



Joy in Loving Through Marital Conflict

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We work the problems in love

Selected Scriptures

June 2, 2024

“A rusty padlock hanging over filthy water.” – Jim Gaffigan

Recognize the Reality of Conflict

Gen 3:12-13, 16-17

Acknowledge the Role Played by Your Choices

Comprehend the conflict rut

Identify and Assess the Area of Conflict:
Responsibility

Openness

Loyalty management

Caring

“There are two components of caring, and one flows from the other like a river from a stream. The stream is awareness, and the river it produces is initiative.” – Tim & Joy Downs, *The Seven Conflicts*

Connection

Order

Work the actual problem

Give ourselves

Eph 5:25-26

Fight fairly and well

Eph 4:15

Be understanding

1 Peter 3:7

Never give up

Num 30:1-2

Upcoming Events Give Connect Card & Prayer Request

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FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

**Agapē, Godlike
love, is clearly
distinguished
from the rest.**

FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE



Please place video here

[The man that put the first lock on the bridge had to be insane, right?! | Jim Gaffigan \(youtube.com\) stop at :30.](#)



courtesy getting stamped



courtesy atibens

To find joy in relational conflict:

- **Recognize the reality of conflict.**
- **Acknowledge the role played by your own choices.**
- **Comprehend the conflict rut that leads to resignation and contempt.**
- **Identify and assess the actual area of conflict.**
- **Work the real problem.**

12 The man replied [to God], “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

13 Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Genesis 3 CSB

**16 He said to the woman:
I will intensify your labor pains;
you will bear children with painful effort.
Your desire will be for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.**

**17 And he said to the man, “Because you listened to your wife and
ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘Do not eat from
it’:**

**The ground is cursed because of you.
You will eat from it by means of painful labor
all the days of your life.**

Genesis 3 CSB

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Genesis 3 CSB

**תִּשְׁוֶה tsqt = demanding;
dominating, especially
manipulation**

**מִשַּׁל msl = force another
person into your likeness**

Genesis 3 CSB

Your desire will be for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.

תִּשְׁוֶה tsqt = demanding;
dominating, especially
manipulation. This is the
puppeteer controlling the
puppet by strings, making
it dance to her desires.

מִשְׁלַל msl = force another
person into your likeness.
This is the puppeteer with his
hand inside the puppet,
forcing it do what he wants.



Chaos ensues when both the string holder and the hand inserter try to control each other.



Genesis 3 CSB

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Genesis 3 CSB

**Thank goodness
we're not like
that!**



courtesy stiltoday



courtesy famousparenting

So, you don't want our kids to know me and play with me?

Why did you have to get them wired at bedtime?





**Was that
today?**

Nah...

While still ignoring the attempts at appeasement, you feel a slight possibility in your conscience that maybe your hurt is due in part to your own choice of unvoiced, unfair, and unmet expectations.



Each of those people had reason to feel aggrieved, but by refusing to confess the role played by his or her own choices they destroyed any chance of joy.



There's a tendency, and perhaps a preference, to blame outside sources when things go awry (see Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:11-13). Though the temptation is real, a marriage cannot flourish when dodging and blaming are habitual.

– Dorothy Littell Greco, “To Have and to Hold, to Love and to Care — for Each Other and the World”



To find joy in relational conflict:

- **Recognize the reality of conflict.**
- **Acknowledge the role played by your choices.**
- **Comprehend the conflict rut that leads to resignation and contempt.**
- **Identify & assess the actual area of conflict.**
- **Work the real problem.**



courtesy pinterest; Seriously, who pins this?!

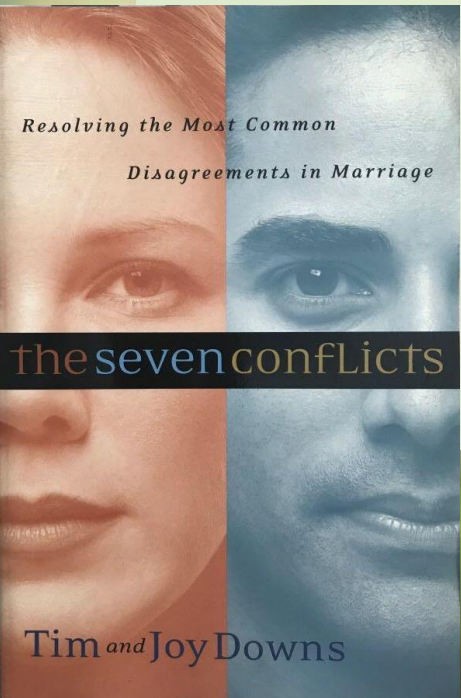


**When you ride popular trails, there are almost always ruts in the path. If your bike wheels get in that rut, it is very dangerous. Basically, you hang on for dear life until you find a space to get out of the rut. Sadly, I got stuck in a rut.
– an unnamed biker**

Couples who are just married tend to settle arguments quickly by simply deferring to each other. There is great motivation early on to avoid awkward confrontations that seem to drain romance from the new relationship. Newly married couples [wrongly assume] romance and conflict to be mutually exclusive, and so the operating principle at this stage is “Have it your way” – whatever it takes to preserve peace between us.
– Tim & Joy Downs, *The Seven Conflicts*



She: Honey, may I ask a small favor?
He: Of course, Darling, anything for you.
**She: Would you mind very much changing
your entire personality for me?**
He: It's the least I can do.



Once a couple embarks on that, they get stuck with a fake relationship which starts to rankle. Eventually, a counter-reaction deepens the rut. Each spouse begins to notice the other's flaws and point them out while beginning to resist continued efforts to change themselves.



Please place video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-ZwTpeBLzo&t=86s> 1:30-2:20

She: I thought you were going to start picking up your own clothes.

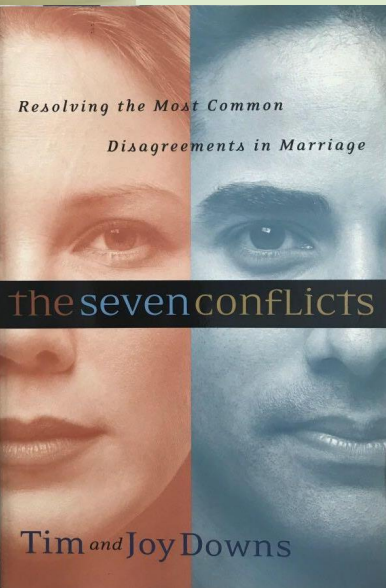
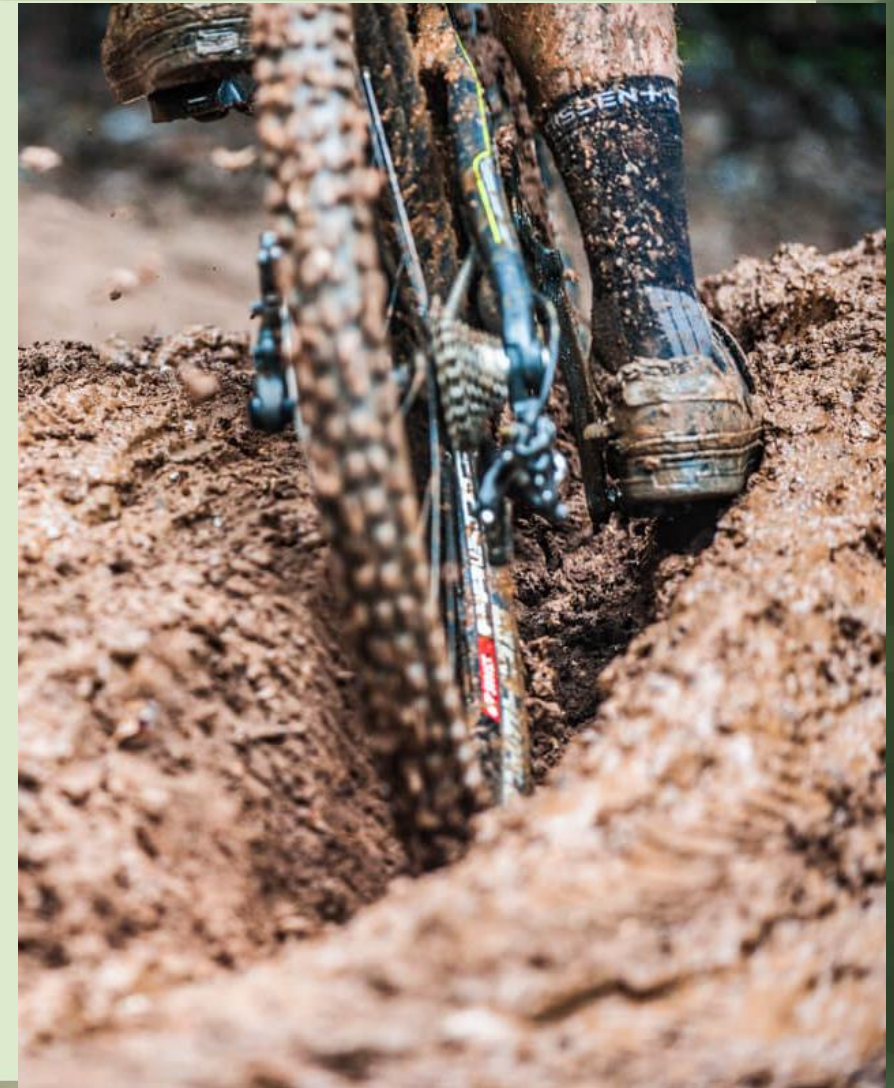
He: I thought you were going to start putting gas in the car. You left it on empty. Again.

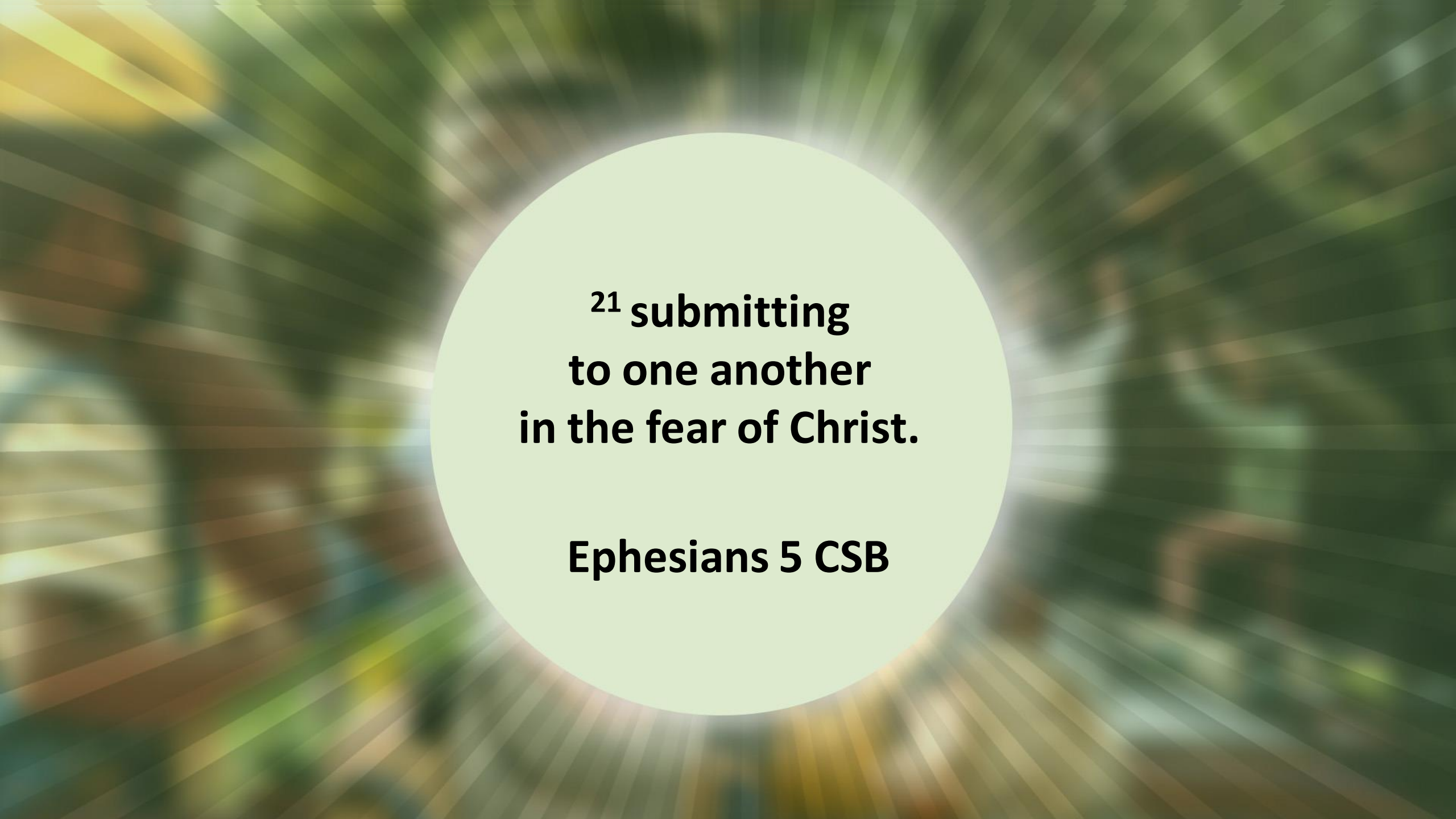
She: I'll get gas if you pick up your clothes.

He: (Pauses) Who goes first?

She: We'll both agree on "three." Ready?

One...





**²¹ submitting
to one another
in the fear of Christ.**

Ephesians 5 CSB

Travel in the rut always ends in a toxic wreck of resignation and contempt.

**²³ The north wind produces rain,
and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.**

**²⁴ Better to live on the corner of a roof
than to share a house with a nagging
wife.**

Proverbs 25 CSB



She: Can I talk to you about something?

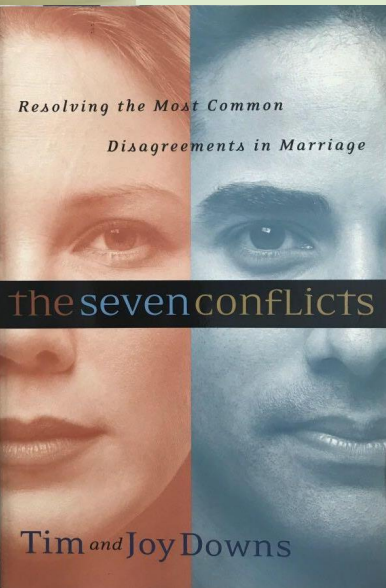
He: What is it now?

**She: I think you need to spend more time
with the kids.**

He: Fine.

She: Fine? You mean you will?

He: Okay. Sure. Whatever.





**Responsibility
involves obligations
& expectations
which – when met –
bring security to the
relationship.**


A composite image featuring a man in a suit, a white door, and a white robot arm against a background of concentric circles. The man is in the center, looking slightly to the right. The door is behind him, and the robot arm is on the right side. The background consists of concentric circles in shades of gray.

**A man must
meet societal
expectations.**

**Expectations are
not discussed
until unmet.**



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**We need to take
more risks for
better rewards.**

**I hate spending
a penny.**



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Identify and assess the area of conflict:

- **Responsibility**
- **Openness**
- **Loyalty management**
- **Caring**
- **Connection**
- **Order**



Openness troubles arise from differences in energy-acquisition and generosity-disbursement.

Introvert vs. Extrovert

How They Re-Charge



Introvert with no time alone.



Extrovert without interaction.





Openness issue:
energy acquisition



courtesy Indiatimes; pinterest



**Openness issue:
generosity
disbursement**



courtesy musa; returnonhappiness; openai

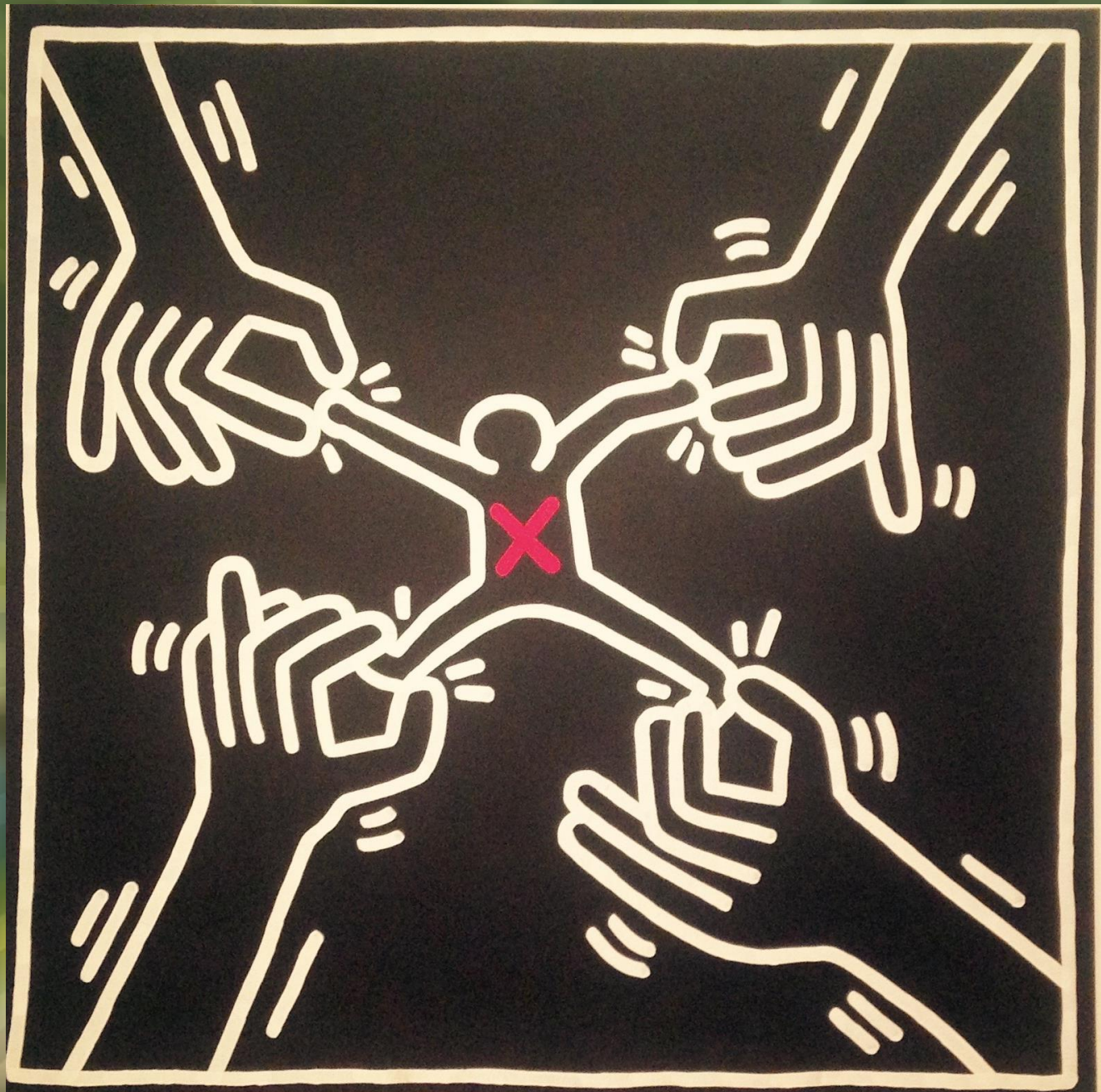
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courtesy Tyler Ebel



courtesy mollymerson

**Openness issues:
By expressing their loyalty and working on these conflicts as a
team the couple actually draws closer together.**



courtesy istock

There are two components of caring, and one flows from the other like a river from a stream. The stream is *awareness*, and the river it produces is *initiative*. *Awareness* is mental and emotional alertness, an attitude of attentiveness to your mate's feelings and concerns. *Initiative* is the willingness to engage your mate about a problem once you've become aware of it...Concerns about a lack of caring are voiced far more often by women than men...Caring conflicts underlie many common disagreements: the failure to notice your mate's appearance, a lack of initiative on behalf of the kids, an unwillingness to deal with the messiness of your mate's emotions, and a failure to voice appreciation. All these types of issues have their roots in caring. – Tim & Joy Downs, *The Seven Conflicts*

Identify and assess the area of conflict:

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Connection issues – communicating and making decisions – quickly shift from the problem being discussed to *how* the discussion is proceeding.

Most common connection problems:

- **linear logic v. circular emotion**
- **interactive communication v. declarative statements**
- **decisive v. slow to choose**
- **sift evidence v. “gut”**

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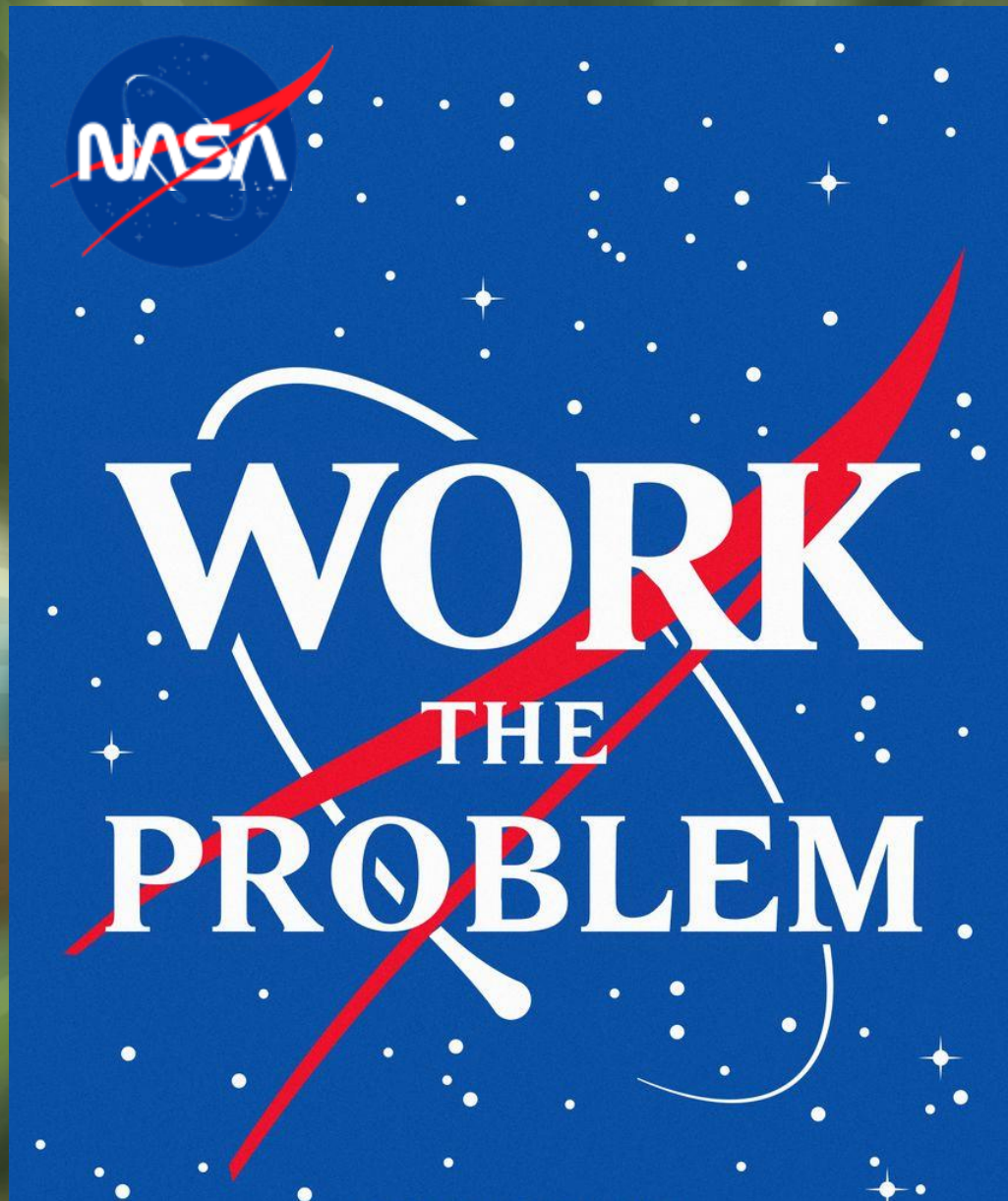
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**Disagreements about order:
household organization, chores,
bill-paying methods, how to spend
leisure time, kid chores, time spent
at work, when to go to the doctor,
how often to have sex**

**Once we have identified
the real conflict, what
do we do about it?**



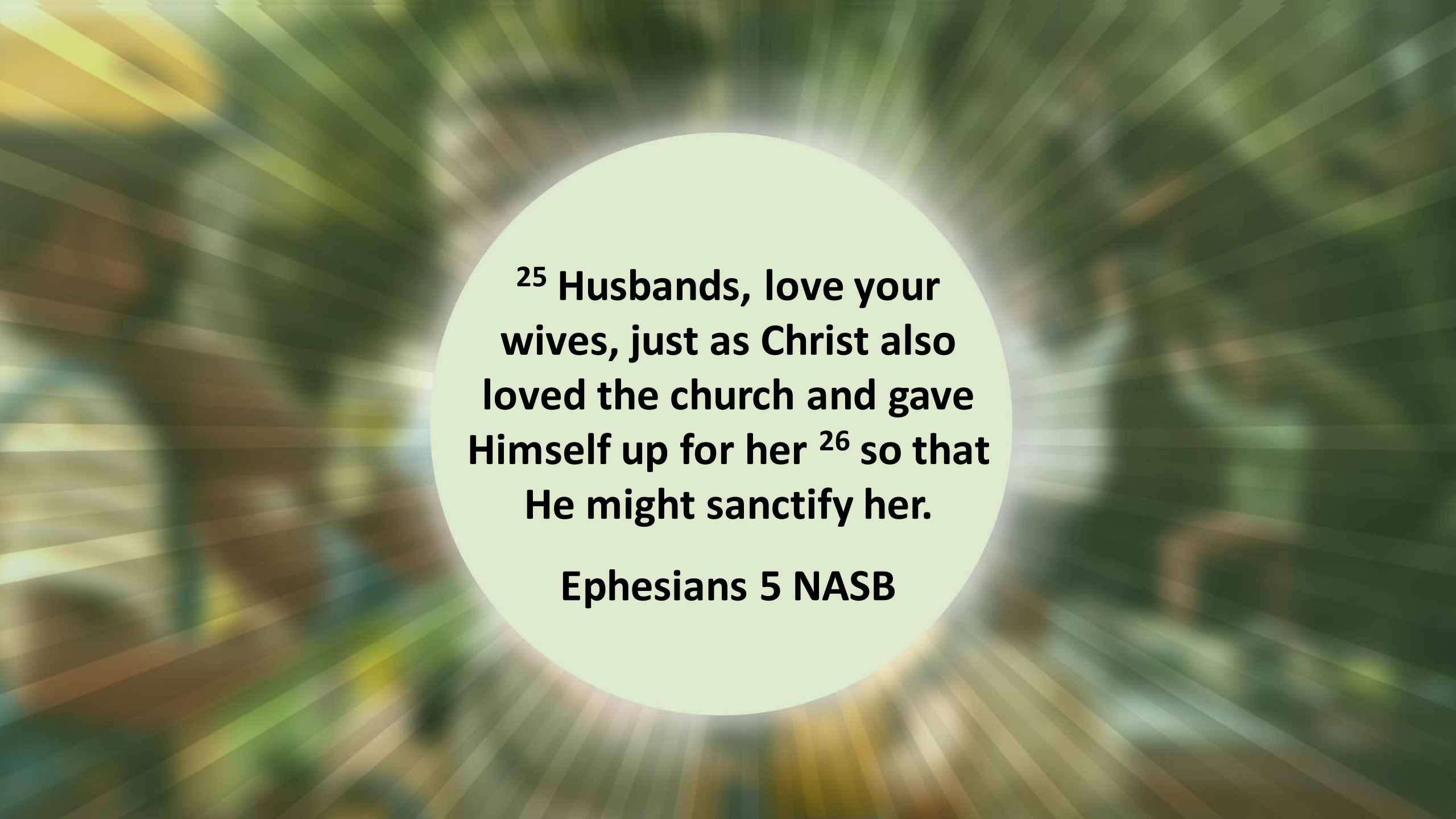


courtesy NASA

We don't get unhorsed by friction; we recognize the reality of conflict. We stop blaming and acknowledge the role played by our choices. We comprehend the conflict rut, stopping resignation and contempt. Instead of staying in that rut, we assess the true area of conflict. Then we work the actual problem by:

- **Giving ourselves.**
- **Fighting fairly and well.**
- **Being understanding.**
- **Never giving up.**

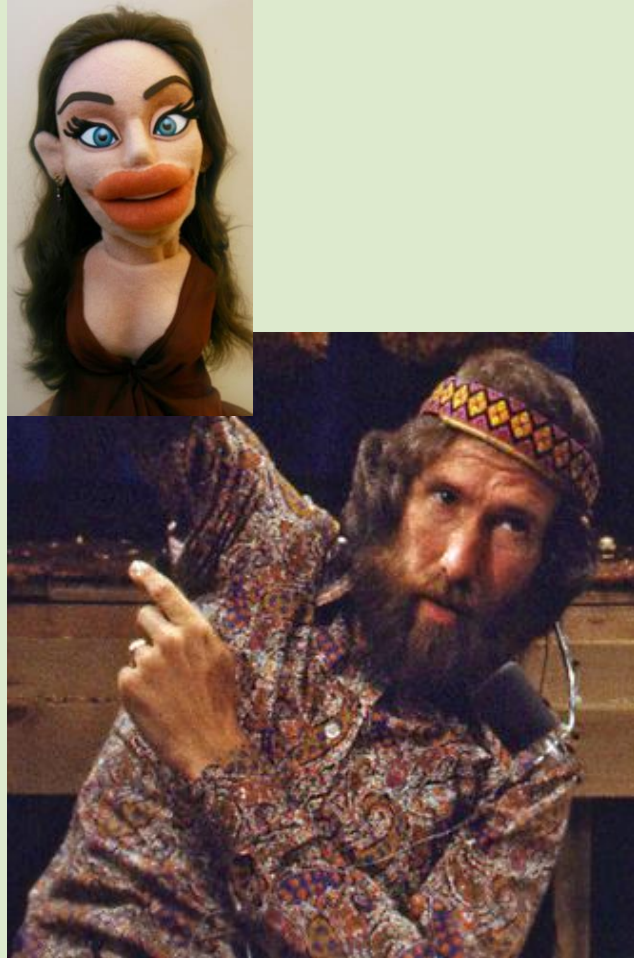




**²⁵ Husbands, love your
wives, just as Christ also
loved the church and gave
Himself up for her ²⁶ so that
He might sanctify her.**

Ephesians 5 NASB

Genesis 3:16 he will rule over you.



**משל msl = force
another person
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This is the
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Ephesians 5 NASB**

¹ In the same way [context: as Jesus willingly sacrificed], wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live ² when they observe your pure, reverent lives.

1 Peter 3 CSB

Gen 3:16 Your desire will be for your husband



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**²¹ submitting
to one another
in the fear of Christ.**

Ephesians 5 CSB

Rules, record-keeping, and resignation will only deepen the rut.

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**A man must
meet societal
expectations.**

**Expectations are
not discussed
until unmet.**

We only need to be concerned about biblical expectations.

Expectations should be discussed together.





**We need to take
more risks for
better rewards.**

**I hate spending
a penny.**

**It's about
responsibility, not
just risk/reward.**

**We can be responsible
even when we spend.**



**15 But speaking the truth
in love, let us grow in
every way into him who
is the head—Christ.**

Ephesians 4 CSB



⁷ In the same way [as wives should honor husbands], you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Peter 3 NLT



courtesy pixabay



courtesy superstock

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1 Peter 3 NLT

**Roger Murrah &
Keith Stegall have
written dozens of
#1 hit records**



courtesy Nashville Cats

WE'RE IN THIS LOVE TOGETHER

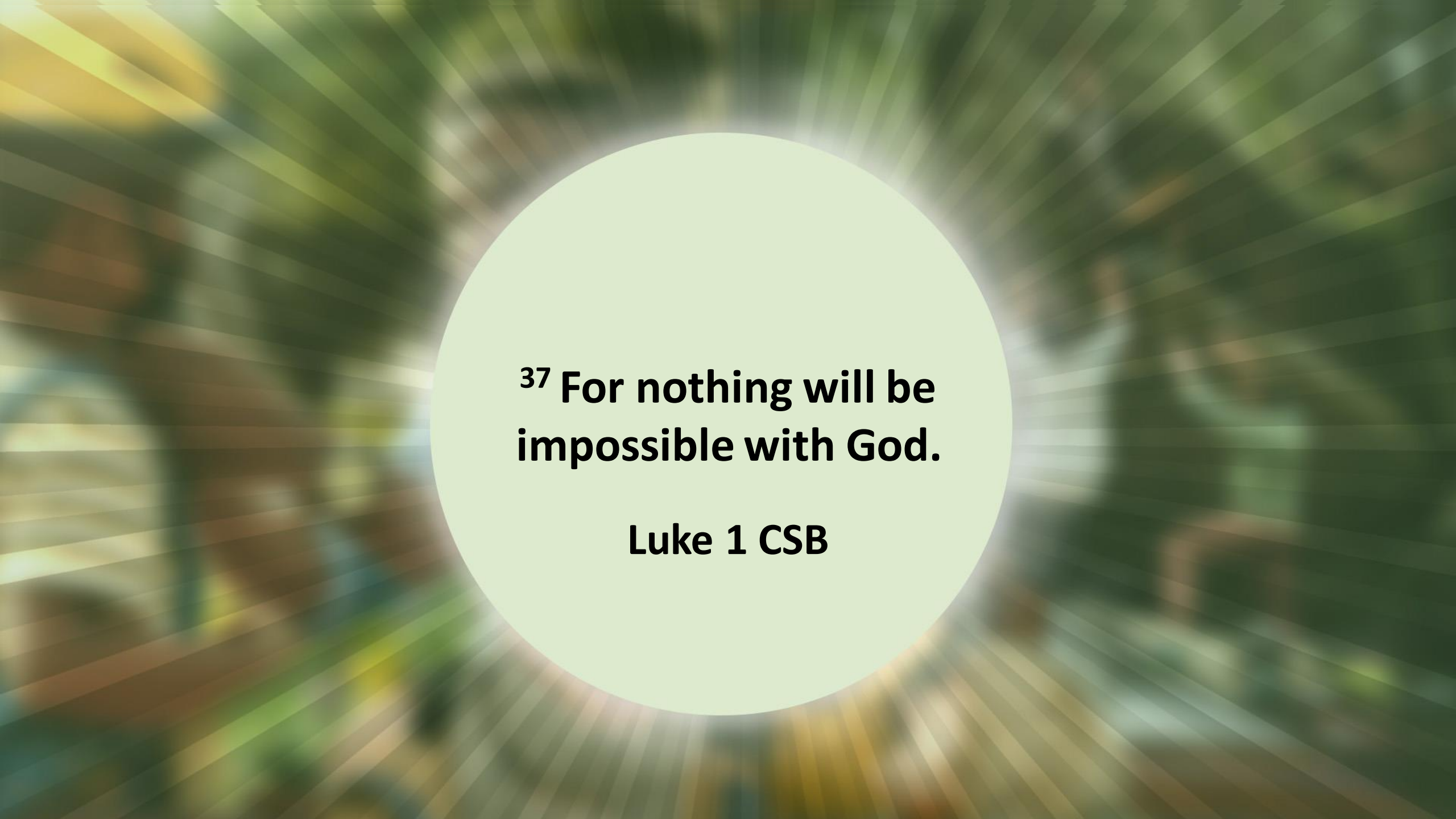
AL JARREAU



**We're in this love together
We got the kind that lasts forever
We're in this love together
And like berries on the vine
It gets sweeter all the time**

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1 Peter 3 NLT



**³⁷ For nothing will be
impossible with God.**

Luke 1 CSB



¹ Moses told the leaders of the Israelite tribes, **“This is what the LORD has commanded:**
² **When a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to put himself under an obligation, he must not break his word; he must do whatever he has promised.”**

Numbers 30 CSB



FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE