

## 16. The Book of Psalms 11:3

### ***If The Foundations Are Destroyed-Part 4***

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(9-7-25)

Find this week's sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

A few weeks ago, we started looking at Psalm 11 where we eventually camped on verse 3—

#### **Psalm 11:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

We said when we first started looking at this verse that the foundation is the most important part of a building—if the foundation is faulty the structure built upon it is doomed to fail.

In the Bible, God calls a family—"a house" ('the house of David', 'the house of Saul' ...etc.)

The only foundation that is strong enough and secure enough to build your family upon is Jesus and His Word—

#### **1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Once the foundation is laid—the 'house' is built:

#### **Proverbs 9:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

Solomon doesn't tell us what these '*seven pillars*' are that support a house (family)—we're left to speculate.

So, I have chosen 7 pillars that come right out of the Bible that if incorporated into your marriages will support a strong, healthy marriage. These 7 pillars (principles) do not comprise an 'exhaustive' list (you can add a few of your own)—however, these cover the basics.

#### **1. Communication**

#### **2. Love**

When most people think of love, they associate it with *feelings*—because the world in general associates love with feelings. Marriage is supposed to be built on love—but not on the world's love ('*Hollywood love*' = '*emotionalism*') but on God's love (agape).

Agape love is not a feeling it's a *commitment* that manifests itself in sacrificial giving and doing for others—and this is especially true in marriage.

Marriage is all about the commitment that a man and a woman enter into with each other, promising to stay with each other through good times and bad, in sickness and in health until death separates them.

It's the commitment that holds a marriage together and makes the two one. But today, many couples are seeking to escape making that commitment to each other by side-stepping marriage and just living together.

They have *feelings* for each other or else they wouldn't be together—but it isn't true love because true love (God's love) isn't feelings based, it's commitment based. It's the commitment (their commitment to God and each other) that will allow their marriage to weather the storms of life.

How can a couple have the love of God in their marriage?

Well, first of all they need to understand that God's love is a supernatural love that human beings can't manufacture through hard work and/or raw determination.

It's not in the fallen heart of man to love like this because agape love is an attribute of God's nature and only flows from God Who is its Source—

**1 John 4:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

*Love* is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22)—or in other words, an *attribute* of God's nature.

That means that unbelievers cannot duplicate the attributes of God from a fallen heart—which means they can '*fake*' but cannot 'make' the fruits of the Holy Spirit ('love, joy, peace,' etc.).

The only way for a person to experience the attributes of God in their life—is to have God's nature *planted* within them thru the new birth. (Explain)

**2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature...

**Romans 5:5 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> ...For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

God's love is an all-encompassing and unconditional love that loves freely regardless of how that love is treated in return—

**John 3:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God's love is fundamentally different from human love which is reciprocal ("I love you because you love me.") and often conditional ("but I only love you when you treat me right or give me what I want...").

***To say it again, God's love is not like human love, it is supernatural.***

God's love (agape) isn't just words and feelings—it's actions (the definition of God's love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a contains all verbs)—

**1 John 3:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Human love is limited and can diminish over time, which we are seeing in our own culture today—especially in marriage.

The love of many husbands for their wives and wives for their husbands has grown cold toward each other—toward the person they vowed they would love for better or for worse, in sickness and in health for the rest of their lives.

For many couples it isn't until *"death do us part"*—it's until *"divorce do us part."*

Such is the nature of human love rooted in the fallen, selfish heart of man—it often has an *'expiration date'* attached to it. ***But God's love (agape) never diminishes, and it never expires*** because God is the source of this love and God never diminishes or changes—*"He is the same yesterday, today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8)

**Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Remember Jesus didn't die for His Bride because He *felt* like it—He died for us because without dying in our place we could not be saved. No one forced Jesus to die for His Bride, the Church—He willingly did it out of His great love for us.

Guys, our prayer should be, *"Lord, give me the grace to die to myself and put my wife and her needs above my own, for Jesus' sake."*

And men, your wives shouldn't have to bribe you with sex, or beg you to show them love—they shouldn't have to constantly ask you, *"Do you love me?"* You should take the initiative and look for ways to express your love for her—even as Jesus took the initiative and showed us love by dying for us before we responded to Him.

Some men are forever using Ephesians 5:22 as a club to beat their wives with—*"Wives submit!"*

But verse 25 says that husbands have the greater responsibility to love their wives as Christ loved the Church—which means to die symbolically for her every day. It has been well said that no Christian wife would mind being submissive to a husband who loves her as much as Christ loves the Church!

Someone wrote of a man who feared he was displeasing God by loving his wife too much.

A Christian worker asked him if he loved her more than Christ loved the church. He said no.

*"Only when you go beyond that," said the worker, "are you loving your wife too much."*

Can Jesus love His Church too much? The Word says He loved us to the *uttermost*—all the way to the cross.

Men, you will never begin to love your wife sacrificially until you first die to self.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13 that God's love, *"seeks not its own"* and as long as you're looking at marriage for what you can get out of it—you'll never begin to understand what it means to love your wife as Christ loved the Church.

“What about my wife? Isn’t she supposed to love me too?” Of course, although God has wired men and women differently.

More than anything else a woman needs to feel loved and cherished by her husband—but the husband more than anything else needs to be respected by his wife—

**Ephesians 5:33 (NKJV)**

<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

And so ‘**Respect**’ becomes the third pillar in our list of 7 that support a healthy marriage.

**3. Respect**

Earlier in Ephesians 5 Paul (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) commanded wives to obey God in the following way—

**Ephesians 5:22-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

**“Wives submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”—verse 22**

The word ‘**submit**’ is ‘hupotasso’ in the Greek. “Hupo” means ‘under’ and “tasso” means “to line up” or “to arrange”.

*Hupotasso* therefore means to “line up under”.

In a military sense it meant to “rank beneath the authority of another”. As Christians we are to rank ourselves under one another—not over each other (Matthew 20:25-28; Philemon 2:3).

*Hupotasso* doesn’t convey the idea of superiority and inferiority—it is a word that simply expresses the idea of *function*.

It’s a different Greek word than the one Paul uses in Chapter 6 where he commands children to *obey* their parents and slaves to *obey* their masters—that is the Greek word ‘hupokuo’. In marriage, a wife is not a child nor is she a slave who stands ready to obey her husband’s every command. She is his partner and equal (Galatians 3:28)—and yet that doesn’t negate his authority over her and her submission to him.

There can be equality and at the same time authority and submission—look at Jesus and the Father.

In Colossians 3:18 there is the parallel passage of Ephesians 5:22—

**Colossians 3:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

The phrase “**as is fitting**” is the Greek verb ‘aneko’ which was a word that was used of something that was *legally binding*.

- What Paul is saying is that a wife's submission to her husband is not a suggestion by God,
- nor is it an option for her—
- it is a divine command from God and is legally binding within the context of marriage.

Look, God isn't commanding women to get married (if a woman doesn't like the idea of submitting to a husband she can remain single) but if she does get married—she is now under the command of God to submit to her husband's authority.

Now the submission of wives to their husbands isn't absolute because in Ephesians 5:22 Paul says, "*Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord*." In other words, a wife is only to submit to her husband as long as he doesn't tell her to do something that God has forbidden, or not to do something God has commanded—if so, she "*must obey God rather than man*" (Acts 5:29).

So, she is never to do anything Jesus wouldn't tell her to do (get drunk, watch pornography etc.); nor is she to obey her husband if he tells her not to do what God has told her to do (go to church, read the Bible etc.)

Otherwise, she is to be submissive and not rebellious toward the authority of her husband.

Now, this is *exactly opposite* to what the world tells women to be like to their husbands—rebellious, aggressive and fiercely independent.

But God in His Word says that women are to cultivate the inward beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit coupled with a submissive attitude toward their husbands—which is very precious in God's sight.

*"But my husband is an unbeliever—how can I submit to a man like that?"*

Well, let's turn to 1 Peter 3 and see what Peter has to say to wives.

**1 Peter 3:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands...

Again, the word '**submissive**' is 'hupotasso'—to voluntarily place yourself under the authority of another.

**1 Peter 3:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word...

This means that even if your husband is an unbeliever—as a Christian wife you're still to submit to him—"as to the Lord".

**1 Peter 3:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied by fear*.

The NLT—"...*your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives.*"

Ladies, your husbands won't get saved by you playing Holy Spirit and badgering them.

### 1 Peter 3:3 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes.

Peter isn't saying that Christian women can't look good—what's in view here is a preoccupation with outward beauty to the neglect of inward beauty.

So, this is a call to wives to get your priorities in order and place inward character above outward beauty—not a command to look plain or to abstain from makeup, fixing your hair or wearing stylish clothes.

### 1 Peter 3:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

Again, this is ***so foreign in our society today***, as so many women are listening to feminists who are encouraging them to be loud, rebellious, screaming for their rights, demanding to be heard.

Feminism encourages women to not become the “*slaves of men in marriage*”. It tells them to throw off their husband's authority, to rule over themselves, to go out and pursue their own careers because “*if he can do it so can I...*”

There's a difference between a woman working outside the home  
and then a woman who is pursuing a career—

- But again, God says that what is most precious to Him is a woman of character;
- a woman who has cultivated inner beauty which manifests itself in a quiet and submissive spirit.

Now that doesn't mean as women you have no rights, no input and no say so in the decisions that affect your marriage and household. It is simply honoring and obeying God's design for marriage—to obey it is to be blessed by God—to disobey means to invite disaster upon your marriage and family.

### 1 Peter 3:5–6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...[a term of respect]

- “*Yea, but what if my unbelieving (or believing) husband is about to make a decision that I know is a big mistake—what do I do?*”

Well, you don't usurp your husband's God given authority and do what *you* want to do—if you only submit when you want to that's not really submission! You need to go ahead and submit because that's what God has commanded you to do.

Pastor Tony Evans has said that, “*Submission is knowing how to duck so God can hit your husband!*”

But look, a wife that lets her husband know that she is his “biggest fan”, that she is in his corner trusting in his judgment and cheering him on. I believe that will go a long way in causing a man to take his responsibilities toward her seriously and to want to make good and wise decisions.

And when he makes a bad decision and it results in some bad consequences if she hugs him and says, “*I know you tried to do your best for our family and God will help us to get out of this mess...*”

Wow, any woman who treats her husband with that kind of love, support, and respect. A woman who doesn't throw his mistakes in his face but loves and prays for him—that man is going to want to do better next time.

He is going to want to be a better husband because he has such a kind and supportive wife.

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