



Trait #12: Not Taking Marriage Serious Enough
Day 1

Read Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 11:3

This week we are going to talk about how marriage is not being taken serious enough. There is a natural order to things **God** has put in place. To start we will call this the line of authority. Do you see a line of authority in the above verses?

How would our current society view these passages?

How has culture in America changed the way marriage is viewed for the worst?

You see in our modern society (i'm speaking in general and as a whole/ but certainly not in every situation) liberalism is confused with equality.

According to these passages, **God** has placed Himself above God the Son (Jesus). Jesus is head of the man, and man is head of the woman. When we step outside this (just like when we step outside any of God's boundaries) things go bad. Now this order of things doesn't mean God the Father is *better* than Jesus, or man is better than woman.

To view the order of authority in marriage properly, we need to study Christ's relationship with His Father. They were both equal, yet Jesus willingly submitted to the Father in all things. Likewise man is to do the same towards Jesus Christ recognizing he was bought at a price, and rendering the love and affection due his wife, and the Wife is to be submissive to her husband in all things, for even as Christ is the head of the church so man is the head of the woman. **So what does this mean and how has liberalism affected this passage in a negative way?** How do men abuse this passage and take it out of context? Why do women look at this passage with contempt and think they are not going to be controlled by any? The answers lies in 1 Cor. 13. It's because most Christians don't read their bibles. Therefore they don't know what *true* love is. Pure love. You can't know what it is unless you see what the Bible says it is.



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Day 2

So as of yesterday we saw that if we are to take marriage seriously, we need to stay within the boundaries God has placed AND view marriage the way scripture does (comparing it to Christ's relationship with the church): staying within the line of authority GOD has set up. We also saw that if we are to properly view marriage, we first need to look at Christ's relationship with God the Father.

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Verses 1-3 are basically stating that you could be the most talented (gifted) man or woman on the face of the planet. Successful in both the worlds' eye and within the Christendom, but if you don't have **love**, ALL IS FOR NOTHING.

Verses 4-8 tell us what love is. Whether you are recently married or you've been married for 50 years, this is your schematic drawing on how you should approach your marriage. So you can study true love by reading the gospels and studying Jesus' life and how he approached situations. Because his life fulfilled 1 Corinthians 13 perfectly, and He is our example.

Now let's read 1 Cor. 13 together in the amplified bible version:

"Love endures long, and is patient and kind; Love **never** is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful nor vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant, puffed up and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly), it is not provoked, and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) **does not insist on its OWN rights or its own way, FOR it is NOT self-seeking**; it is not touchy or fretful or RESENTFUL; it takes no account of the evil done to it (it pays no attention to a suffered wrong), It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all the circumstances, and it endures everything (without weakening). Love never fails (never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end)".

So if there was ever a scripture verse to hang on the fridge, or put on the mirror that you use daily..... this is it! Because remember what Jesus said when asked what the greatest commandment is?



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Day 3

Man's responsibility to his wife:

1. He is to lead her and his household in the ways of the Lord, being a spiritual example to her as Christ is to the church.

a. Joshua 24:15 (last sentence of vs. 15)

b. Ephesians 5:25-33* Here he is speaking of Christ and the church but directly associates it with the husbands responsibilities to the wife... including sanctify (setting her apart) and cleansing her with the washing of water by THE WORD..... meaning reading with his wife and teaching her! 1 Corinthians 15:35; Attention: To woman doing this devotion, for lack of space we can't get into it but 1 Corinthians 15:35 is not suggesting or saying you are not allowed to speak in church, even though it sounds like it. More will come on this later in the series.

2. The husband is to render the affection due her

a. physical affection

b. emotional affection

c. spiritual affection

* Men this is a huge one! If you are not being a spiritual example and not rendering to your wife her spiritual needs and affections everything else will fall apart. God must be first in your marriage. Then should come paying attention to her emotional needs and wants. Finally comes the physical affection, last in the line but certainly not the least! For Corinthians 7:5 says: "Do not deprive each other except with consent for a time that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer". Men: If you are not rendering spiritual and emotional affection, how do you expect to get the physical? Life is a two way street. While it is true that men are made more towards the physical and the visual attraction, women are typically made more towards the inner and emotional. So you must keep this in mind. Remember: Your job as a man (being in authority over the wife) is to pay attention to the above details. You can't expect her to be submissive to you if you are not doing your part by leading by example.



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Day 4

Women's responsibilities:

Read Proverbs 19:13; 21:9 and 19: Wives, just as it is important for your husband to pay attention to your spiritual, emotional and physical needs, it is just as important for you to be respectful to your husband whom the Lord has given you. Don't be given to arguing and insisting on your own way..... this is scripture speaking. Just as many marriages are broken up over a wife being argumentative as men not paying attention to a woman's needs. As I said to the men, life is a two way street. The man has responsibilities that he will have to answer to God for, and so do you.

Read Prov. 31:10-31; "a virtuous wife " = a wife of valor, in the sense of all forms of excellence. This is scriptures blueprint for a wife. Just as your man won't be perfect from the start, neither will you. Scripture gives a blueprint for both, a blueprint to strive for.

Reread 1 Corinthians 13; This is a chapter that I strongly believe a man and wife should read together, AND separate on their own times. Because whether you are the husband or the wife, this chapter teaches us how to love, AND a marriage will not succeed without **Love.**

" Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.... do not deprive one another except with consent for a time"
1 Corinthians 7:3-5: Once again, many marriages are broken up over the man not giving his wife her proper needs (spiritual, emotional, and physical), but just as many marriages are broken up over the wife using sex as a "reward". This is not Scripturally based. The **only** time scripture says a man and wife should abstain from sex is with **consent** (both parties agreeing) and to give yourselves to fasting and prayer... Why? "So Satan does not tempt you due to your lack of self control."

This week's devotions are to be on the seriousness of Marriage.. The stuff we have talked about yesterday and today is very serious. **The important thing is God must come first. A husband and wife should pray together, read together, and be joined together on a regular basis to prevent temptation from setting in!**



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Day 5

" Let marriage be held in honor (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things. And thus let the marriage bed be undefiled (kept undishonored); for God will judge and punish the unchaste (all guilty of sexual vice) and adulterous " Hebrews 13:4 (Amplified Version).

Read 1 Corinthians 13 one last time

To husband: be a support and a safe place for your wife

To wife: Stand behind your man

To husband: be a Godly example to your wife, by living out the scriptures

To wife: Do not be a woman that argues or nags (Proverbs 19:13)

To husband: listen (hear and pay attention to) what your wife speaks

To wife: Do not use sex as a "reward" tactic (meaning: do not withhold sex from your man if you are arguing or whatever else the situation may be).....1 Cor. 7:5

To husband: Be careful not to put your interests ahead of your wife (examples: the game on tv, working on your car, going out with your friends)..... remember the exhortation that speaks to you "He who finds a wife, finds a good thing; and obtains favor from the Lord ". Proverbs 18:22

To the wife: " Do not let your adornment be merely outward..... rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God" 1 Peter 3:3-6

To the husband: "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel and as being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers may not be hindered". Note: the last part of this verse is often neglected, but take note husbands!

May the Lord Jesus bless your marriage and open your eyes to the gift you have in each other!