

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 118

The Family is a Precious Gift from God
Marriage Matters
Part 2



2018

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

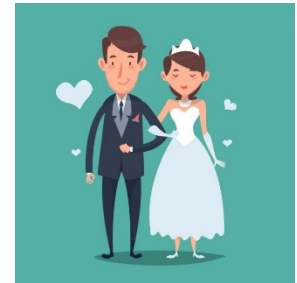
If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty 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

Now we'll hear more from God's Word about marriage, because Marriage Matters in family life.

In our last lesson we saw that the heart of the Lord's instruction on Christian marriage is in **Ephesians 5**. And it appears to be simple, really clear, and maybe even easy, right? Well...unless we use or follow these commands in **Ephesians 5**, the way God's wants us to, they do not work.

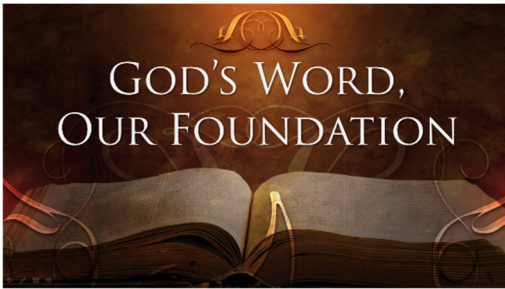


Oh, you say, why? Because just like in sports, if you don't practice correctly, you won't get good at the sport. And so, in marriage if you don't obey or use what God says to do correctly, you won't succeed in that marriage, and unfortunately there will be problems.

Oh, it's NOT going to be perfect either, so don't think that, but it will be a whole lot better if you do what God says to do. Of course, we have the Holy Spirit to help us make these VERY IMPORTANT decisions to obey God in the marriage and in the family situation.

Now let's face it, none of you are old enough or ready for marriage, right? But you're old enough to learn all about these principles from God. This way you will be equipped or ready for marriage when you're old enough to marry someone you will love.

It will also help you to understand your own parents and the principles they need to follow for a successful marriage. So, listen up, okay?



You will see that there are three simple skills that are the foundation of a great marriage. One for the man. One for the woman. And one for both with God's Word in the center of it all.

These skills don't work automatically and they need to be repeated every day...practice! It won't be successful if you don't learn and practice them daily.

Here are the three simple basic skills for marriage:

Husbands, love your wives...Every day.

Wives, respect your husbands...Every day.



And both of you, **keep forgiving one another.** Eph 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**"



In fact, **the forgiving skill must come first.** It's hard for a husband to love his wife when he hasn't forgiven her. It's also hard for a woman to respect her husband when she can't forgive him.

The issue is not whether or not the husband and wife know these three skills, the issue is whether or not they have been practicing these things in their marriage.

As sinners, sometimes wives aren't giving respect to their husbands but are instead trying to make them earn the respect! This is wrong!

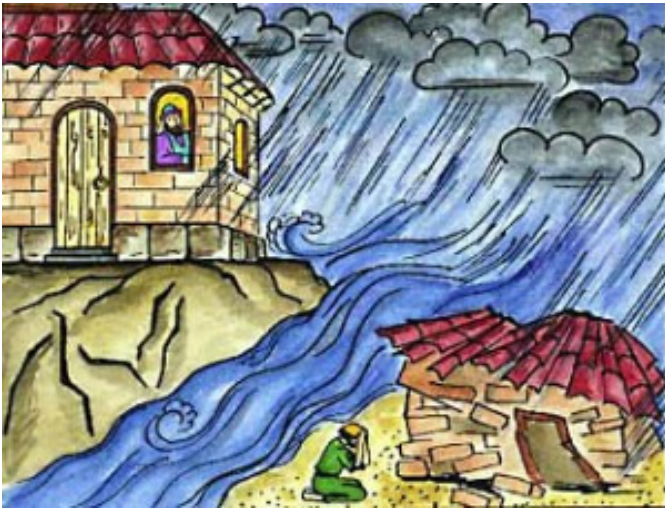


As sinners, husbands get distracted and can stop making sacrifices for their wives. This is wrong, too.

Here are a few passages in the Word about this. James 1:22-25 "But prove yourselves doers of the word (do what the Bible tells you to do), and not merely hearers who fool themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a

mirror; (24) after he has looked at himself and goes away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks closely at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and lives by it, not having become a forgetful hearer (of the Word) but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."

John 13:17 "If you know these things (commands from God), you are blessed if you **do** them."



Matt 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. (25) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. (26) Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (27) The

rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell and great was its fall."

So again, God tells us to learn these marriage commands in His Word, which are skills and DO them...that is mainly to forgive each other, love your wives, and respect your husbands. Practice doing this now means success later!

Here's a question for you: according to God's design for Christian marriage, whose plan are couples to be running in the marriage - the husband's, or the wife's? The husband's, you say? NO that's wrong.



Let's take a look at things from the husband's point of view. What is the husband supposed to be doing in the marriage? Eph 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her (sacrifice).**" Here, the husbands are to be loving their wives with a Christ-like love. And that is a love in which he sacrifices himself for the one he loves. He sacrifices his life for

his wife. Or to put it another way, the husband must give up his plan...for HERS.

Here's the Bible's view on this: **Matt 20:24-28** "And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers (James & John). This is because James & John were wanting to be in the best place next to Jesus in heaven! They were pushing for this. So, here's what Jesus said. (25) But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles act superior over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. (26) It should not be this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, (27) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; (28) just as the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"

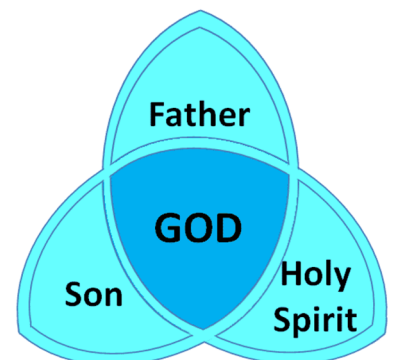


You see, those who would be the heads...the leaders...first among the group...elders in the church, husbands in the family...must be the slave of all the others in the group. This is the kind of love Jesus has in mind when He tells the husband to love his wife. The husband must become her servant like Jesus came to serve us.

Become her servant? Now whose plan is a servant following? He's following his master's plan. So, does this mean the husband meets the love plan for the wife? Will we now say that the marriage runs according to the wife's plan? NO! The wife is to subject herself to her husband in everything, and give him respect all the time. So, she gives up (sacrifices) her plan for his.

This is a beautiful thing. God designed Christian marriage so that the husband meets the wife's plan and the wife meets the husband's plan. Isn't that wonderful? It really is, kids. They serve each other. This is God's plan for marriage and for all of us in daily living whether we are married or not.

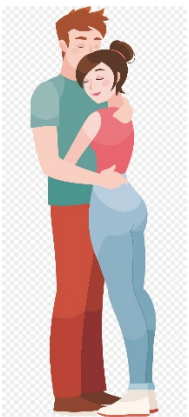
This comes from God and it is a tight circle of strong power. A wonderful circle of love and respect that could only come from the Trinity...the Godhead...three Persons in one...Father, Son, and Spirit. They have been living like this way since times eternal. Since before the world was created! And IT WORKS, because it is GOD'S perfect design!



So, the wife gives in to the husband's plan because she knows that he loves her! She discovers that his plan is to handle her plan. And when he sacrifices his life for her, he finds out that she is right beside him respecting him, and giving herself to him in everything. Now, that's a tight circle of love...a strong and powerful circle. No one can touch that! That's from God.

None of this is to say that the husband is not the leader of the family. He definitely is! **1 Cor 11:3 "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man (husband) is the head of a woman (wife), and God is the head of Christ."**

1 Peter 3:1-9 "In the same way, you wives, give in to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word (unbelievers), they may be won (they believe in Jesus) without a word by the behavior of their wives, (2) as they observe your pure and respectful behavior. (3) Your beauty must not be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; (4) but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the never-ending quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. (5) For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to prettify themselves, giving in to their own husbands; (6) just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. (7) You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be delayed. (8) To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; (9) not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing." This is how it works, kids...God's way.



The husband has the responsibility to control any situation, and he must do it. His place in the home is as the leader, the head, the one who holds the authority and responsibility for the well-being of all the members of the family. Someone must be the leader. God supplies him with that ability through power of the Holy Spirit, His Word, and His grace.

To give you a little example of this: how often have you seen (if ever) a couple riding down the highway on a motorcycle with the



woman up front and the man on the back? I bet you've never seen that, right?

God decides who is the head of the family...it is the husband. That is VERY clear in the Bible as you have seen.



The husband fills that spot AND he must be the servant of all the people in the family. He is to lay down his life (sacrifice it) for the well-being of his wife and the other members of the family.

The husband picks the direction, takes the lead, and takes the hits or troubles that come. Because the fact is, when you are in the lead, there is no one in front of you to absorb any of the troubles that come your way.

Besides, here's this husband on a motorcycle. He is calling the shots. He decides how fast to go, what route to take, when to pass a car. He's the head, the leader; he has the authority...period! God's plan, God's way.



And he uses the authority and leadership he has...to sacrifice his life for the well-being of his woman. He is taking her where she needs to go. He has designed the trip for her, for her well-being, and for her benefit. He has her plan in his heart. And it is foremost in his mind as he calls the shots. The wife KNOWS he loves her!!! Cool, right? Absolutely! AND this can NEVER be changed...EVER, kids.

It's God's way or it DOES NOT WORK!

That's enough for now. Next time we will see more details on how to live according to the design of the Christian marriage in **Ephesians chapter 5**.

Until next time then...stay in the Word every day.

Close in prayer.

