

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE



Fellowship Bible Church

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

Bible Study Guide

From the leadership development ministry of

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS

Acknowledgments

The lesson outlines and notes in this booklet were prepared and edited by Tim McManigle, Director of FBC Missions.

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BIBLICAL MARRIAGE SERIES
Session #1
“God’s purpose and plan for marriage”

A. Introduction

- I would like to begin our study on Biblical Marriage by contrasting the following two Scriptures
Ps. 106:15 – “I’ll give you the desires of your heart, but send leanness to your soul.”
Ps. 37:4 – “Delight your self in the Lord, and I’ll give (grace) you the desires of your heart”.
- We talk a lot about grace in this church, we’ll be talking a lot about it in this class also.
Rom. 6:14

B. A word from Fred Tempies, a minister in South Africa

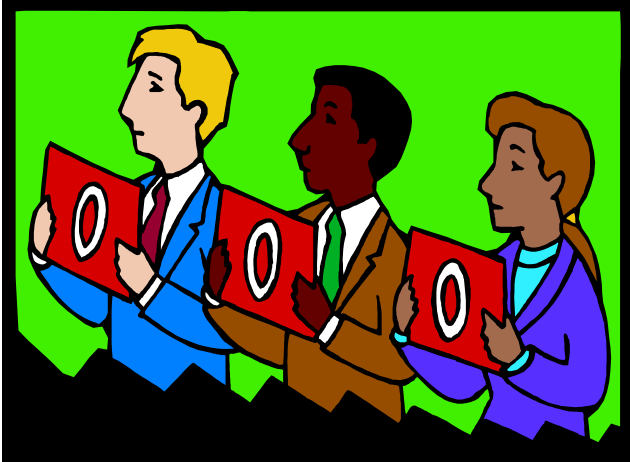
- *“The fall of 1996 stands out as a red letter season for the Tempies family. It was when the visit of God’s awakened servants from FBC resulted in my Grace awakening. After 34 years of law living and bungling in the ministry, God graciously reached out to His bedraggled and burned-out child.*
- *My pre-grace life of legalism, self-righteousness, self-determination, shortsightedness, self-centeredness, and self-destruction took its toll on me.*
- *The Grace message revitalized a dead marriage. It has transformed a dead and disastrous marriage into a nurturing relationship on the mend. Change me from a driven father to a relaxed Spiritual guide to my children which I do not endure, but enjoy.”*

C. Question to ponder

- As we begin today, I would like to ask the following question: On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your marriage?
- If we were to ask that question to a couple married 50 years, their answer would probably be a 10. Why? Because of the long number of years they have been together.
- However, what if we were to present the same question to newlyweds? Again, the answer would probably be 10. And the reason, shortness of time/still honeymooning...



- Naroni – Was a young waitress that we met in Nepal several years ago. One morning we asked if she was married? She responded, “Yes, arranged marriage.” She went on to say, “Arranged marriage very good, love marriage no good.” When I asked why she had come to that conclusion, her answer was; “Arranged marriage they stay together, love marriage they separates.” I then asked, “Why is that, Naroni?” Her answer, “Because the families are involved”....



- (On the other hand) There is a man in our church who gave his son this counsel on the night before the son was to be married.

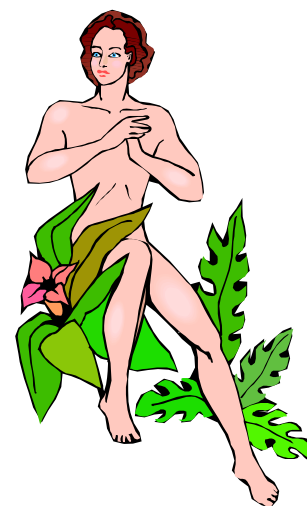
“You get your new wife as far away from her mother as you can, and you get as far away from your family as possible...”

- I met a couple in India who had been married for 30 years. When I asked how they met, they explained that the wife’s father had approached the husband’s father regarding a possible marriage between their children. The father of the boy asked his son to go across town and take a look at the girl and let him know what he thought. The boy and his brother went to meet the girl, and spent 20 minutes with her. When he returned the boy made this comment to his father; “She’ll do fine”. He immediately left town and was gone four months. On the day of his return, he stopped at a small corner grocery store at approximately 10:00AM to get a drink before going home, a friend saw him and said, “You better hurry home”. When he asked “Why”, the friend said “Because you are getting married today at 1:00PM. (20 minute courtship)....
- I had a cousin who courted his wife-to-be for 11 years before being married....
- What if we were to ask the man on the street; “What is the necessary ingredient for a #10 marriage?” He might say, "Financial stability kept us together, and gave us a 10"....
- Whereas another couple may say, "Financial need brought us together, and gave us a 10"...
- Others I’m sure would say, "Many children gave us a common goal to work for" ...
- Only to find others who would say, "No children gave us much time together"...
- Who’s correct – The couple married 50 years, or the newly weds?
- Naroni, or the man in our church?
- The Indian couple, or my cousin?
- What is the necessary ingredient for a #10 marriage?

- Financial stability, or financial need?
- Lots of kids, or no kids?
- Well folks, we've done a fair amount of thinking over the years about the necessary ingredients for a (#10) marriage, and we've come to the conclusion that it is none of the above. In the next 8 lessons and we'll be sharing with you what the Scriptures teach regarding the necessary ingredients for a #10 marriage ...
- However, it might be helpful to make this comment; unless our marriages are grace-sourced and grace-driven, the chances of having an awesome #10 marriage, are little or none. **Ps. 127:1**

D. Our goal for this class

- Our goal for this class will be threefold;
 1. **To discover God's purpose for marriage.**
 2. **To uncover His plan for marriage.**
 3. **And to find out what He has done to enable us to carry out His plan.**



E. God's purpose for marriage

- Let's go back to the beginning, back to the garden, back to Adam and Eve to look at God's purpose for creating marriage. (It is interesting to note that from the very beginning, marriage was a creation of God, not an invention of man).
- **Gen. 2:18**...In this verse, we clearly see God's purpose for marriage..."It's not good for man to be alone." -
- **His purpose Intimacy...(A close personal relationship between a man and woman)**

F. God's plan for marriage

- **Gen. 2:18**...It's interesting to give thought to the fact that a sovereign, all-wise, all-powerful God, would create man/create Adam incomplete and with built in **needs...But He did...**
- Let's give some thought to this; what **need** did God build into Adam that was not fulfilled when He created Him? (Adam had **need** of a companion, a helpmate suited for him.)
- Let's read on...**Gen. 2:19-20**...
- Did you ever wonder why God had Adam name all these animals? I've often wondered if it was to show him his **need**. It could be possible that Adam was not aware that he was

alone before he began naming the animals? Perhaps in seeing the animals paired off, he realized he had no mate.

- Now the thought comes, why did God want Adam to see his **need** for a mate?
- What is the first step to salvation? Knowing that we are sinners and can't help ourselves...We had to see our **need**...
- Until Adam recognized his **need**, he would never appreciate God's provision of Eve. So it is with us--until we recognize and admit our **need** for our mate we will never appreciate God's gift.
- Have you ever given thought to your own personal built-in needs; have you ever given thought to the ways that God has made you incomplete? (Weak areas) - Insensitive; Not out going - Not good with finances - Not a good decision maker - No sense of humor....

G. God's provision for Adam's need

- Let's look now at God's provision for Adam's need...**Gen. 2:21,22**
- It's interesting to note 5 things that God did here...
 1. Caused Adam to sleep
 2. Took a rib
 3. Closed the flesh
 4. Made a woman
 5. Brought her to Adam
- Caused Adam to sleep--Besides making the surgical procedure easier, some people speculate that this step kept Adam from offering unwanted advice on the woman's design.
- Took a rib — Why a rib? Why not a something else?
(Not over him - Not under him - An equal - Close to his heart - Under his wing....)
- Closed the flesh — It would appear that unlike a modern day surgical procedure, there was no need for a healing process.



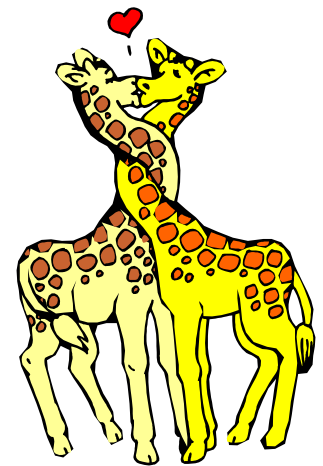
- God made the woman — she was completely a work of God.
- Brought her to Adam — This appears to be the most important...It would seem that God wanted Adam to know that Eve was a gift from Him.
- Why would that be so important? Let's think through some things here.
- **Gen. 2:23** - Notice that Adam's response to Eve was

immediate acceptance.

- **Question 1** — What had Eve done up to this point to deserve Adam's acceptance? (Other than obviously looking better to Adam than the animals he had been naming, she had done nothing. Nor had he done anything to earn acceptance from her.)
- **Question 2** — Why then was Adam able to immediately recognize Eve as the mate who would fulfill his need? The only clue given in the passage is that she was accompanied by God Himself. Adam apparently recognized that God was presenting her as a gift from Himself, and she also must have known that God had specifically made her and brought her to Adam.)
- **Question 3** — Who did Adam know better, Eve or God? (Obviously, God.) He didn't even know Eve. Therefore, his acceptance of his mate was based strictly on his relationship with God. Should it be any different for us?
- **Question 4** — It's interesting that in the majority of marriage counseling, the emphasis is on knowing our mate, but which is more important, knowing our God or knowing our mate? (Look at arranged marriages.)
- **Psalm 23** – (A true Biblical marriage is not a husband looking to his wife, or a wife looking to her husband to fulfill each other's needs. But rather both looking to the Chief Shepherd to lead, guide, provide, protect, comfort, etc.)

H. *Leaving and Cleaving*

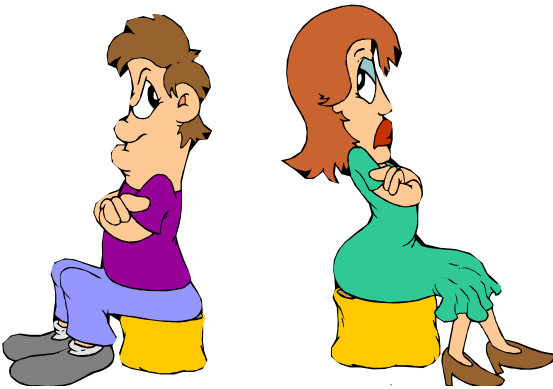
- Let's go back **Gen. 2:24 - 25**... now read **Mark 10:6-9**, focusing on **verse 8** which says; "They two shall be one flesh; so then they are no more two, but one"...
- Now here in **Gen. 2;24**, we see it again..."They shall be one flesh."
- The big question is how, how does this oneness come about?
- Interesting that man has so many foolish ways of **trying** to achieve oneness (Get a good job and take vacations; take her out to dinner at least once a week; communicate more and better. The missing ingredient in all of man's efforts is God Himself.
- Verse **24** sheds further light on God's plan for man to obtain oneness in the marriage relationship. (Read again vs. **24**.)
- It appears that a big step toward oneness would have to be a leaving...
- In order for a couple to obtain oneness in marriage, there must be a leaving of the parents...



- Now the thought comes to mind, what does God mean by this term, **“leaving” one’s parents?**
- Leaving could involve a number of areas of life such as:
 1. A physical leaving
 2. Emotional leaving or detachment
 3. Financial separation
- It’s an **actual transferring of dependence from** parents to mate.
- NOTE: The Hebrew word to “leave” means “to loosen” “to relinquish/give up” It actually means “to forsake”.
 - a. It’s amazing how many ways, during the first few years of marriage, that newlyweds find to remain attached to parents? **(1. Continue to receive financial help; (2. Too frequent visits & telephone calls; (3. Seeking parental approval in place of their mates; (4. Sharing problems with parents and looking to them to resolve conflicts, etc.)**
 - b. Sometimes the problem is that parents are “too clingy”. I believe my wife and I have found ourselves in this situation far too many times...When our oldest son came home to ask permission to marry a young lady, we were caught off guard as we were not expecting this. We quickly gave our permission, but on the following day when they left to go back to college, my wife said, “It’s not right for our son to get married. I have nothing against the young lady, but it’s just not right.” This went on for several months as they were making wedding plans, and I was becoming a bit more uncomfortable each day. So I called our son to share his mom’s concerns. My question to him was, “Are you sure that this is the Lord’s will for you at this time?” His response, “I’ve never been more sure of anything in my life, Dad.” My advice, “Let’s keep trusting the Lord that if this is His will he will work it out, and if it’s not His will that He will put a stop to it. Three days before the wedding, my wife was still making negative comments; she said again, “It’s not right that he should get married.” I responded, “I know, you’ve been saying this for months.” There was a long silence, and she said, “Do you want to know why?” My answer was, “Yes” and she quickly responded “Because I won’t be number 1 in his life anymore.
 - c. On the other hand often times the son or daughter is more dependent on parents rather than on his/her mate; when this is the situation, the mate is not permitted to meet the other’s needs which destroys the oneness in the relationship. (My wife & I have also found ourselves in this situation from time to time...We’ve learned not to take sides, but rather to **“lovingly shoo them”** back

to their mate, and encourage them in the Lord) **1 Sam. 30:1-6** - (Emphasis on David "Encouraging Himself in the Lord" - **Vs. 6**)

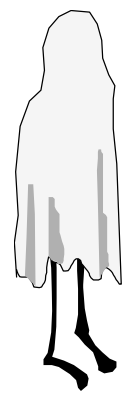
- An interesting thought is this...No longer being dependent on parents does not mean that we have no relationship with them. However, a pattern of going to parents for repeated assistance is a serious danger signal.
- **Ephesians 6:2** says; "Honor thy Father and Mother"...
- One's mate must always be given first priority, but that can never be made into an excuse to neglect parents.
- An interesting scripture to ponder; **Mark 7:6-13**.
- Let's go back again to **Gen. 2:24** and another important ingredient if we're ever to have a oneness relationship... "**...Cleave to his wife**".
- The term actually conveys a sense of strong emotional attachment.
- The Hebrew meaning for cleave involves the idea of clinging, adhering, being united.
- An interesting thought is that leaving and cleaving are interdependent upon each other?



A couple will never fully cleave to each other until they have truly left their parents. On the other hand, the couple will never fully leave their parents until they cleave to one another.

- Now there are a number of things which make cleaving difficult. Keep in mind that the root cause of all relationship problems is the flesh; however, it manifests itself in many ways such as -
(selfishness, competition, being inflated with self-importance, greed, blaming job pressures, in-laws etc.)
- For a number of years, My wife and I had virtually no oneness in our relationship.
- As I look back on it now, it was almost as if our fleshs were competing.
- It didn't matter what one of us said, the other immediately wanted to do the opposite.
- As we mentioned earlier, the flesh was the problem...**1 Cor. 3:1 & 3**.
- Back again to **Gen. 2:24** and the subject of "**Becoming One Flesh**"... (We probably need to clarify this word "**flesh**")...
- In Scripture, there are several usages of the word flesh, and we can most often tell which is being referred to by the context.
- Of course how it is most often used in the New Testament is in reference to indwelling sin; example **Rom. 7:18**.

- However, in the Old Testament, we have another very common use of the word as we see here in **Gen. 2:24**. It clearly refers to the body...
- **Question:** What is really meant here in verse 24 by the term “*one flesh*?”
- An obvious meaning is for the husband and wife to establish physical intimacy with one another.
- As we mentioned before, the Hebrew term *flesh* here clearly refers to the body, and the word *one* is from a root meaning, “to unify.” Therefore, it is clear that God not only approves of sexual intimacy in marriage, but also is the initiator of it.
- The question comes to mind why is the idea of becoming one flesh, important in achieving oneness in marriage? Let’s think this through.
- The physical union of husband and wife brings into oneness the total person... ***It actually unites spirit, soul, and body.***
- Now notice the Result: **Gen. 2:25 – “Naked and Unashamed”**
- What is the significance of this verse? What is so important about a couple being “naked and unashamed?”
- How is this a picture of oneness? The words “naked and unashamed” convey the sense of ***being totally exposed to one another, with nothing being hidden or covered.***
- Literally, they were “without disguise or covering”, they were completely ***transparent*** with one another, feeling no threat in revealing themselves to their mate... A beautiful picture of oneness...A number of years ago I was cornered by two pastors in our church who were aware of the marital struggles between my wife and I. They had heard her side of the story, and now they had come to confront me. As we talked that morning, one of the pastors said, “It appears to me that you are trying to hide your weak areas from your wife.” When I heard those words, it was as if the lights were turned on. Some years before, when I had come to Christ, I was told that I needed to be the spiritual leader in my family, but I was never told what that would look like. The only kind of leader I knew was a football coach, army general, dictator, etc. My idea of a leader was that he had no weak areas; therefore I did my best to hide my weaknesses from my wife. After talking with these two pastors that day, I confessed to my wife my hypocrisy and assured her that I would no longer live a lie before her. That day, as I exposed my inner-self to her, we made a giant step toward oneness in our relationship)...
- An interesting verse in all this— **I John 4:18** - What is perfect love? We’ll get into that at a later time, but for now we could say that it is love that has it’s confidence/trust in God.



BIBLICAL MARRIAGE
Session #2
“Man’s Problem and God’s provision”

A. Introduction

- *It seems that when a man and a woman marry, they become one. And then they spend the rest of their lives arguing about which one...*
- Last week we looked at God’s purpose and plan for marriage in **Gen. 2:18-25** – It’s not good for man to be alone. So God made a help-mate/companion and presented her to Adam.
- Adam’s response – Immediate acceptance – He immediately recognized that Eve was a gift from God to meet his needs....
- So this relationship was to be intimate/self-less/so close that it was to be like a three-legged race (walking through life in tandem).... **Mark 10:6-9** – (The idea here is that man is to care for woman more than himself, to place her ahead of himself, and she is to accept that care and submit to his loving leadership, placing him and his needs ahead of her own)

B. The fall of man

- So life in the garden was pleasant for Adam and Eve because everything was perfect.
- However, it wasn’t long before a major problem developed which began with God’s great enemy, Satan.
- Satan knew about God’s warning to Adam concerning the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. **Gen. 2:16, 17**
- Because Satan hates God, he wanted to destroy the man and woman that God had made and loved.
- **Gen. 3:1-6** - Satan deceived Eve and she believed him rather than God and ate the forbidden fruit. (Eve was deceived).
- On the other hand, Adam knowing full well what God had said (not being deceived) deliberately rebelled against God and ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. **I Tim. 2:14.**



C. Consequences of Adam's rebellion

- **Gen. 3:7,8** – Remember what God said would happen if they ate the forbidden fruit? ... Death.
- The word death here means separation and now we see in **verse 8** that they were indeed separated from God immediately. (Spiritual death). God always does what He says...
Rom. 6:23
- Because Adam and Eve did not believe and obey God, they were cut off, separated from their friendship with Him. Their relationship with God was dead.
- They had taken sides with God's enemy Satan and they too were now enemies of God.
- Let's look at what happened when they were separated from God.
- **vs.7** – Immediately their minds became evil and the result was a self-focus/self-occupation.....All of a sudden they were embarrassed by their nakedness. *"Oh my heavens Eve, we're naked!!!"* Before they were so God focused that they didn't even know it....**Gen. 2:25**
- Before they ate of the forbidden fruit, they trusted God, they depended on Him for everything, but now, they no longer trusted Him to provide for their needs. **7b** (Sound familiar)
- They were now trying to meet their own needs. They were no longer God-centered, but self-centered, and were trying to live independently of God. (Welcome to our world).
- Something else to think about, **before they ate** from the tree, Adam and Eve felt accepted by God, but now all of a sudden, they are trying to make themselves acceptable to Him, by putting on clothes. Many people today still think they can make themselves acceptable to God by doing good deeds, or becoming church members, or being good parents, or law-abiding citizens.
- **Before they ate** the forbidden fruit, they loved God and looked forward to His visits, but now their attitude toward Him had changed and they hid from Him. **8:a/b**
- **Before** they feared nothing, there was nothing to fear, God was their friend.
- **But now** ever since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit there has been all kinds of fear in the hearts of men and women. **Prov. 28:1**

D. God called to Adam, and he had to answer to Him:

- **Gen. 3:9** - So God called to give Adam an opportunity to change his mind. **Gen. 3:10, 11** - Adam and Eve had to answer to God for what they had done. (He had created them and they belonged to Him). We too were created by God and belong to Him and therefore must answer to Him.

- Let's get the flow here **Gen. 3:8-13** - all of a sudden there is fear, hiding, guilt, frustration, depression and now blame shifting. Doesn't that sound like the majority of marriages today?
- I thought it might be good to throw something in here that I have been thinking about for several months now.....**Eph. 4:17-19** – *(Sometimes when my wife is in this downward spiral of sin, and I attempt to lovingly bring it to her attention, she snaps at me; “Leave me alone, it's taken me a long time to get in this condition, and I want to enjoy it for a while”)*
- However, look where Paul goes next - **Eph. 4:20-32...**
- Back now to **Gen. 3:12** - Who is Adam blaming? - Eve, but also God.... *I can't tell you how many times I have been here, blaming my wife and ultimately God for the way she is, or for not changing her.*
- Back to Adam in **vs. 12** - If he ate the forbidden fruit because he loved her so much... something has happened to that perfect love...What is it? Sin/the flesh/self... Adam's perfect love for Eve is now corrupted; he loves himself more. His loving leadership has been corrupted. Where is that honeymoon love and acceptance that He once had for Eve?



E. God's judgment

- And now God begins to hand out judgments and starts with the serpent. In **Gen. 3:14**
- And then Satan in **Gen. 3:15...**
- And now the woman in **Gen. 3:16** - Eve and all future mothers will suffer pain in childbirth.
- Her natural desire would be to rule over her husband (self-centered/self-focused/self-occupied), but he will have authority over her. **1 Cor. 11:3**; However, woman's willing submission was corrupted.
- And now the consequences of Adam's sin....**Gen. 3:17-19**
- Because Adam listened to his wife rather than God, and ate from the tree that God told him not to eat, God said that there would be some natural consequences, and here's why...
- It's as though God is saying, "Adam, you didn't want my advice when I told you not to eat from that tree in the center of the garden, so therefore you go ahead on out there and depend on yourself to provide food for you and your family. However, there will be some natural consequences".

- 1)The ground will be cursed - in sorrow shall you eat all your days 2)Thorns and weeds will make it more difficult to get food. 3) You'll eat by the sweat of your brow; 4) And if all that isn't enough there will be physical death.
- Oh yes, and by the way, you didn't want me telling you what to do, well that loving, submissive, little wife is now an opinionated little spitfire who wants to rule over you, and will be certain to advise you at every turn."

F. God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden

- Remember **Rom. 6:23** (wages of sin is death) (death is the penalty for sin, no other way to pay)
- Because they ate of the forbidden fruit, they now were put out of the garden and separated from God... Why. Why did they have to leave the garden?
- So that they would not eat from the tree of life and live forever. This was actually an act of God's mercy.
- God did not want man to live forever in his sinful condition. Imagine what the world would be like if all the evil men that ever lived were still alive today.
- It's interesting to consider that originally, God put Adam and Eve in the garden and told them they could eat from the tree of life. Now that they were sinful, He put them out of the garden to keep them from the tree of life. **Rom. 6:23**.
- **Gen. 3:24** - "Drove out man"...How? (Sounds like Adam did not want to go).
- Angels and sword of fire to make sure Adam and Eve didn't come back.
- If they did attempt to return the cherubim would kill them with the sword of fire.



- There was nothing they could do. When God put them out of the garden, there was no way back... they would now suffer the consequences of their sin, grow old and die.
- Again, they would now suffer the consequences of their sin – 1. Woman's willing submission was corrupted – 2. Man's loving leadership was corrupted – 3. Both totally self-centered – 4. **Hos. 8:7** – They sure got more than they bargained for, and so did we **Rom. 5:19.....**
- Because we are all descended from Adam, what he got, we get....A wretched self-centeredness that the Bible calls the flesh.....
- And so man now has a huge problem – **Rom. 7:15-24; Ps. 55**

- With all this in mind, let's go back now to the husband wife relationship.
- As we mentioned before, **God's purpose Intimacy...(A close, intimate, personal relationship between a man and woman)**
- But because of the flesh, it doesn't seem to come easy. Did you ever stop to wonder why couples are so naturally close before marriage, and then often so distant after they marry? It's interesting that frequently the thing which attracts us to our mate ends up repelling us later!
- For example: A husband or wife's easygoing, flexible nature becomes an irritant to the other's disciplined nature after marriage. (Other examples: Finances/sports)
- *My own marriage is a good example...Originally, I was attracted to my wife's sensitivity.*
- *I loved the way she was so sensitive to me. However, over a period of time, as I abused her sensitivity, she became less sensitive to me and more sensitive to our children and friends. Eventually, I became jealous and was repelled by her sensitivity to others...(Notice the self-centeredness/self-focus/the flesh.)*
- *It wasn't too long after we were married, that I found myself extremely frustrated with her, and I remember talking with her father one day and mentioning to him that I wasn't so sure that I had done the right thing by marrying his daughter. I'll never forget his response. "It's too late now, I'm not taking her back. You wanted her, you keep her!"*
- *My point is that this marriage relationship can be so frustrating.*
- And the problem can be traced right back to the fall of mankind.
- Turn with me to **Isaiah 53:6**. **Isaiah 53:6** really explains the failure to achieve intimacy in marriage. - Going our own way--**Proverbs 1:32** Just as waywardness/self-centeredness/selfishness destroyed Adam and Eve's relationship, it will also destroy ours.
- How would self-centeredness affect an intimate husband-wife relationship?
- Here is something for us to give some thought to. Self-centeredness is always barren and solitary. It actually breeds the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" isolation, which is the opposite of intimacy. **Psalm 38:11; Psalm 88:7,8 &18)**

G. Quote by Dr. W. Prost

- "The essence (*predominant quality*) of true Christianity is not to have either high or low thoughts of self, but rather not to be thinking of self at all" ...**2 Cor. 12:14-15** – This will be the overriding focus of our study



- Many men and women enter marriage with the following self-attitude; *“Here’s to you and me, may we never disagree, and if we do, to heck with you, here’s to me.”*
- I heard someone describe these marriages as "a tick on a dog" relationship. The only problem is, there are two ticks and no dog. (And what is the root problem in all this? The flesh/self-centeredness.)

H. The self-life

- It might be good for us to focus on this self-life for a few moments.
- It’s important we understand that, as Christians, we are going to be influenced and ultimately controlled by one of two powers; The self-life, or the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. The first will make life/marriage hell and the second heaven.
- Self is the fleshly, self-centered carnal nature that we inherited from Adam.
- It’s ugly, it’s horrible - we got it at birth. It will be with us until death and will never change. (I remember some years ago when we were in Kenya having a problem with the Hotel double charging us for our rooms. We were traveling with an older missionary who had spent 40 years in Africa, so we asked him to speak with the room clerk regarding this problem. As we walked by the front desk, we saw the missionary shaking his finger and using rather strong language to emphasize his point with the room clerk. When he returned to the room, we asked how it went. The old missionary responded, “I’m not very proud of it, but occasionally this old sin-nature comes in handy.”)
- Vines definition of the flesh, or self, is *"human nature deprived of the Spirit of God and dominated by sin"*.
- We asked the question earlier, how would the flesh/ self-centeredness affect a marriage? And we determined that it breeds isolation, which is the opposite of intimacy.
- Notice what Jesus says in **John 12:24** – Unless we die to self, we abide alone.
- It’s interesting that unlike Paul, few Christians are willing to admit that the flesh/self is controlling their lives; there is a blindness to the subtle, clever, deceitful workings of the flesh.
- If the more horrible sins are absent from our lives, then we tend to rest in a complacent sense of goodness/self righteousness.
- We fail to realize how obnoxious to God are the more “culturally acceptable sins” such as, embellishing stories, sarcasm, impatience, worry, just plain selfishness, etc.
- Few Christians ever come to **Rom.7:24**.
- Many carnal Christians will find their mind, will, emotions, energy and power to be under the control of the flesh which manifests itself in many self-centered ways such as;

- Self-confidence, Self-esteem, Self-pity, Self-defense, Self-seeking, Self-exalting, Self-pleasing, Self-respect, Self-importance, Self-indulgence, Self-satisfaction, Self-will, Self-trust, Self-righteousness, Self-love, Self-effort, Self-sufficiency, Self-conscious, Self-infatuation, Selfishness...
- These are just a few of the multiple forms of the flesh.

I. Review

- **God's purpose** for marriage – Intimacy
- **God's plan** – Made a woman and presented her to man....
- **Man's problem** – Self-centeredness - Because of the fall, people just naturally want to live for self, which is the opposite of intimacy...**2 Tim. 3:1-2A**
- **God's provision** – In all this, God's purpose and plan never changed; He merely made a provision for man's dilemma....
- **He took our flesh to the Cross where it was rendered powerless... Again Rom. 6:6; Gal 5:24...**(Here is a very interesting statement to ponder; "If the cross is not central in our lives, then the flesh is")
- **Rom.5:19** makes it very clear that sin/self/the flesh, came in by birth, so it makes sense that it will only go out by death.
- The cross is God's way. It was on the cross that God, through Christ, dealt fully and finally with self/the flesh.



J. Self denial.

- It might be helpful to point out that man has so many ways of trying to dethrone self, but they are not God's ways. Let's look at a few of man's ways.
 1. Many, many Christians are working very, very hard to deny self and give up certain things (fasting monk), but denying self through self effort is not even close to the answer. (This just a futile attempt to overcome the flesh with the flesh).
 2. Others of us try to conquer or control self...more church services; more Bible study; more prayer. Again, this is not God's answer.
 3. Training is another favorite that has been tried, and failed. Good Christian training, in good Christian homes, and good Christian churches, and good Christian schools; but all of this will not bring the old nature/self, into line.
 4. Another failure is revival...we pray for revival and confess our sins and make new resolutions in hope that something will change, it rarely does.

5. Others just keep plodding along through the routine of a multitude of church activities and duties expecting in time that self will change for the better...but self never changes into anything but more of the same. **Jn. 3:6; Jn. 6:63; Phil. 3:3**. The only thing the flesh will ever produce is more of the same.

6. Up to the moment confession is another method that many of us have used for a number of years. **1 Jn.1:9**. This has to do with sins already committed and not with the source or root problem. (Self.)

These are just some of the many ways that man uses to try and overcome self.

K. God's way:



- Here is an awesome thought to consider: the flesh, self, sin nature, will only yield to the cross, not to self denial, or control, or revival, or resolutions, or Christian activity or confession; but only to the cross. Our old self has been crucified with Christ.
- Co-crucifixion; crucified together with Christ (**Gal. 2:20**).
- The Lord's way of victory over sin and self

is not through suppressing self-centered desires, nor through confession of sins; **God's way of victory is through crucifixion...deliverance is only through death. Rom. 6:1-14**

L. Short commentary on Romans 6:

- **vs. 1** - Paul here addresses the issue of abusing grace.
- **vs. 2** - We Christians have died (past tense), not for sin but to sin. (to its power)
- **vs. 3 & 4** - The word baptism in vs. 4 means identification; therefore we could read vs. 4 this way: We are buried with Him by identification into death, that as Christ was raised from the dead so we also should walk in newness of life.
- **vs. 6** - The word knowing here is to understand completely.
- **vs. 11** - Reckon/count on (chair illustration) Many Christians, when they begin to understand their union with Christ try to place the emphasis on reckoning... We must realize that **vs. 11** is of no use without **vs. 6**. The secret of reckoning is revelation. We must have a revelation from God. **Matt. 16:13-17**

- **vs. 13** - Here we see the word "yield". At first glance it would appear that we are to, through human effort, yield, or present, our members, but that is far from the truth that Paul is setting before us. There is a progression here in **verses 6-13**, and to miss that is to miss a key point of the text. The progression is in the words know in **vs. 6**, reckon in **vs. 11**, and now yield in **vs. 13**. If we really know (completely understand) something to be true, then it naturally follows that we reckon it so, or believe it, trust, count on it. Then it also follows that we will just naturally yield, present or carry out.
- **vs. 14** - Notice the outcome of all this; sin will no longer have dominion or power over us, and the reason why sin will not have power over us, because we are not under the law (*law is man working for God*), but under grace (*grace is God working for man*). Law begins by asking the question what must man do, and grace begins by asking the question, what has God done.

M. The same Scripture that says He died, also says that we died:

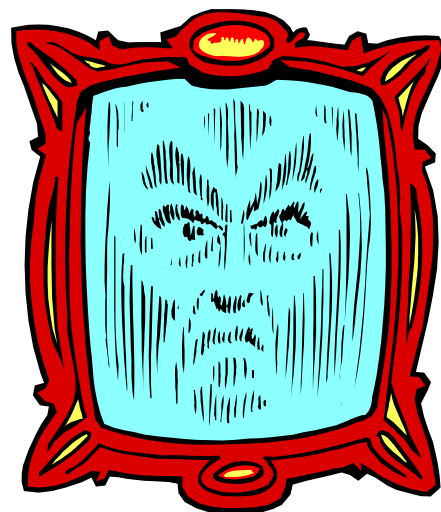
- Let's drop back a moment and focus on our death with Christ again. As was mentioned before, many Christians have a hard time with this.
- The same Holy Scripture that says He died for us, **Rom. 5:8**, also says that we died with Christ. **Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:8**.
- Here is something to think about; *if I believe in the death of Jesus, then I can believe in my own death just as surely as I believe in His*. Let's ask this question: Why do we believe that Jesus died? Because the word of God says so.
- Here is something else to give some thought to: When Jesus was crucified, two thieves were crucified at the same time. We don't doubt that they were crucified. Why? Because the scripture says so.
- We believe in the death of the Lord Jesus, and we believe in the death of the two thieves, what about our own death? Again, **Gal. 2:20**.

N. We that are dead, are free from sin:

- ***Christ died, and that is a fact, the thieves died, and that is a fact; we died, and that is also a fact.***

Positionally we were in Christ when He died; **1 Cor. 1:30**; the self that we hate was on the cross in Christ, and we that are dead are free from sin. **Rom. 6:7**.

O. Even the "godliest" of men have a terrible potential for evil:



- It's interesting to consider that the godliest of men still have within them the most terrible potential for evil. As a matter of fact, it's the godliest of men who know it best. They have learned through experience, that flesh does not change for the better by improving it, but rather by crucifying it.

P. A great cloud of witnesses:

- Abraham discovered this when he went down into Egypt and lied to Pharaoh - **Gen. 12**. Moses discovered this when he struck the rock - **Num. 20:1-12**. Samson discovered this in the arms of Delilah - **Judges 17**. David discovered this when he sent Uriah to his death and committed adultery with Bathsheba - **2 Sam. 11**. Peter discovered this when he denied Christ and wept bitterly through the streets of Jerusalem - **Luke 22**. And we will discover this as we try through our best efforts to be patient with our spouses, or never to be provoked by them, or never to fill in the blank. We will ultimately fail as the others.

"We should never be shocked at the amazing capacity for sin that lies within us."

Q. Man has an amazing capacity for sin:

- We should never be shocked at the amazing capacity for sin that lies within us.

R. Set free by crucifixion:

- Many Christians pray for God to make them stronger to overcome sin, but this is not God's way. God's way of delivering us from sin is not to make us stronger and stronger, but by making us weaker and weaker. **2 Cor. 12:9,10; Is. 40:29**. God sets us free from the dominion of sin not by strengthening our old man, but by crucifying him.
- Remember the day when we saw clearly that Christ died for us; we all should be equally clear as to the time when we finally see that we died with Christ, and then reckon it so.
- Notice the repeated statements in **Romans Chap. 6** of our actual identification with the death of Christ. **Verses 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,13**.

S. Quote from Miles Stanford:

- "Fruit springs out of death. Self-centeredness is always barren and solitary. The way of victory is the way of the cross. The Christian names that are honored in history are names that stand over graves where the old man was buried long before the body died."
- **Rom, chap. 6** is the basis for a life of holiness, the basis for a Godly husband – wife relationship, and **Jn. 8:32** seems to put everything in perspective.

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

Session #3

“Looking unto Jesus, and not to him or her”

A. Introduction

- **Joshua 5:13-15**-- **Joshua** had gone out to survey the walled city of Jericho and to make plans for taking the city, but all of a sudden he became aware of the presence of a man with a sword in his hand. In so many words Joshua said to him; “Whose side are you on? Are you on our side or their side? Notice the man’s response--**Joshua 14a**--his answer was, “ No, I am neither on your side nor their side; I’ve come as the captain of the host of the Lord, and I didn’t come to take sides, I came to take over.” **Joshua 5:14b, 15**



- It’s interesting that many of us Christians live our lives like this, making our plans and then asking God to be on our side.
- It’s time we stop all this; instead, let’s find out what God’s plan is, and then get on His side.
- A few years ago, I heard a story about 3 bullies who came upon this little nerd and decided that they would beat him up. When the little guy realized what was happening, he bent over and drew a line in the dirt, and then straightening up, he looked the biggest bully in the eye and said; “Step across that line”. The big bully defiantly did just that, and glared at the little nerd, who then commented, “All right, now we’re both on the same side”.
- Sometimes, that’s what the marriage relationship looks like; a bully/nerd relationship; maybe it’s time that we both step across that line, and get on the same side. Not my side, or her side, but **God’s side**.

B. Looking unto Jesus

- We’ve entitled our lesson today “Looking unto Jesus and not him or her”.
Heb. 12:1-2A
- Some years ago, a Christian couple traveled to Jamaica on vacation. When they arrived at the resort hotel, the bell hop taking their bags up to the room commented on a Christian book which the wife held in her arms. The husband asked if he was a Christian, and the bellhop responded that he was the Pastor of the local Baptist Church. The husband questioned him as to what he taught his people that they must do in order to obtain eternal life. The answer; “Well they must be baptized, live a good life, read the

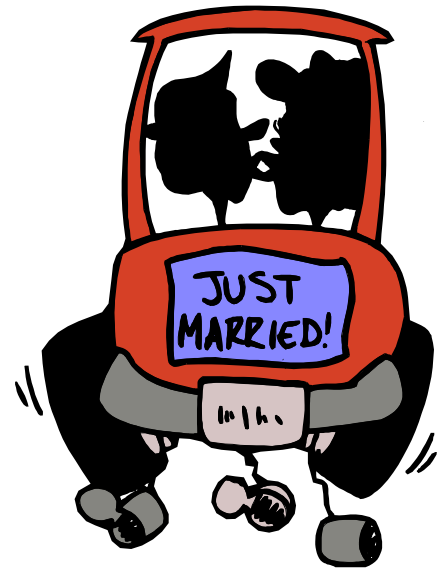
Bible, attend church”, and the list went on. Finally, the husband asked; “What about Jesus Christ”? To which the pastor responded, “Oh yes, Jesus Christ”.

- Now we can judge this man and say; “How in the world can a pastor, who teaches the Bible, miss the whole point of Christianity”? But as we mentioned in our class two weeks ago, man’s problem is the flesh, and the flesh blinds us to the truth.
- I thought it might be helpful to share the following quote with you.
- ***“The flesh is ever seeking to occupy us with ourselves rather than Christ. However, the Holy Spirit is continually working to turn our eyes toward Jesus as He progressively reveals our nothingness and His all sufficiency... We must remember that it is not our hold on Christ that saves us – it is Christ; It is not our joy in Christ that saves us – it is Christ; It is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument – it is Christ; therefore, look not so much to your hand with which you are grasping Christ, but rather look to Christ; look not to your hope – but rather to Jesus, the source of your hope; look not to your faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith... We will never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our works, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are that gives rest to the soul. If we are ever to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, it must be by “Looking unto Jesus”... Keep your eye fixed on Him; resting in His death, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, and His intercession... When you wake in the morning, “Look unto Him”; when you lie down at night, “Look unto Him”...***
- **Col. 1:12-19** – Keep your eye fixed on Him.... When you wake in the morning, “Look unto Him”; when you lie down at night, “Look unto Him”...

C. Back now to the husband/wife relationship

- Let’s do a bit of a review from the last couple of weeks, and think some things through...
- **Week #1**
 - **God’s purpose** for marriage – It’s not good for man to be alone... So God’s purpose is intimacy (A close personal relationship between husband and wife. **Mark 10:6-9** – **“Oneness”**)
 - **God’s plan** – Made a woman and presented her to man....
- **Week #2** – We discovered that man has a problem which is standing in the way of God’s purpose.
 - **Man’s problem** – Self-centeredness - Because of the fall, people just naturally want to live for self, which is the opposite of intimacy...**2 Tim. 3:1-2A; Is. 53:6**

- **God's provision** – In all this, God's purpose and plan never changed; He merely made a provision for man's dilemma....
- **He took our flesh (That self-centered part of us) to the Cross where it was crucified and rendered powerless... Rom. 6:6.**
- **Rom.5:19** makes it very clear that sin/self/the flesh/self-centeredness, came in by birth, so it makes sense that it will only go out by death.....
- The cross is God's way. It was on the cross that God, through Christ, dealt fully and finally with self/the flesh.
- But unfortunately man lives his life;
 1. Oblivious to the fact that the flesh is the root of all his problems...**Rom. 7:18a**
 2. Unaware of God's remedy for man's problem; or unbelieving that God's remedy (the cross) will work – **Heb. 4:2**



D. Five possible/probable phases

- So here we are; we're in this thing called marriage, and one day we wake up and realize that we have been growing apart for some time, and the situation looks hopeless.
- In fact, if we were to look back over the years, we would probably see different phases that we went through to get to this point.

Phase #1 – Romantic phase - Dating, honeymoon – In the romantic phase, oneness and contentment in the relationship are goals, but the couple has little or no idea of how to achieve that oneness and contentment. For the most part, the couple is unaware that they each have a flesh, and they just naively believe that they will somehow, some way, some day live happily ever after.

Phase #2 – Transition Phase – Transitioning from honeymoon to marriage – The couple begins to make adjustments to one another – They discover that they have different habits, different priorities and different values in life, and all of a sudden twinges of disappointment surface but are quickly ignored or overridden by emotions.



Phase #3 – The reality phase – The realities of life are at times overwhelming as the couple must face job changes, differing friends, conflicting material values, parenting pressures, in-law expectations, etc. The struggle to change one another is very strong in this phase.

Phase #4 – Retaliation phase – Resentment and bitterness begins to

take it's toll. The husband sells his life out to his job and, or sports (Golf/hunting/fishing), as the wife pours her life into the children or a career. The relationship has gone from high expectations to despair.

Phase #5 – Rejection phase – Emotional separation/withdrawal (the relationship dies).

Physical separation – Divorce becomes an alternative; even with the known consequences of divorce and the unknown future it brings, these fears are overridden by hostility and discouragement.

E. So now what?

- So, how do we deal with all this? Well, without a full understanding of the root problem (the flesh), or God's remedy (the cross), there is only one way; and that is to focus on/deal with the surface problems which at best gives some temporary relief.
- It appears that we Christians have many foolish and **fleshly** ways of **trying** to get relief.
- Some of those doomed ways are as follows:
 1. Learn to forgive one another
 2. Learn how to confront one another lovingly.
 3. Learn to listen to your mate
 4. The art of communication
 5. An emphasis on setting right priorities
 6. Time management to include family worship/prayer time (The family that prays together, stays together)

Now please don't misunderstand...All of these are good things...But this is like shooting a squirt gun at an oncoming tank

- Something is missing.... And that something is God...Again remember, the focus is wrong...The focus is on us, not on Christ...We end up being occupied with our circumstance, with ourselves and our efforts to change each other, rather than with Jesus.... **Col. 3:1-3; Is. 26:3; Ps. 127:1**

F. Paul's testimony

- As the Lord continues to deepen my understanding of what a Biblical marriage looks like and the importance of being occupied with Christ in that relationship, I have recently given much thought to Paul's comment in **Phil. 3:7** – **"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."** What a total change of attitude in this man's life. As Saul, before his conversion, he had much worldly gain. He had gathered many honors for his name. He had made progress in Judaism beyond many of his peers. He had achieved a legal righteousness in which no man could find a flaw; His zeal, his

knowledge, and his morality were of the highest order. However, from the moment Christ was revealed to him on the road to Damascus, everything changed – **Act. 9:3-4**

- Notice his two remarks in **verses 5-6** – **“Who are you” & “What would you have me to do.”** All of a sudden, what had previously been gain, his righteousness, education, and morality, had now turned to rubbish. **Phil. 3:8**
- **The revelation of the glory of Christ had so completely changed the entire thought-life, attitude, and being of Paul, that those things which he had once esteemed positive gain, were now considered as positive loss....**
- Why? Simply because he had found his all in Christ. Jesus Christ had supplanted everything in Paul’s heart. Christ now displaced all that once belonged to Paul; He was totally occupied with Jesus.
- As we grow in our understanding of all that the writer to the Hebrews had in mind in chapter 12 and verse 3 when he said; **“looking unto Jesus”**, the more completely we are stripped and emptied of everything in which “We” consider gain. Whatever there may be that tends to occupy us, whether it be our righteousness, morality, respectability, wealth, intelligence, job, marriage, raising children, etc., it all becomes a hindrance to our relationship with Jesus.

G. Occupation with other things

- **Let’s ask this question...In this whole area of the husband-wife relationship, ARE WE LOOKING UNTO JESUS, or are we looking at ourselves or each other?**
- If we are occupied/looking unto/focusing on ourselves or each other, eventually we will increase, and The Lord will decrease, which is the opposite of John the Baptist’s statement in **John 3:30**.....
- In fact, anything that we occupy ourselves with other than Jesus will eventually get bigger and stronger, while Jesus gets smaller and weaker.
- This very thing happened to me a number of years ago when I went to a Christian seminar which was teaching on the family. The last day, the focus was on Satan, and a need for Christian men to know how to bind Satan and rescue family members from his power.
- At the time, I didn’t understand the sovereignty of God. **Hos. 4:6** says “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”...That’s where I was... I had been duped



into believing that my battle was with Satan.... I actually thought that all of my marriage problems were caused by Satan.

- I didn't know about nor was I abiding in my position in Christ, the Victorious One, and therefore I attempted to fight against the devil and his demons...Before long, Satan loomed larger and stronger in my mind, while Jesus seemed to become smaller and weaker. *(There was a time in my young Christian life when I attended a seminar, and on the closing day we were given the eight steps to spiritual maturity. The eighth step was to rebuke and bind Satan and set your family free from his power. The first day after the seminar, I returned from work to find my home in chaos. We had four children, two boys and two girls, and the boys were always picking on the girls. We had a dog and a cat that didn't get along, and a feisty wife who was very vocal. As I walked in the door, the girls were crying because the boys had just tricked them; the dog was chasing the cat around the living room, and my wife was screaming at the top of her lungs for them all to stop. Immediately it came to mind that Satan must be attacking. So I prayed "Lord I ask you to rebuke and bind Satan and keep him away from my family." Within a couple of minutes everything calmed down. I thought, "this thing really works." Dumb ol' me, I wasn't smart enough to figure out that just my presence in the home brought the change. The boys knew they would get a spanking if they didn't stop it, the dog knew I would kick him, the cat knew that I would throw her out, and my wife knew she had help.)*
- From that point on, I began to see Satan every where. I was not only having to rebuke him in my home, but now I was seeing him at work, and on my way to work; I was even having to rebuke and bind him in the church. Before long I imagined there were demons everywhere, and I became occupied/obsessed with warfare and Jesus was nowhere to be found.....**2 Cor. 10:3-5**

H. Occupation with an unreasonable spouse

- Let's turn this back to our subject, the husband-wife relationship.
- I would have to believe that there are some here today, that are right where I was, but rather than being occupied with Satan, you may be occupied with an unreasonable spouse. **Ps. 120:6-7**



- Let me say this...The outcome will be the same...***That unreasonable husband/wife will begin to loom larger and stronger, while Jesus will seem smaller and weaker...****(I sat with a missionary couple in Africa one day on a bench at the beach. It was a beautiful day to all but this couple. Their marriage relationship was so bad that they could hardly tolerate*

being in the same room together. When I asked the wife “Where is God in all this?” She responded, “You don’t have to live with him.” When I asked him the same question, he answered, “You don’t have to live with a nagging wife.” Their relationship had become so bad and they were so taken up with the faults of each other that they had lost focus of the Lord.)

- If we Christians have been bluffed/duped into becoming more occupied with an unreasonable mate, or with our efforts to make the marriage work, rather than with the Lord Jesus Christ, the inevitable result is defeat and a breakdown in the marriage relationship.

I. Oneness in the husband/wife relationship

- Now let’s go all the way back to our original thought in **Mark 10** of “oneness in the husband-wife relationship”.
- There can be no true Biblical oneness in marriage without God... and it all begins with being occupied with Him, not an occupation with ourselves with each other, and certainly not an occupation with Satan.

J. Our expectations must be from Him

- **Psalm 62:5**. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will begin to expect less and less from ourselves and from each other, and more and more from Him.
- An interesting verse to ponder in all this is - **Prov. 13:12a**...If our hope is in ourselves, or in each other, we will be disappointed, however, if it is in the all faithful one, we will never be disappointed.
- However, please remember that the cross must come first, because the flesh will never occupy us with Christ...

K. David and Shimei

- It might be good to look at **2 Sam. 16**, and King David...A man, who for the most part, was occupied with his God...
- This is a tremendous example for us, of all that we have looked at and discussed today...**2 Sam. 16:5-14**
- Many times in our marriages, it seems like we are married to a little Shimei who goes along hurling stones and verbal abuse...Can we like David look beyond the words and the stones to God’s greater purpose?...**1 Pet. 2:21-23**

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE
Session # 4
“The Biblical Role of the Husband”

- The man, who is forever criticizing his wife’s judgment, never seems to criticize her choice of a husband.

A. Introduction

- Today, we’ll be looking at the Biblical role of the husband.
- Being a husband is something people seem to expect can be done with little or no preparation.
- There are no courses in “husbanding,” no job descriptions, very few books have been written, and not much opportunity to learn from the examples of other men.
- On-the-job training is about all most husbands get, which means their instructor ends up being their mate--who is usually struggling to learn how to be a wife!
- Add to this, most men didn’t have an effective role model of a husband in their father.

B. Difficulties in becoming an effective husband

- There are many factors in society and within marriage that make it difficult today to be an effective husband...Such as:

A society that promotes self-centeredness – *You gotta reach out for all the gusto you can/you gotta lookout for number 1)*

1. Macho man attitude – If a man is seen dying to himself for his wife, he is labeled as henpecked.
2. Breeding a society of quitters
3. Women’s lib
4. 12-14 hour work days

C. What does a spiritual leader look like?

- There are many different ideas of what a godly spiritual leader looks like.
- Some years ago, I heard a true story of a young man who had gotten saved and began attending a Bible teaching church. He said that one of the first things he was confronted with was the idea



of being a spiritual leader in his family. He was never told exactly how to carry out that role, and basically was given a Bible and left to figure it out on his own.

- The typical images of leaders which are common in our society today are the drill sergeant, the football coach, the corporation executive, the orchestra conductor, the dictator, etc., and the qualities that we associate with those leaders are strength, authority, power, dominance, decisiveness, superiority, knowledge, a person who never admits having needs, etc.; and so you can imagine the mess this young man made of his family

D. Biblical role of the husband

- We could probably spend hours defining the Biblical role of the husband, however, for our study here, we will be focusing primarily on the **root issues**...
- So what are the major, root areas to consider in this whole subject of the “Biblical Role of the Husband”?
- For our purposes, we will be focusing on just two areas:

1. **Servant-leadership**

2. **Unselfish-love**

- Let’s begin by looking at the first area: servant leadership. Turn with me to **Mark 10:42-45**
- Christian men/Christian husbands, our leadership role, whether it be in the church or home, is made very clear in this Scripture. **Primarily it is death to self, which will manifest itself in servant-leadership and unselfish-love...**



E. Cost Of Leadership

- Men/husbands, the price of servant-leadership is high and hard; it may be cheap and easy for the dictator, for the hireling, but never for the shepherd/the servant-leader. The dictator dominates; the hireling flees; but the good shepherd loves his sheep and is loved by them. He lays down his life for the sheep. True spiritual servant-leadership involves this principle: “Death working in me works life in you” (**2 Cor. 4:12; 2 Cor. 12:14-15**)
- “It is the **quality of leaders**, that they can bear to be:
 1. **Sat on** – (*Piled on/Unreasonable people putting pressure on*)

2. **Absorb shocks** – (People come to unload on them, but nothing shakes them)
3. **Act as a buffer** – (Mediator/Go between)
4. **Bear all things** – **1 Cor. 13:7** – **Endure all things**

F. Example of Paul

- The wear and tear and continual friction and trials which come to servant-leaders are a great test of character.” **James 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3**
- Paul was probably one of the greatest leaders of all time, but as we track his life through the book of Acts, we see the cost of leadership. **Acts 9:23 & 29; 13:45 & 50; 14:2 & 19; 16:22; 17:5 & 13; 18:6 & 12; 20:3 & 19; 21:27; 22:22; 23:12; 25:7**
- Add to this Paul’s comments in **2 Cor. 11:24-28 & 2 Tim. 4:6-18**.
- Husbands, our role is to die to self so that others, our wives, children, etc. can live.

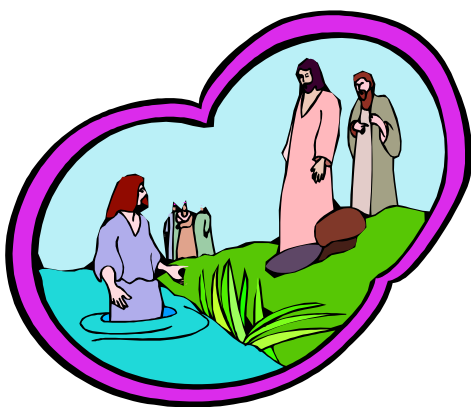
G. Bridge the gap

- In a devotional book entitled “None but the Hungry Heart”, the writer Miles Stanford makes this comment speaking of leaders:

*“Bridge the gaps! **Ezek. 22:30** – Notice, stand in the gap....Bridge the gap! What is a bridge but a life laid down. The simplest bridge, an old board thrown across a stream, was once part of a tree standing erect, and beautifying all the area around it. Now it is dead, but helps others, perhaps saves lives and is content to let others walk over it unnoticed. When they get there, they probably won’t say thanks, or look back at the bridge; but the Great Architect will know and love and care.”*

- “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (**Phil. 2:5**)

H. Example of John the Baptist



- I would like to throw in here one more Biblical example of a courageous, confidently modest, humble man of faith, John the Baptist.
- It’s interesting what the Lord has to say about John the Baptist in **Luke 7:28** – “*There is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist*”.
- It’s also interesting to note what the Holy Spirit has to say in **Luke 14:11** - Now remember, there was not a

greater Prophet than John - With this verse in mind, what can we know about John? He must have been an extremely humble man. (*Notice the principle of death and resurrection here.*)

- I've recently been thinking of John the Baptist's humility. In **Jn.1**, the Priests and Levites were sent from Jerusalem to ask, "Who are you?" He told them that he was not the Messiah, that he was not Elijah, neither was he the prophet, but they wanted an answer. So they said, "Who are you that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What do you say about yourself?"
- Notice his response in **Jn.1:19-23**.... "I am a voice."
- When they continued to press him by asking, "Why are you baptizing then, if you are not the Christ, Elijah, or the prophet?" His answer; "I (*just*) baptize with water, but there is one who comes after me whose shoe latchet I am not worthy to unloose."...**Jn.1:24-27**
- It is also interesting that in **John chapter 3**, when approached by his disciples regarding the fact that many people were turning away to Jesus, John answered by saying, "a man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven." **Jn.3:26-27**.....
- Again, a selfless, humble response...If a man has anything, where did it come from?
- And then there is this awesome statement in **Jn.3:30**; "He must increase and I must decrease."
- **(Christ-confidence)**

I. Now let's take all of this back to the "Biblical Role of the Husband"

- In **Ephesians 5:22**, wives are told to submit to their husbands.
- How would becoming a servant-leader affect a wife's submission?
 1. A husband's servant-leadership is the only thing that makes a wife's submission reasonable.
 2. A passive husband makes submission impossible. (What woman in her right mind would want to submit to a passive man?)
 3. A domineering husband makes submission intolerable. (All a domineering husband does is activate her flesh)
 4. Servant-leadership, on the other hand, makes submission a joy.
- It's interesting that "Jesus' servant-leadership ultimately led Him to the cross.
- To some this result is a pitiful end. However, **Phil. 2** lets us see the true perspective on Christ's servant-leadership." READ ALOUD **Phil. 2:5-11**, giving special emphasis to **verses 9-11**.
- Let's go back again to **Mark 10:42-45**...

J. The Second Area to Consider Regarding the Biblical Role of the Husband is Unselfish/Selfless Love...

- Let's turn now to what is probably a key passage regarding the husband-wife relationship...
- Read & teach through **Eph. 5:22-32**...*I believe this is a true word picture of the "Biblical Role of the Husband". HOWEVER...*
- An extremely important and critical point for us to consider is back in **verses 18-21**...
- Notice that this is the lead-in to what we have just studied. It appears that the Lord is telling us through **verses 18-21** is that there is no way to carry out the "Biblical Role of the Husband" aside from being "**Filled with the Spirit**"...

K. Filled with the Spirit

- So now the big question comes, How is one filled with the Spirit?
- We want to make this as clear as we possibly can, **TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS TO BE FILLED WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, who is our life. **Col. 3:4A; Gal. 2:20**
- The Christian life is the life of Christ produced in each of us by the indwelling Holy Spirit Himself and that life will become progressively spontaneous....**Rom. 8:2**
- Eventually our words, our prayers, our lives will become spontaneous, unforced expressions of the life within...**Eph. 5:18-21** – (*Just imagine living life this way – Picture your marriage in these three verses*)
- The real Christian life is to possess the life of Christ in such a way that we can say with Paul, "to me to live is Christ". **Phil. 1:21**. The real Christian life is to have Jesus Christ filling our mind, will and emotions in such a way that my thoughts are really His thoughts, my will is His will and my emotions are coming from Him. ***It is Jesus Christ filling my life until I have no life apart from Him – It's Jesus Christ carrying out my marriage vows – It's Jesus Christ meeting the needs of my spouse through me – It's Jesus Christ (fill in the blank)...***
- "Christ in you" was the heart of Paul's message to the churches, and he made it very clear in all his teaching and preaching. **Col. 1:27**. Paul had one goal and that was to see Christ formed in every believer. **Gal. 4:19**.
- **THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE**, is actually life in Christ, lived by the Spirit - ***It is ruled by grace, and lived by faith.***
- The answer to living a victorious Christian life, the answer to an intimate Godly Husband-Wife relationship, rests with the Holy Spirit.

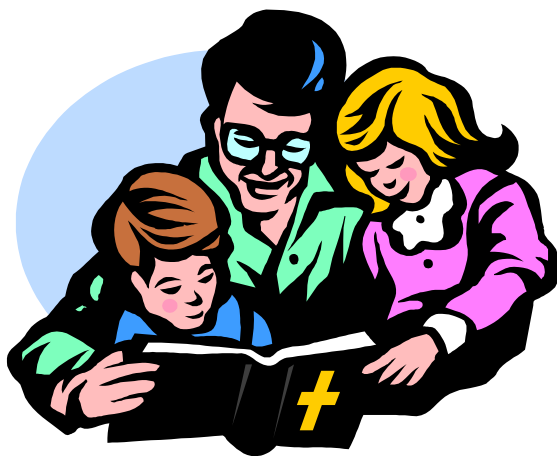
- It's not a question of our ability or effort, but of the absolute faithfulness of the Spirit of God – Can you trust the Holy Spirit to carry out God's purpose for marriage (Intimacy/oneness), in your life? Can you trust him to produce that oneness?

L. Same old problem

- **However**, something is standing in the way, and as we've mentioned previously, that something is the flesh.
- And so the big question is again...**What has God done to get the flesh out of the way? And the answer again, and always is the CROSS...**
- Remember session #2 when we looked at man's problem, and God's provision.
- The flesh is rendered powerless at the cross which frees us to walk/be influenced/controlled/be filled with the Spirit.
- Let's add this thought to all that we have discussed regarding the Spirit.
- **BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT** is not an event like salvation, but rather a process that takes place over a period of time. Unlike walking in the Spirit, which takes place at any time in a Christian's life that he is walking by faith, being filled with the Spirit is a maturing process.
- The word maturity seems to hold the key to being **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.....Rom. 15:13**

M. Back again to the Biblical Role of the Husband self-less love...

- Not only are we to love our wives as Christ loved the Church; but look with me at **1 Pet.3:7; Eph.5:23 & 1 Jn.4:19**
- The key thought here is this:
Love that is unselfish, not trying to benefit self, but to benefit her...(John R.)
- Unselfish love is always demonstrated by giving of self, not just of things.
1 Cor. 13:4-7; John 15:13.



Men/Husbands, this is our role. (A number of years ago, a young couple separated after six years of marriage and two children. The husband was devastated when his wife demanded that he "Get out". The young husband went to the pastor of our church and asked what he should do. The pastor told him "You get those little children down on their knees and you pray their mamma back into that house." The

pastor also told him to "be as close to her as she'll let you be, and as far away as she wants you to be." So the young man went to his wife and said "I know this is as difficult for you as it is for me, so I want to help you in any way I can." She responded, "Just how do you think you could help me"? He said "I could wash your car, mow your grass, baby-sit the kids." Her comment, "Fine you can wash my car every week, and you can mow the grass also." So every week, the young man went to the house to wash her car and mow the grass. After several months, she asked him to baby-sit the children one Friday evening. The next day he came to my house and asked if I would go for a ride with him. When I got into his car, the entire dashboard was torn apart and caved in. When I asked what happened to his car, he said; "I went to baby-sit the children last night, and my wife had a date with another man. The Lord gave me the grace to handle it until she returned home, and when I finally left the house and got in my car I started beating on this dashboard and beating on it, and beating on it." That young husband went back and watched those children numerous times while his wife went out with other men. Two years went by, and this young man asked his wife if she would be willing to meet with the pastor of our church. She agreed, and after the third meeting the pastor turned to her and said; "it seems to me that you have three choices. Either you keep living the way you are living in misery, or you take those children and move as far away from your husband as possible and try to make a new life for yourself, or you do what God wants you to do and ask him to come back." Immediately the young lady ran out the door crying. She went home, called her husband at work and said "I don't know why you would want to, but if you want to, you can come home." He said I never ran so fast to get anywhere in my life. When he walked in the door, his wife met him with these word; "I don't want to see you reading a Bible, do you understand? I don't want to see you praying, and I don't want you going to church or taking the children to church. Do you understand me?" He responded, "Yes". I remember driving by his house and seeing him out in his car reading his Bible and praying. This went on for several weeks, and one evening she said to her husband, "I was wrong, I should have never put such demands on you. It's alright for you to read your Bible in the house and to pray, and I know you want to go to church; it's ok." A couple of more weeks went by and she came again to say, "these kids need to go to Sunday School, will you take them?" A few months went by, and one Sunday Morning we were standing in the foyer of the church between Sunday School and the church service, when the door opened and in she walked; she grabbed her husband by the arm and down the aisle they walked. Two weeks later, this young woman trusted Christ as her Savior, and today she is probably one of the most Godly woman I know. When the

leadership of the church saw the faith of this young man, they asked him to be an elder, and today he is pastoring his own church with his bride of 35 years by his side.

- In this extremely self-centered world, how can one become a humble, self-less servant leader?
- Like everything else in the Christian life, it is simply another gift from God...
- Becoming a self-less, servant-leader is as much a matter of grace as salvation...And faith is always the only condition on the human side.

N. Concluding remarks

- Remember, everything in the Christian life is freely given to us.... **2 Pet. 1:3**...
- Nevertheless, It costs. It costs us nothing, and it costs us everything
- Because the cross stands at the entrance to the Christian life/The Spirit-filled life. It's this way, or not at all.
- **Mark 8:34-35**. Notice **verse 34** - We must deny/die to self which can only take place at the cross..
- Only those who embrace **Romans 6** can become confidently modest, humble servant-leaders that walk by faith, are filled with the Spirit, and love unselfishly...

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE
Session # 5
“The Biblical Role of the Wife”

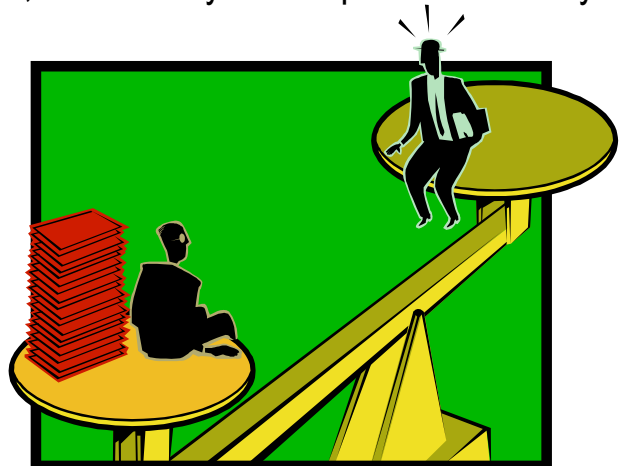
- A mother may hope that her daughter will get a better husband than she did, but she knows her son will never get as good a wife as his father did...

A. Introduction

- We’ve been looking at the “Biblical Role of the Husband”...
- If we were to boil down everything that was said, it would come to one phrase **“Death to Self”**, which we determined would then manifest itself in ***Servant-Leadership and Self-less Love...***
- Key passages that we looked at were **Mark 10:42-45; Eph. 5:23-25; 1 Pet. 3:7...**
- Please don’t misunderstand what has been taught here, we have been very strong regarding the husbands role. However, in no way are we suggesting that women are not accountable to God for their relationship with Him, or for their relationship with their husband, and I think we’ll see this today.
- However, what we believe the Scriptures are saying, and we are teaching, is male-leadership/male-headship in the home... **1 Cor. 11:3**
- An interesting thought to consider is that, we husbands are not in the leadership role because we are the more wise or intelligent, but merely because we were born male...

B. Biblical role of the wife

- Moving on now to the ***Biblical Role of the Wife***, we want to begin by saying to all of you wives that your God-given role is no less significant, nor is it any less impossible to carry out than that of your husband's.
- To be perfectly honest with you, the God-given standard for the Christian life, which we might add includes the husband-wife relationship, is humanly impossible to carry out...
- It might be good for us to look at the different standards that the Lord has laid out in Scripture for those in the Old Testament, those in the Millennial Kingdom, and then the standard for the Church under grace.



1. The Old Testament standard - **Matt. 5:43** - Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
 2. Millennial Kingdom standard - **Matt. 5:44** - A much higher standard is required because Satan is put away for 1000 years and the law is written on man's heart.
 3. Our standard under grace - **John 13:34** - Notice that our standard is infinitely higher which indicates the confidence that the Lord has in His provision for us to carry it out.
- The point that we are trying to make here is that the standard for Christians is humanly impossible.

C. What Scripture has to say about wives

- We have been very open and honest about what the Scriptures have to say about the husband's role, and we intend to be no less forward regarding the wife's role.
- It might be good for us to begin this session by sharing some rather interesting and possibly troubling/painful/convicting Scriptures...**Gen. 3:16** – *And so because of this, we have the following Scriptures to consider*; **Prov. 14:1; Prov. 19:13; Prov. 21:9, 19; Prov. 25:24; Prov. 27:15-16...**
- Add to all this some examples of wives that God gives us in Scripture...
 1. First there is Eve who was deceived by Satan;
 2. Then there is impatient Sarah who, lacked faith, and encouraged husband Abraham to do God's work in man's way.
 3. There is worldly Lot's wife who, like her husband, had to be taken by the hand and led out of Sodom, only to look back and be turned into a pillar of salt.
 4. And let's not forget Job's foolish wife whose counsel to her husband during a very difficult time in life was, "Curse God and die".
- No wonder Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote the following in **Titus 2:3-5**.
- Please don't misunderstand, in no way are we demeaning women, or their role, on the contrary; our desire is to exalt them to their God-given position.

D. Four major areas to consider

- Let's briefly look at 4 major areas to consider regarding the Biblical role of the wife:
 1. Making marriage a priority.
 2. Unselfish love.
 3. Submission.
 4. Respect

E. Area #1 - Making marriage a priority

- READ ALOUD **Proverbs 31:27** - What does it mean to “look well to the ways of her household.” (“Look well” conveys the idea that her household is her priority.) – Again **Titus 2:5** “Older women teach the younger to be keepers at home”.
- As we look around in America today, it would appear that many married women are not keepers at home, nor do they believe that marriage should be their priority, nor are they living their lives as if their marriage is a priority.



- An interesting scripture is **James 2:18c**; “*I’ll show you my faith by my works*”.
- Let’s give some thought to this...If a wife really believes that her marriage is a priority, shouldn’t that reflect in her life, such as:
 1. Where is her time spent; at home, or working/shopping/visiting/etc.?
 2. Where is the greater majority of her finances spent, on the home/family/husband, or self/others?

3. What occupies her thought life – Losing weight, shopping, career, or the well being of her husband and family?

- One of the most amazing Scriptures is the Proverbs 31 lady.
- This lady is plumb awesome. Let’s just quickly read and comment on her... **Prov. 31:10-31**
- **Verse 10** – (Notice; Who can find an excellent wife?) Contrast This with (**Jam. 3:13** – (Who is a wise man among you?))
- Back to **Prov. 31:10-31** - (The key thought here is; everything she does is centered around the home/around her husband.)

F. The second area to consider - Unselfish/Self-less Love.

- God’s definition of unselfish love is probably best seen in **I Corinthians 13:4-7**..... Do you see what The Lord is revealing here? **True Biblical love is self-less...**(humbly, regarding the one loved as being more important than self.)

G. Jonathan’s example

- Possibly, the clearest Biblical example of self-less love, is seen in **1 Sam. 18**;



- The scene here is that young David has just killed the Giant Goliath...
- Let's begin in **1 Sam. 17:57-18:4**...
- What a picture of Biblical love/Self-less love.
- It's actually a picture of love stripping itself to clothe it's object.
- There is a tremendous difference between Saul and Jonathan in this scene...
- Saul took David home to magnify himself, but Jonathan found joy in stripping himself of his robes and his armor in order to put them on the object of his affection.
- There is a tremendous lesson here for all of us.
- How easy it is to be occupied with redemption rather than the Redeemer, with salvation rather than the Savior, With what one's husband can do/provide, rather than with the husband himself.

H. Speaking now to Christian wives...

- As we learned last session, **Eph. 5:23** says; "The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church; and he is the savior of the body"...
- Shouldn't a wife, like Jonathan, seek to strip herself in order to magnify the person who is, daily dying to self for her?
- ***...Love delights to strip itself for it's object...Meaning that it is seeking the highest good for the person loved...***

I. Same old problem

- We have a problem though...unselfish/self-less love, as we learned from **Gen. 3:16** is not the norm, it does not come natural...
- That's why Paul gave us **Titus 2:4** – "Older women to teach the younger how to love"...
- **Example:** *(I would like to share with you about a Christian couple - late 40's - Been Christians for 25 years - Very typical relationship; strong wife who basically didn't know how to love, and a passive husband who didn't know how to lead. The wife came to our door one evening about 9:00PM in tears. She shared with us that her husband had been going to visit a younger woman every evening for several months. We encouraged her to take her eyes off her husband and the woman, and occupy herself with Christ, the only one who could put their marriage back together. Many times she would come to see us;*

sometimes she would be so encouraged with what the Lord was showing her in the scriptures as well as what He was doing in her life. Other times she would come in tears. Always we encouraged her to trust and rest and depend on Him. Months went by with no change; many of the woman's friends were telling her to forget him, and get on with her life. It was into the ninth month when she woke up one evening and noticed that the light was on in the living room. She went to investigate, and found him sitting on a chair staring into space. She asked if something was wrong, he responded, "I'm not sure I'm doing the right thing; I see such a change in you, I don't think I want to lose you." She came again to ask what she should do now, our answer, "Just keep doing what you're doing, trusting and resting and depending on Him." Nine more months went by and one evening this wife was driving through town when she saw her husband with the other woman and they saw her; she had never seen them together before and when she saw them she panicked. She just knew that her husband would think that she was following them, so she began following them to tell them that she was not following them. When the husband noticed his wife following them, he stopped his vehicle and went back to her car and screamed at her "Why are you following me?" Before she could get a word out, the other woman came back and put her hand on her arm and said, "I am so sorry, please forgive me. I will send him home, he will be home in one hour." An hour later, here he comes, furious with his wife. She called my wife and asked "Now what do I do?" The answer, "Just keep doing what you're doing; trusting and resting and depending on Him." Two weeks went by, and things were calming down when the husband came to the wife and said, "I love that other woman, I'm going to her." The wife again called to ask, "Now what do I do?" The answer was always the same, "Just keep doing what you're doing; trusting and resting and depending on Him." Two hours later, the other woman sent him home again. It's been five years now, and they are really doing well; I often see them at the mall holding hands and enjoying each other.)

J. Third area - Submission



- **Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:22-24**
- Basically, a wife's submission involves an attitude of lovingly giving up her rights...
- The reaction that the idea of submission generates among women is normally very negative...
- Often times, it is actually seen as inferiority,

or loss of identity...



- It actually generates fear in the hearts of many women, and the main reason for this goes right back to **Gen. 3**. Women naturally want to rule/control their lives and to place themselves under the control of another, particularly a man who is not showing leadership qualities is frightening.
- However--the Biblical view of submission is very different from this...
- Referring again back to **verse 22**, notice that the submissive attitude of the wife toward her husband is qualified by the phrase, "**as to the Lord.**"
- Turning now to a very interesting scripture: **I Peter 2:21-23**

K. Jesus' example

- Jesus actually set the example for submission by enduring injustice, trusting Himself to God's care...Look what God is saying here...***A wife can submit to her less than perfect husband, while entrusting herself to God's care...***
- **I Peter 3:1,2** (A wife's submission can influence a husband – *I remember a number of years ago, two unsaved women who's marriages were terrible. These woman were befriended by a Christian lady in our church who explained the way of salvation and disciplined them both. Through the change that their unsaved husbands saw in their wives, both these strong macho men came to Christ and the Lord has them in active roles in the church.*)
- **I Peter 3:3-6** - Notice the word **fear** - (A wife who truly knows and trusts her God, will not be **afraid** to submit)... (*Some years ago, I was pressuring my wife to go to the mission field. She really did not want to go, but because of her confidence in God, she agreed. As the Lord would have it, we went through two years of training and lasted two and one half months on the mission field before returning to America. We both look back with gratitude to our Lord for taking us through that difficult but fruitful growth-time of life. And I thank God for a wife who could trust Him enough to submit to a far from perfect husband).*
– **1 Jn. 4:18; 2 Cor. 5:14a**

L. Three areas that submission to one's husband is very important

- **Submission** to his leadership? (Willing submission to a husband's leadership makes it possible for him to be a servant-leader... Whereas, unwillingness forces a man to either become passive, a manipulator, or a dictator.
- **Submission** to his love for you? (Willing submission to a husband's love makes it easy for him to love unselfishly. Unwillingness tends to produce isolation and loss of oneness.)

- **Submission** to his care for you? (Submission to a husband's care makes him more aware of his responsibility to nourish and cherish.)

M. Helpful suggestions

- Some helpful suggestions for a wife who has a husband that is;
 - a. Passive and doesn't lead? Don't push; again entrust yourself to God's care...
 - b. A dictator, doesn't listen, and demands submission? Again, the answer is in trusting... **Jer. 17:5-8; Is. 50:10-11**
- The natural inclination for most women is to submit when the husband does his part correctly.
- This often leads to a power struggle and role reversal.
- Note **Eph. 5:24** - (Submit in all things) – *Some years ago, we received a phone call at dinner time from a distraught woman who's husband had left her. My wife and I counseled her for a number of months with no change in the marriage, but a tremendous change in the woman. I believe she was one of the most submissive women that I have ever met. Eventually we moved away, and returned to the area some six years later for a visit. I had an occasion to telephone a certain business to inquire about a position in the company for a nephew. A woman answered the phone and asked my name; when I told her, she became very excited and told me that she was the woman that we had disciplined, and that her husband had just returned home after seven years. Seven long years of trusting and resting and depending and waiting on Him.*



N. CAUTION!

- Submission does not require a wife to violate Godly principles. The Bible does not ask wives to submit to sinful demands. (The Bible teaches submission until it goes against what God says) – **Act. 5:18-29; 40-42**
- Regarding the issue of spouse abuse ***Proverbs 14:7** says to “leave the presence of a fool.” This does not mean divorce; it simply advises making enough space to avoid the influence of a fool.
- **Romans 5:8** shares Christ's example of loving the sinner even though hating sin.

- **Rom. 13:1** and **1 Pet. 2:13-15** teach God's establishment of governmental authority to control those who do wrong. A wife in danger should not hesitate contacting authorities for protection...***But other than that, submit...***

O. The fourth area - Respect

- **Ephesians 5:33b** - KJV - And the wife see that she reverence (honor/submit respectfully) her husband...(No indication that he deserves it)
- NAS - Let the wife see to it that she respect (hold in high esteem) her husband.
- NIV - The wife must respect her husband....
- Wuest - And the wife, let her be continually treating her husband with deference (Yielding/submitting respectfully) and reverential obedience.
- Amplified - Let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband...that she notices him, honors him, esteems him; that she defers to him, praises him, loves and admires him exceedingly...

P. Conclusion

- Regarding these two areas of submission and respect, I would like to say this, there does not appear to be any option here, just as there is no option for the husband. His only option is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and to love with her in an understanding way.
- To the wives, God merely says submit and have respect, and it's not qualified by any statements such as "if he deserves it" or "if he's doing his part correctly"...
- Submission and respect is due the husband because of his God-given position, rather than his condition...
- God created mankind, and it is He that has set up the authority structure, and it is He that says in **Eph. 5** that the husband is the head, and the wife is to submit and have respect for him...
- It's really no different than any other authority structure set up by God...
- Interesting Scriptures - **Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-23; Rom. 13:1-2; Dan. 4:17**

Q. Conclusion, conclusion

- It might be good if we ended our study today on the "Biblical role of the Wife" with a reminder of ***Eph. 5:18-21.***

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE SERIES

Session #6

“Review, Practical Advice, Testimony, and Closing Remarks”

A. Review

- It might be helpful for us to do a bit of review from the last five weeks...

Week #1 – God’s purpose and plan for marriage

- **God’s purpose** for marriage (**Gen. 2:18**) – It’s not good for man to be alone... So God’s purpose is intimacy (A close personal relationship between husband and wife. **Mark 10:6-9** Explains just how close this relationship is to be – **“Oneness”**)
- **God’s plan** – Make a woman and present her to man....

Week #2 – Man’s problem and God’s provision

- We discovered that man has a problem which is standing in the way of God’s purpose.
- **Man’s problem** – Self-centeredness - Because of the fall, people just naturally want to live for self, which is the opposite of intimacy. **2 Tim. 3:1-2A; Is. 53:6**
- **God’s provision** – In all this, God’s purpose and plan never changed; He merely made a provision for man’s dilemma....
- **He took our flesh (That self-centered part of us) to the Cross where it was crucified and rendered powerless... Rom. 6:6... (Shane’s e-mail)**
- **Rom.5:19** makes it very clear that sin/self/the flesh/self-centeredness, came in by birth, so it makes sense that it will only go out by death.....
- The cross is God’s way.....It was on the cross that God, through Christ, dealt fully and finally with self/the flesh.....(**2 Cor. 5:14-17**)

Week #3 – Was entitled “Looking unto Jesus and not him or her”

- Key passage **Heb. 12:1-2**
- We asked this question....In this area of the husband-wife relationship, **ARE WE LOOKING UNTO JESUS**, or are we looking at ourselves or each other? **Is. 26:3**
- It’s interesting to consider that if we are occupied/looking unto/focusing on ourselves or each other, eventually we will increase, and The Lord will decrease, which is the opposite of John the Baptist’s statement in **John 3:30**...
- In fact, anything that we occupy ourselves with other than Jesus will eventually get bigger and stronger, while Jesus gets smaller and weaker.

- *Our expectations must be from Him*
- **Psalm 62:5**...As we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will begin to expect less and less from ourselves and from each other, and more and more from Him.....**2 Cor. 5:14-16**

Week # 4 – The Biblical role of the husband

- Regarding the Biblical role of the husband, there are two major areas to consider; ***Servant-Leadership and Self-less Love...***
- Key passages that we looked at were **Mark 10:42-45; Eph. 5:23-25; 1 Pet. 3:7...**
- What we believe the Scriptures are saying, and we are teaching, is male-leadership/male-headship in the home...**1 Cor. 11:3**
- An interesting thought to consider is that, we husbands are not in the leadership role because we are the more wise or intelligent, but merely because we were born male...

Week # 5 – The Biblical role of the wife

- We looked at 4 major areas to consider regarding the Biblical role of the wife:
 1. Making marriage a priority – **Prov. 31:27.**
 2. Unselfish love – **1 Cor. 13:4-7 - True Biblical love is self-less...**(humbly, regarding the one loved as being more important than self)...In **2 Cor.7**, there appears to be a tremendous example of “selfless love”...In **verses 2 & 3**, it appears that Paul is answering accusations that he didn’t love the Corinthians....**2 Cor.7:2-3** “We have wronged no man....You are in our hearts to **die & live**”..Notice what Paul is saying here is contrary to nature....It’s always live first and then die; except for we Christians. Paul did not want to **live & die** with his spiritual children, but rather **die & live** with them.
 3. Submission – **Eph. 5:22-24.**
 4. Respect – **Eph. 5:33b.**
- Regarding these two areas of submission and respect, we commented. There does not appear to be any option here; just as there is no option for the husband; his only option is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and to live with her in an understanding way.
- To the wives, God merely says submit and have respect, and it’s not qualified by any statements such as “if he deserves it” or “if he’s doing his part correctly”...
- Submission and respect are due the husband because of his God-given position, rather than his condition.

- God created mankind, and it is He that has set up the authority structure, and it is He that says in **Eph. 5** that the husband is the head and his role is to die for her, and the wife is to submit and have respect for him.
- We ended our teaching on both the “Biblical role of the Husband”, and the “Biblical role of the Wife” with a reminder of **Eph. 5:18-21**.

B. Practical Advice

- L.S.Chafer made this comment in his book “Grace the Glorious Theme”; “*There are two inseparable themes in the New Testament, Christian conduct, and God’s enabling power*”.
- During the last five weeks, we have been very careful to do that very thing; bring together the Christian conduct for marriage, with the God given power to carry it out.
- The conduct that has been taught;
 1. Leaving
 2. Cleaving
 3. Servant-leadership
 4. Selfless love
 5. Making marriage a priority
 6. Submission
 7. Respect
- Obviously, we could go on for a number of weeks and teach on:
 8. Romance
 9. Sex in marriage – 1 Cor. 7:2-5 (Example of self-less love)
 10. Communication
 11. Loyalty
 12. Etc.
- If you are struggling in these areas, the problem is always the same – (The flesh), and the cross is always God’s only remedy for man’s dilemma.
- If we were to boil down all that was taught here the last 5 weeks regarding the husband-wife relationship, we could boil it down to three words “**death to self**”...**Lk. 9:23-24**
- And going back to the “Biblical Role of the Husband” and to the “Biblical Role of the Wife”, the common denominator for both is **self-less love**, which is nothing more than death to self...



- The great secret of a deep, Godly husband-wife relationship is the capacity to love unselfishly, even if that love is met with nothing in return...**2 Cor.12:14-15**
- If we are to have lasting/enduring husband-wife relationships, self-less love must be our approach.
- However, this kind of “Selfless Love”, is not the norm...
- It’s quite obvious as we look around, that what we are seeing today, is “Self Love”, and rather than enduring relationships, we are seeing this self-love produce isolation, which often leads to separation and divorce.

C. Three important Scriptures to consider

- *Ps. 39: 4-7 – Man walks in a vain show*
- *Gen 11:1-9 – Man didn’t want God in his life – Is. 8:9 – An association without God.*
- *Josh. 3 – Passing through the Jordan is a picture of our facing the impossible, and following the dying, risen, ascended Jesus into the place of freedom.*

D. A time for questions

E. Concluding remarks

- When all is said and done, it all comes down to **Psalm 127:1**.
A. The house the flesh builds. Gal. 5:19-21.
B. The House the Spirit Builds. Gal. 5:22-23
- In order for a home to weather the storms of life, its daily Builder must be God. And in order for God, the Spirit, to build the home, it is essential that we are dead to self, which can only happen at the cross.

