

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 119

The Family is a Precious Gift from God
Marriage Matters
Part 3



2018

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON



This is now our third and last lesson on Christian marriage. Let's face it, you are a long way from getting married, kids, but this will prepare you as an adult when and if you to get married.

We've been looking at God's design for Christian marriage in **Eph 5** and in **Proverbs**. Jesus MUST be at the center of EVERY Christian marriage.

How does a husband love his wife? How does a wife respect her husband? Well, husbands and wives could start by ASKING THEIR SPOUSES some questions...

Husband: "Honey, what are the things I do (or don't do) that make you feel unloved?"

Wife: "Darling, what are some things that I do (or don't do) that make you think you are not respected?"



Husband: "What are some areas that I can work on that are the most important things to you to make sure you feel protected in my love?"



Wife: "What are some things I can do that would really set your heart at rest that I really do honor and respect you as the leader of our family?"

Here's what the Bible teaches about this...

Let's begin with the husband. God tells husbands to love their wives in **Eph 5**. Okay, let's stop here and take some time to understand what the word "love" means in the Bible.

It means for the husband, to hold her dear; it means to hold her, too in his arms; it means to protect and care for her; it means to be faithful and loyal to her; it means that she is on his mind all the time; it means he shows great affection for her; it means he supports her with great care and warmth; it means he's kind to her, understanding, forgiving, giving; it means he treasures her, protectively safeguarding her; and it means she is precious to him. **Prov 31:28-29**



"Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her, saying: (29) 'Many daughters have done nobly, but you outdo them all.'"



You know things are really messed up in a culture where the women are demanding respect from the men, and wanting to be equal with them. What's even worse is when the men are whining about not being loved by the women. This is backwards...upside down...not God's way!!

So, a warning is in order: don't expect to get supported by the world when you live the way God wants you to live.

Now, if the husband doesn't show his love for his wife, it will make her feel unwanted and unloved. A husband should never be so busy that he cannot show her his love.

Another problem is when a husband is irresponsible with money. This hits his wife hard especially if she is trying to keep her spending within the family budget. The wife needs her husband to be providing for her and making her feel secure. When he doesn't, it gives her the impression that he's not paying attention to the financial condition of the family. She will start to worry about her well-being and the well-being of the children. **Prov 11:29 "He who troubles his own house will inherit wind (a lot of nothing), and the foolish will be servant to the wise."**

Another problem is when the husband spends all his time and energy at work and then is too tired to spend time with his wife and kids. This

makes the wife feel unloved and unimportant. The worst part is her feeling like the love has stopped.

OK, so that's Bible advice for the husband. Next, let's look at what is expected from the ladies, wives...

When the wife/mother encourages her children not to respect their dad, that is an awful AND really bad thing. It puts the hurt right into the heart of the husband/father's character. This is DIRECT disobedience to the Lord, because He told wives to respect their husbands and submit to them. You can't expect a husband to love his wife when she puts their children against him. **Prov 14:1 "The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish (one) tears it down with her own hands."** **Prov 19:14 "House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a sensible wife is from the Lord."** **Prov 31:10-12 "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. (11) The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. (12) She does him good and not evil all the days of her life."**



Another very important thing is that wives must never nag their husbands about stuff, it comes across as not respecting him. **Prov 17:1 "Better is a dry morsel (nothing good to eat) and quietness with it than a house full of feasting (lots of good food) with fighting."** **Prov 21:9 "It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman."** **Prov 21:19 "It is better to live in a desert land than with a nasty and contentious woman."**

What is a "contentious" woman like? Well, the best way to describe this Hebrew word is "brawling" or "fighting." She causes trouble. She's always fighting with and nagging her husband on many things. Again, **Prov 25:24. "It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman."**



It's the Lord who put into **Proverbs** these verses about a contentious woman, and He did it for a good reason, don't you think? Maybe God is saying it's really the worst to have a wife like this, BUT MAYBE she's like that because her husband didn't do his part in the marriage!!! Could be, right? Or maybe it's not, but in any case, this nagging is very bad.



When a wife constantly nags her husband, she is NOT respecting him. After all, it is telling the leader of the house what to do. Remember, **Eph 5:22 "Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord."** **Prov 19:13** gets this point across, too! **"A foolish son is destruction to his father, and the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping (like and annoying faucet that drips all the time)."**



There are times that nagging a husband is needed, but there are times when it is not always reasonable...

"You spend too much time at work..."

"Oh, and by the way, I think we need more money. Go get a second job!!!"

Huh? Awful, right? Yes, it is...NOT God's way. God's way is to show respect and talk things over together...NEVER nagging.

Prov 27:15-16 again has a way with words that really gets the point across. **"A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike; (16) He who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand (neither of these is possible!!!!)."**

If she puts him down...

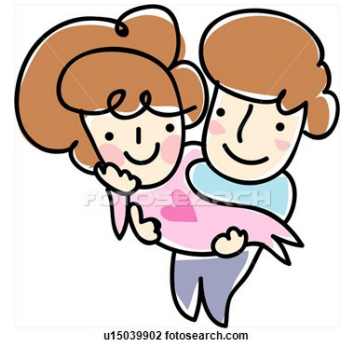
If she takes the kids' side against him...

If she goes against him by the way she spends money...

If she speaks badly of her husband in front of friends or family...etc.

All of these things are destructive because they signal to the man that the respect is gone. Oh boy, **Prov 12:4** says it in a very strong way, "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is like rottenness (cancer) in his bones."

And yes of course, a WISE husband will always make sure his wife is treated right and according to God's Word in **Ephesians 5**, and in other passages in the Bible to make sure she feels loved and needed.



This is a two-way street...for husband and wife. Be nice!!!

So, let's start to put this all together. How does a husband love his wife as Christ loves the church?

By being faithful and loyal to his wife and kids. **Prov 20:6** "Many a man declares his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?" **Prov 5:18-19; 21** "Let your fountain be blessed, and delight in the wife of your youth. (19) As a loving hind and a graceful doe...Be joyful always with her love. (21) For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths." God is watching!

By always forgiving her...each and every time. This means both husband and wife. **Col. 3:13** "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."



Listen, kids, God's ways are not man's ways...not the world's way! God's ways are PERFECT especially when it comes to mankind. He wants them to be happy and His way is the ONLY WAY to be happy in this world. The world's way goes against God EVERY TIME, especially when it comes to husband/wife relationships...BEWARE! God's way says in **Prov 15:17**. "Better is a dish of vegetables where love is, then a fattened ox (steak) served with hatred."

And so, hopefully this will help you for the future when you grow up and get married someday. BE WISE...always follow God's way...His Holy Word.

Let's end our series on Christian marriage with two job descriptions.



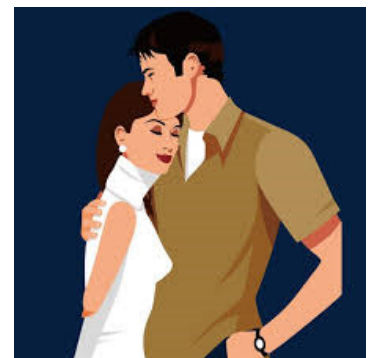
Job description number one is for a Godly wife:

Prov 31:10-31 "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. (11) The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. (12) She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. (13) She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. (14) She is like merchant ships; she brings her food from afar. (15) She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. (16) She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. (17) She binds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. (18) She senses that her gain is good; her lamp does not go out at night. (19) She stretches out her hands to the loom, and her hands grasp the spindle. (20) She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. (21) She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. (22) She makes coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. (23) Her husband is known in the gates, then he sits among the elders of the land. (24) She makes linen garments and sells *them*, and supplies belts to the tradesmen. (25) Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. (26) She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (27) She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. (28) Her children rise up and bless her; her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*: (29) 'Many daughters have done nobly, but you outdo them all.' (30) Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *but* a woman who fears (respects) the Lord, she shall be praised. (31) Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates."

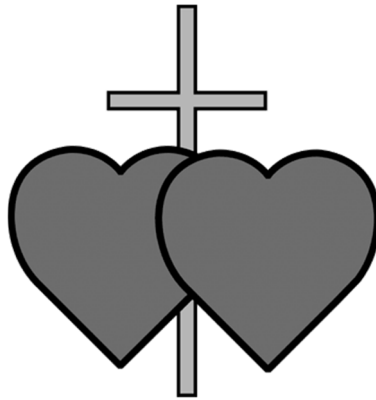
Eph 5:24 "But as the church submits to Christ, so also the wives ought to submit to their husbands in everything." 100%. All. Everything. Total. All in.

Job description for a Christian husband:

1 Cor 13:1-8 "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (2) If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (3) And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and



if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. (4) **Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, (5) does not act improperly; it does not seek its own, is not aggravated, does not take into account a wrong suffered, (6) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never fails..."**



Until next time...stay in God's Word.

Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 2-14-2016
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