**Husband And Wife Relationship**

Eph 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the avior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

* Wives must submit/obey their husbands
* Compare to how our physical head (brain) directs the rest of our body’s actions
* Compared to how Christ is the boss of the church (the saved)
* So a wife must submit to a husband’s decision even though she disagrees with the decision, like I’ve had to do at work with my boss many times in my career. I Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
* A husband should not act like a dictator but acquiesce to her judgment in her areas of strength, for example, in guiding the house – I Tim 5:14.

Gen 2:18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. – NASB

* The first purpose for a wife is to fear God and keep his commandments (Eccl 12:13) of course
* A secondary purpose to help her husband go to heaven and manage the earthly life

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

* Husbands must love their wives
* Compared to how Christ loved the church and sacrificed himself for it
* I don’t think any of us have a problem with Christ being the boss because we know he loves us and has our best interest at heart. Likewise, a wife will have a much easier time submitting to a man who she thinks loves her and has the family’s best interest at heart.
* But things won’t work if she assumes selfish motives for his decisions – I Cor 13:1-7 …

I Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

* The wife is weaker physically
* A husband should use his knowledge and wisdom to treat his wife as he would want to be treated (remember the Golden Rule in Matt 7:12?)
* A husband should honor his wife not belittle her

I Cor 13:1-7 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

* Notice the phrases “thinketh no evil” and “believeth all things” tell us not to assume bad motives, and that would especially be true in the marriage relationship. A husband can never sin the trust of the wife (that his decisions are made in the best interest of the family) if she is just always going to assume a selfish motive.
* suffereth long – willing to bear with the fault of our spouse – all of us have faults
* is kind – kindness goes a long with toward resolving disagreements and our partner accepting our criticisms
* envieth not – jealousy leads tearing others down which does not bring us up
* vaunteth not itself – worrying about the praise of men leads to bad actions
* is not puffed up – thinking you are better than everybody else only leads to friction
* Doth not behave itself unseemly – improper behavior leads to marital problems every time
* seeketh not her own – Phil 2:4 - Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
* is not easily provoked – one who is too defensive (can’t take criticism) can’t be helped – Eph 4:26 - Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
* thinketh no evil – does not assume an evil motive
* Rejoiceth not in iniquity – jealously usually leads to being glad something bad happens to another
* rejoiceth in the truth – one who truly loves God and his truth will be glad when anybody embraces the truth
* Beareth all things – can endure the hardships the family may have to go through
* believeth all things – takes their spouse at their word until proven otherwise
* hopeth all things – jealousy usually means one does not hope for the best for others
* endureth all things – can endure the mistakes of a spouse

Eph 5:28-29 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

* A husband should love his wife like he does his own body. Common sense tells us to take care of the physical house for our spirit. If you knew you were going to have use the same car for 70 years, wouldn’t you try to take good care of it?
* Having said that, bodily exercise is valuable but not nearly as important as godliness (I Tim 4:8 – “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”)
* So no right thinking person harms their own body on purpose. And neither would a spiritually thinking harm his wife – physically, mentally, or emotionally.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

* This verse is talking about the permanency of marriage. Many in the world are really committed to the idea that marriage is for life, so are never forced to work through their disagreements/problems. Knowing that divorce is not an option is a key to learning to work with one another. If you have a disagreement with your ten your old son, both parties know that separation is not an option, therefore the difficulty is worked through.
* Rom 7:2-3 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.
* Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
* So there is one and only one exception to the “till death do us part” rule
* Eph 5:31 is also talking about the sexual relationship in marriage
* I Cor 7:2-5 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.
* The sexual relationship is an important part of marriage
* One must not withhold to get his or her way

Col 3:18-19 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

* Submitting is the “fit” thing to do
* Bitterness leads to other problems - Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Tit 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

* Wives are to love their husbands too, and their children
* Discreet – (Dictionary.com) - judicious in one's conduct or speech, especially with regard to respecting privacy or maintaining silence about something of a delicate nature; prudent; circumspect
* Chaste - – (Dictionary.com) - refraining from sexual intercourse that is regarded as contrary to morality or religion; virtuous
* Keepers at home

I Tim 5:18 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

* That leaves the husband to provide for the family

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

* We might think of this as the conclusion or summary of this section in Eph 5
* The husband has to love his wife as himself
* The wife must respect her husband. That means the husband must earn that respect, but he can never earn respect if the wife is always assuming bad motivations.