

## **LESSON 15 | THE BIBLICAL THEOLOGY & PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE** **(Part 2)**

Since the marriage relationship is to reflect the relationship between Jesus Christ & His Church, it is imperative that biblical submission and love be practiced in all of its aspects between husband and wife!

Since a marriage relationship is to be patterned after the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ & His Church, the commandment to love one another is of paramount importance. Loving in this manner requires a \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord and a commitment to follow the pattern of servanthood displayed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO HOLD ON TO**

**#1:** Husbands, put off being \_\_\_\_\_ or embittered towards your wives. Put on love and understanding just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25). Being a true leader requires being a true \_\_\_\_\_ in attitude and action (Matthew 20:25-28).

**#2:** Wives, put off being \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ with your husbands. Put on love, submission, and respect for them (Proverbs 21:9 & Colossians 3:18).

**#3:** To love one spouse as God commands, requires that you \_\_\_\_\_ to your own selfish desires and live to please God and serve your spouse (Philippians 2:3-8).

**#4:** In order to fulfill your biblical marriage responsibilities faithfully, you must rely on the Lord's strength & the wisdom of His Word. Do not depend on your natural ability, strength, or wisdom (*it won't work*).

**#5:** When you fail to love your spouse as you should (*and you will*), you can be \_\_\_\_\_ to fellowship with both the Lord and your spouse (Matthew 5:23-24).

### **THE NECESSITY OF BIBLICAL SUBMISSION**

**TRUTH:** Biblical submission is an act of the will demonstrated by serving others out of an attitude that regards them as more important than yourself. It does not mean that you place yourself under the control of another. You stand directly accountable to God and not to anyone else's ultimate authority.

## **THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION: Jesus**

Jesus submitted to the will of the Father - John 5:30

Jesus willingly served others by doing for them what was needed - John 13:12-17

Jesus suffered unjustly, not threatening or retaliating but instead entrusting Himself to His Father who judges righteously - 1 Peter 2:21-25

## **GOD'S REQUIREMENT FOR YOUR SUBMISSION**

Submit to God

By placing yourself \_\_\_\_\_ under His sole care - **Ephesians 5:18-20**

Living with His Word as your only hope, standard, and ultimate authority -  
**Psalm 19:7-11**

Being empowered, strengthened, and led by the Holy Spirit - **John 14:26**

Submit to other \_\_\_\_\_ - **Ephesians 5:21**

\_\_\_\_\_ submit to your wives *BY* being a loving servant to his wife -  
**Ephesians 5:25-27**

TRUTH: By sacrificially serving your wife, you are placing her good above your own (Philippians 2:3-5 - *what you might call functional submission*). When a husband loves like Christ, he is gladly submitting his desires & his preferences because he is preferring his wife.

\_\_\_\_\_ submit to your husbands *BY* honoring & respecting his leadership in the home - **Ephesians 5:21-24**

TRUTH: By sacrificially honoring & respecting her husband, you are displaying the self-dying, self-giving love of Christ. When a wife is \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ her husband (*regardless of how much he deserves it*), she is demonstrating her commitment to glorify God regardless of the cost (John 17:4).

## **WHAT GOD IS AFTER IN MARRIAGE**

Many marriages are disintegrating or have already been destroyed because husbands and wives have failed to love according to God's principles. Even if you have never known or practiced biblical love, God graciously directs you to His perfect picture of biblical love, since loving in this manner is possible for any believer! If you have failed to practice Biblical love, you can be restored to the

Lord by remembering from where you have fallen, by repenting of your failures, and by beginning to do those things that you did at first out of a loving heart!

**#1:** Your love for your spouse is NOT to be based on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or your spouse's responses. Instead, you are to love your spouse in obedience to the Lord & in response to His love for you! Remember that God does not command you to \_\_\_\_\_ like loving. Instead, He directs you to think, speak, and act in a loving manner (1 John 3:23).

**#2:** You can show love towards your spouse in spite of any fears that you may have, since God's abiding and perfect love casts out all fear. You are NOT being a \_\_\_\_\_ by loving your spouse even if you don't feel like it (Romans 12:9). To love when you don't feel like it is simply a matter of faithful obedience (John 14:15) and is a response to God's love for you!

**KEY:** It is not hypocritical to do things that you don't feel like doing!

### **#3: GOD'S SOLUTION:**

Make a full commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in all things

Examine & judge your own \_\_\_\_\_ in a Biblical manner

Confess your sins to the Lord & confess your marital shortcomings as \_\_\_\_\_ to your spouse

Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse biblically and do it heartily as unto the Lord

Seek to resolve conflicts & live at \_\_\_\_\_ with your spouse. If your spouse refuses to solve problems biblically, continue to trust in Christ Jesus for your peace & joy!

Refrain from being \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of your spouse but instead edify your spouse with words of grace & helpfulness.

Do not \_\_\_\_\_ with your spouse – but instead, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ encourage harmony in your home as you consider your spouse as *more important than yourself*.

