional Commitment" means that the husband is to **give himself** to meet the "needs" of his wife!

--**A husband is to focus on his wife's "needs", which are essential, not her just her "wants", which can be non-essential!**

3. Biblical Illustration: The "love" of Jesus, **Mark 10:42-45**.

--agapao does not "lord it over" others;

--agapao defines "greatness" as servanthood;

--agapao seeks to "give" life for the true needs of others!

**D. The "Results":** What Will Happen When I Obey God?

1. My wife will **grow spiritually!**

a. Christ's goal in "loving" the Church, Eph. 5:25, was to . . . **Sanctify her!**

--the word "sanctify" means "to set apart"; "to make holy".

--the Church was "set apart" from sin and "set apart" to Christ.

b. This must be the goal of the Husband, to see his wife . . . **Sanctified!**

--This is the greatest "love" a husband can have for his wife → to see her "set apart" to the Lord!

c. **How** does a husband accomplish this goal?

The Key: The "Word" of God!

*" . . . having cleansed her by the washing of water by the word . . . "*

The Word of God performs a special ministry in the heart of every Christian

→ it **cleanses**, **sanctifies**, and **sets us apart to Christ!**

- 1) The Husband must lead his wife in regular exposure to the Word of God! A wife does not need for her husband to **preach** to her, but rather to **share** from the Word what has been given to his own heart!
- 2) The Husband must see that his wife has "private" time to be in the Word for herself. A wife is tremendously encouraged when her husband helps make it possible for her to spend time in God's Word.

*"Like newborn babes, long for the pure (unadulterated) milk of the Word, that by it you may grow . . . "*

I Peter 2:2

2. My wife will **grow personally!**

a. Christ had a very personal goal in "loving" the Church,

*" . . . that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."*

Eph. 5:27

The Church, Christ's Bride, has her own **glory!**

--Jesus Christ made it possible for His bride to be without "spot or wrinkle or any such thing"!

--Jesus Christ made his Bride **"beautiful"**!

--Notice: Her "beauty" was primarily **inward!**

*" . . . but that she should be holy and blameless."*

b. The goal of the Husband must be to see his wife . . . **Beautified!**

--To see that she focuses on "inner beauty"!

--To see that she has no "spot" or "wrinkle"-- no immaturities, character flaws, or deficiencies which limit her true "beauty" as a person!

c. **How** does a Husband accomplish this goal?

The Key: "Patient" Prayer.

- 1) A Husband makes a serious mistake when he puts "pressure" on his wife to change.
- 2) Lasting change is God's "work" -- only He can do it!
- 3) What the wife needs is **"patient encouragement"** -- for her husband to give God "time" to do His work in the wife!
- 4) One of the best sources of this "patience" is **joint prayer** -- seeking God together!  
--Note: "Joint-prayer" is extremely encouraging to a Christian wife. She feels God's strength and her husband's support!

3. Our marriage will be **unified**!
  - a. When a husband "loves" his wife with the love of Christ, **unity** comes to the relationship!
  - b. The husband's **love** will encourage the wife to **respond**!
    - Promise: Very few women will fail to "respond" to love that is **Christ-like**!
  - c. The husband's **love** will encourage the wife to **respect**!
    - Promise: "Respect" is the heart of a Christian wife's love for her husband!

## II. The Husband Is Instructed To "\_\_\_\_\_ " His Wife.

*"You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."*

I Peter 3:7

### A. The "Command":

1. The command of this verse is unquestionably clear!
  - The husband is to **"understand"** his wife!
2. The husband is to "understand" his wife; he is to live with her **"according to knowledge"**!
  - Greek word: gnosis = "knowledge"; from ginosko = "to know experientially".
3. This verse gives a **warning**! A Christian husband's ability to "pray" for his wife will be hindered if he does not . . .
  - a. Understand her;
  - b. Honor her.

### B. The "Problem": Most men do not understand their wives!

--Men struggle to "understand" their wives because . . .

1. They had little or no **Family Training**:
  - a. There was not a Biblical "role model". The father in the home did not teach the son how to **love** and **understand** women.
  - b. In many cases, the "role model" or "father figure" taught negative or harmful patterns!
2. They had little or no **Biblical Training**:
  - a. Many men were reared in non-Christian homes and received no "truth" about the family!
  - b. Many men have attended Churches which have not taught "truth" about the family!
    - Some Churches do not teach men to "honor" women in the way God intended, to *"grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life . . ."*

### C. The "Meaning": " \_\_\_\_\_ "!

1. "Intimate Awareness" of her " \_\_\_\_\_ " **Needs!**
  - a. We are referring to things in the life of a wife that are outward -- in her "physical" world.
  - b. The "physical responsibilities" of women vary greatly around the world and from culture to culture. A man must seek God's wisdom in defining how to show his wife sacrificial love in her physical "world"!
  - c. Illustrations of "physical needs":
    - Repair jobs around the house;
    - Daily responsibilities that exhaust her physically;
    - Domestic cares that prevent her from having any "free" time--especially to spend with the Lord.
    - Situations which cause her to fear for physical safety, where a man's presence makes a difference.
2. "Intimate Awareness" of her " \_\_\_\_\_ " **Needs!**
  - a. Every woman has inner "emotional" needs. In the beauty of God's creative design, He caused most women to have a sensitive nature -- one especially helpful in motherhood. But, this sensitive nature can be the basis of inward variations in mood, perspective, and preference!
  - b. Every wife needs the "security" of being understood by her husband. She must feel that she can share what is in her heart without running the risk of his rejection!  
**--He must never make light of what is of concern to her!**
  - c. Illustrations of "Emotional Needs":
    - Concern about the children in the family;
    - Worry about the financial needs of the family;
    - Concern about relationships within her own family -- parents, siblings;
    - Worry about her health;
    - Concern about her job or a relationship at work;
    - Concern about relationships or issues in the Church;
    - Uncertainty about her relationship with her husband!
3. "Intimate Awareness" of her " \_\_\_\_\_ " **Needs!**
  - a. Every Christian woman has "spiritual needs". These grow out of the fact that she is spiritually alive and desires to be pleasing to her Savior.
  - b. Every Christian woman must . . .

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*  
II Peter 3:18

c. Illustrations of "spiritual needs":

- To have assurance of salvation;
- To have meaningful involvement in a Church;
- To learn how to study God's Word for herself;
- To have time to spend in "quiet" with the Lord;
- To develop a personal prayer life;
- To develop a prayer life with her husband;
- To learn how to share spiritually with her husband;
- To learn to "walk by faith";
- To learn how to respond to "spiritual opposition";
- To learn how to conquer "fear" or "anger".

**D. The "Means":** How Can I Have "Intimate Awareness" Of My Wife?

1. To be **aware** of her "Physical Needs": **Make A "\_\_\_\_\_"**!

- Ask your wife to make a "list" of the things she needs done in her "physical" world.
- Before you argue or refuse to do what she puts on the "list", take the list to God -- **pray over it!**
- When you prayerfully give the "time" and "energy" of your life to your wife, you will be *"loving her as Christ loved the Church"*!

2. To be **aware** of her "Emotional Needs": **Learn To "\_\_\_\_\_"**!

- Ask God to make you "sensitive" to your wife's inner needs.
- Tell your wife that you have set aside time for her, and that you have realized your need to **listen** carefully to her!
- Tell her when this time will be and follow through on it – do what you have promised! (You can be sure that "something" will happen to attempt to cancel or interrupt the time!)
- Do not interrupt your wife as she **shares** with you! **Listen!**
- When she is finished sharing, take the inner concerns of your wife to the Lord in prayer – it will be extremely meaningful to her!

3. To be **aware** of her "Spiritual Needs": **Practice "\_\_\_\_\_ " and "\_\_\_\_\_ "!**

- Tell your wife that you want to develop the habit of . . .
  - Reading the Word with her – which leads to spiritual discussion;
  - Praying with her – out of the sharing of "spirit" to "spirit".
- Tell your wife that you want to experience the "bonding" of spiritual union with her – that you want "oneness" on the deepest level!
- Follow through on your words; keep your promises! This will prove to be extremely meaningful to both of you!

**E. The Results:** What Will Happen When I Obey God?

1. My wife will have a growing **respect** for me as her husband!
2. My wife will have a growing **response** to me as her husband!