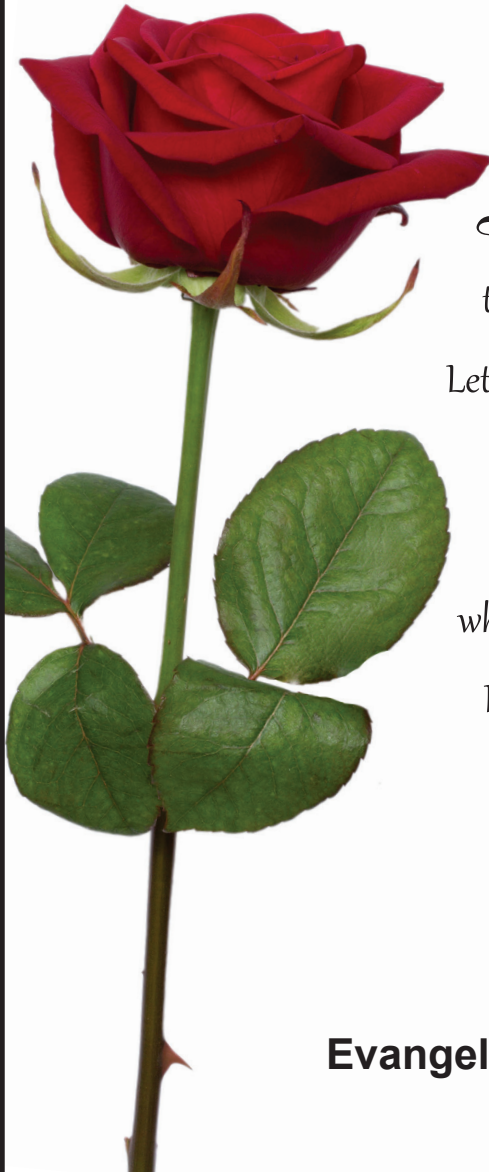


#30

The Marriage Covenant



*Let us love with a love
that will never grow old.*

*Let our dreams turn to silver,
our memories gold.*

*Let me be the friend
who knows your heart best,*

*Let our home be a place
of comfort and rest . . .*

Evangelist Raymond

Two Shall Become One Flesh

After the covenant we enter into with Christ to be saved, there is no other more sacred covenant than that between husband and wife. This teaching will guide a married couple in the best and scriptural way to keep that covenant unbroken.

- 1 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.” Simply put, a husband must obey Christ in the running of his household as Christ obeys his Father in the running of His kingdom. The wife must obey her husband as she obeys the Lord.
- 1 Chron. 29:11 All allegiance belongs to God the Father as the scripture says, “Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power (authority): . . . for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as HEAD ABOVE ALL.” Give ear to this: No society or marriage can succeed without some one being in charge!

The Wife

One thing is for certain, the wife must obey her husband in all things; for she is the mainstay of harmony and peace in the family. She is her husband’s helpmate.

- Gen. 3:16 In the fall, God placed Adam as head over Eve.
- Eph. 5:22-24 Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their husbands in everything.
- 1 Tim. 2:9-15
1 Pet. 3:1-5 The wife is not to teach or usurp authority over the man. She never dictates to her husband, becoming insistent to have her own way. An argumentative spirit to gain power over him is an abomination in God’s sight; for such continued misbehavior can eventually destroy his manhood. She will recall that it was Eve who was deceived, whereas Adam

knew exactly what he was doing when he followed Eve's counsel to eat the forbidden fruit. Adam paid a terrible price in that his whole family down through the ages became sinners. A wise woman confers with her husband, yes, but she leaves the final decision in his hands. Should his decision prove disastrous, in meekness and with a quiet spirit, she stands with her man in seeing him through to victory once again.

Note!

A woman can pray and prophesy in church meetings as long as she is under her husband's authority. She should never shamelessly and brazenly push herself forward in an attempt to dominate the service or some such thing. She should be in silence, using her self-restraint and bodily control. Once at home, she can share her thoughts with her husband, considering well any input he may have (1 Cor. 11:5; 14:3 & 31; Acts 2:16-18).

1 Cor. 11:4-6;
Eph. 3:10;
1 Tim. 5:21

Rebel angels learn once again the art of submission, while elect angels of God rejoice when they see the wife under her husband's authority. Her long hair was given her by God as a sign of that "covering" or protective care and power a man has over his beloved wife. No godly woman will cut her hair so short that there is no difference in outward appearance between her and her husband.

1 Cor. 11:8-9
Gen. 3:16b

"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man." A woman's desire is towards her husband. She is critical in the formation of a healthy union between her and her man. She has been endowed by God with a nature that is caring, always looking to the needs of others. In raising her children (both natural and spiritual) she never forgets her #1 priority - her care and loving concern for her husband. Like Sarah of old, she will never be caught with another man. She remains true to her beloved 1 Pet. 3:6.

Note!

The captain of a ship is powerless if no one on board obeys him. In such a case, mutiny is not far behind, and the ship may fail to make safe harbor .

The Husband

1 Cor. 11:11-12
1 Pet. 3:7

“Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as a woman is of the man (taken from his side), even so is the man also by the woman (taken from her womb); but all things are of God.”

A man's delight in his beloved moves him to unite with her in marriage. She becomes his own treasure, and because she is the weaker vessel, his innate manhood seeks to protect and provide for her. She will give him children - his heritage as head of the household. Every decision he makes will focus on preserving his family in comfort and safety. His wife is his counselor and his support. He trusts in her. He finds in her the strength to carry on. Her deep respect for him carries him through his most difficult times. Without her, he is half a person. She is the love of his life. He loves her even as Christ does his church.

1 Cor. 11:7

“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of man.”

The wife's husband, who is the glory of God, is an administrative deputy of the King on this earth, and by the authority he has received from his Maker, he is His representative among the creatures, exhibiting more than any other part of God's creation, the glory and perfection of the Creator. And the wife, being comely (beautifully formed) is under him. She is the glory of her husband having been created for him. Her husband gives her delegated authority in the home to help him in managing the household.

The Art of Submission

Ez. 28:12-17
Isa. 14:12-15
Col. 1:16
2 Pet. 3:5-7

Submission to the headship of God the Father is paramount! When planet earth was under the administration of angelic beings, before the creation of Adam, God tested them to discover their willingness to remain obedient to Him in all things. For an unknown length of time, the angels were in

harmony with God. At some point, however, more than one-third of the angels rebelled with Lucifer to overthrow God, while elect angels proved faithful (Rev. 12:3-4). Jesus told his disciples, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Satan and his angels were cast down, and his kingdom on earth was destroyed in a great, catastrophic upheaval and flood (Gen. 1:2). **A married couple is also being tested. Will they both prove faithful in submitting to God's headship over them?** If they fail, they too will be cast down and destroyed (2 Pet. 2:4-6).

Submission of All New Testament believers to God:

Eph. 6:1-9
Rom. 13:1-10

1. Children, obey your parents so you can live long lives.
2. Workers, obey your boss; and bosses, treat your employees right.
3. Men, obey the Lord as Christ obeys his Father.
4. Wives obey your husbands.
5. Church, obey your ruler or pastor. He must give an account of you to God.
6. Christians, obey the government.
7. Obey the policeman; for he is God's servant, doing His bidding.

What hinders some couples to learn the art of submission!

Prov. 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Submission to authority must begin in childhood.

If a father fails to love and discipline his children, they grow up rebellious, and often times rejected for lack of his guidance and affection. Unless they are born again and delivered, they will never depart from the rebellion and rejection of childhood days. For the sake of our readers, my wife and I will share our childhood upbringing with you.

Deborah was given no training in righteousness

growing up. As a teenager, no guidance was given. Her older brother led her into mischief. She grew up like a wild ass, doing her own thing in sometimes wrong and rebellious activity. At 25 years old, she was born again. Six years later, she married Raimund. The first time he gave her direction, she exclaimed, "Listen, I'm a 31 year old woman. Who are you to tell me what to do?"

Months earlier, when she was first engaged to Raimund, Deborah told the Lord, "Raimund doesn't love me the way I love him." By an impression on her mind, the Lord answered, "If you obey him, he will love you." **She had no idea what that meant.** Sometime later, when she was at Raimund's house visiting, she decided to work in his garden. As she attempted to pull up a very deep-rooted weed, she fell into a trance. The vision was of Lucifer standing to the left of God in heaven. The Lord said, "Deborah, I want you to marry Raimund." Instantly, heat filled her chest in bitter rebellion. She cried, "Who are you to tell me what to do?" She was stunned by her response, for she loved the Lord. The thoughts and feelings that overwhelmed her caused her to fear that she had turned on the Lord. **The Lord replied, "The deep-seeded root of rebellion in you is of the devil.** It is his spirit and nature." Immediately, the heat left her chest, and she fell to the ground in relief. All was normal again. **The demons of rebellion had retreated.** Deborah did not understand fully what had just transpired. That knowledge came only with time.

Raimund was a young child when he lost his mother.

His father, at the request of his dying and beloved wife, married his wife's sister. It was a marriage of convenience. The boy grew up without a mother's true love for him. For years, his father only corrected him, and by the time he was 18, Raimund wrathed up against his father. He left home to go to America.

At 14 years old, his father had enrolled him in a local apprenticeship program to learn cabinet making. His bosses were strict, and at times physically and verbally abusive. When Raimund asked his father to let him quit, he refused. Eventually, he learned to submit to his bosses. The training he received gave him practice at disciplining himself. It helped to shape his character, for in the years ahead, when God told him to do hard things, he willingly obeyed the Lord.

When he met Deborah he was already saved. His pastor introduced him to her. **The Lord said, “This is the wife you have been praying for.”** In obedience to God, three months later, they were married. Though he relished Deborah’s show of affection, he could never fully respond in kind. **Feelings of rejection that had plagued his early childhood lingered on against his will.** These feelings were powerful, as if his heart was broken in two. It took years before he could believe that his wife loved him. At the wedding, when his father and step-mother came from Austria to be with him, he had hoped that his father would praise him for having succeeded in the building business. No praise was forthcoming.

Time passed. The two of us were emotionally hindered. As a result, our marriage was not in full harmony. In 1988, I was ordained. After some 20 years of ministering, the Lord spoke to me. **“I want you to sit down, to stop ministering.” I obeyed, not understanding God’s purpose in wanting me to sit.** It would not be an easy road for either of us, as any minister and his wife can imagine. Fourteen years have since past. The training of the Lord in our lives as husband and wife has yielded the peaceable fruits of righteousness. We want to share with you some of the practical, daily applications of the scriptures we have given you in this teaching.

Working out your own marriage and your own salvation

1. Children can learn at an early age to humble themselves and **to defeat pride in their lives** by practicing to confess exactly what they did wrong. “Papa, forgive me for lying to you about my sister. She didn’t break the toy, I did. Please forgive me.”
2. Do the same with one another. “Deborah, I was wrong to act so harshly with you. I am under stress, and I let it out on you. **Forgive me.**” And again, “Raymond, you told me not to bring that subject up again. I failed. I was concerned for you when I saw you so shaken. **Please forgive me,** and give me time to learn to let you be in charge. I want so much to learn to trust you.”
3. Keep this one thought ever in mind for it will help you to show mercy towards one another; that is, in whatsoever fault you find yourselves, you didn’t become that way overnight. Consequently, it may take a considerable amount of painstaking time to form new and holy habits in relating to each other.
4. **Christianity never demands its own rights.** Christ left his glory for a while to become a sacrifice for us. In helping one another to overcome, don’t cling to your rights. Don’t be so quick to always defend yourselves. “Listen, woman, I am the man of the house, so shut up and listen to me!” or “You never bother to listen to all my counsels. What am I, a nobody?”
5. **The greatest work of God in training a couple to rule and reign with Him in the next life, takes place right there in the home.** Here we get to practice denying self – dying to self. “I’m worn down dealing every few months with my wife in helping her to overcome. I feel like giving up, like throwing the towel in. Lord, help me, empower me to carry on in your strength.” Or, “Lord, I see how sensitive my man

becomes when I make the slightest suggestion to him about his work. Help me to overlook his weakness, and teach me to use wisdom and prudence when I approach him with my concerns.

Note!

Prudence is that divine virtue that practices self control and patience, waiting for the right time and manner in which to give wisdom. A woman's tendency is to become anxious and agitated, "troubled about many things." A wise woman puts first things first by taking her cues from her husband. Is he at peace? Is he concerned about a decision he must make, needing quiet time to make up his mind? A man will often question himself if he is doing the right thing. He doesn't need his wife to be overly concerned; it only adds to the pressure he may already be under. Best to be his sounding board rather than a bullhorn. When he needs counsel, he'll ask for it.

6. Deep-rooted, emotional reactions may require deliverance from demon powers. How will you know if they have found a place in you?
- a) You experience pain in your spirit, excruciating pain of feeling rejected by your spouse. It prevents you from reacting rationally in a situation. You react by snapping at the other to relieve the pain a little, or you fall apart crying, or worse, pouting to get the other to come to your rescue.
 - b) You try your best not to react to a false statement or accusation by your spouse about you. You feel belittled, put down, as if you were an idiot. You do good for about the first 2 minutes. Then no 10 horses can stop you from busting out into an argument. **If you don't win the argument, you feel you will die!!!** Keep in mind, while demons in you are manifesting, the Holy Spirit can't help you. You need to cast them out!!

Note!

Arguments based upon pride and rejection are very destructive to the spirits of both spouses.

The man loses his headship, and the wife her submissive, quiet spirit. The marriage covenant is temporarily broken. Satan relishes his success in crushing you both down. He isn't done yet, however. The one most offended ends up having rejection demons soothed by the other spouse in an attempt to restore the damage done. Demons of rejection are catered to, but still remain within the offended partner. They must be discerned and cast out if final relief is to be realized.

Remember this, until you come to a place of true, heartfelt repentance for your behavior, demons will not budge very easily. They can be very tenacious. If they sense you have not made up your mind to repent, or that you are still falling backwards, because you are not girded up, while some may leave you, others will tarry in hopes of tormenting you again at an opportune moment. It took Israel 5 years to conquer the land of Canaan. Giants lived there, and God called on Israel to kill them all lest they be pricks in their eyes, and thorns in their sides, vexing them at every turn. It may take considerable time for every demon to leave. When they are all gone, believe me, you'll know it!

7. Pride and rejection are 2 sides of the same coin.

Let's say you failed yet again to do the right thing. You hate to look bad in front of your spouse. **Pride won't let you say, "I'm sorry."** Rejection hinders you to speak up, because you feel so bad about yourself for failing again. You question if your spouse can love you still. Begin to recognize these 2 sides of the coin in your lives, and fight them. ***Pride, don't forget, is a death-penalty sin. It is not to be taken lightly.*** With practice in humbling yourselves, you will overcome pride. Your marriage will never be the same from that moment on!

8. **No one can overcome marital difficulties by himself. You will need to go to God, crying out to Him for help.** Keep crying out until fruit of genuine repentance is achieved. The key to final victory is a true and lasting repentance. As light comes to you, helping you to recognize **your true enemy (Satan)**, and to understand how your failures are hurting both of you, true repentance will one day dawn, and you will be set free once and for all times. Blessed be the Lord God. Amen.

Note! As ground is gained, the one thing that will tear down what has been already built up, **is to remind your spouse regularly of all past failures**, and how you had to bear up with them. This is a tool of the devil. He destroys both your confidences that God is slowly perfecting your marriage. At the same time, Satan has opportunity to make your spouse feel rejected - enough to give up the fight. **Avoid this behavior at all costs!**

9. **Keep in mind this one absolute truth: we reap what we sow.** If a wife continues to look down on her husband, at times even despising him in her heart when he fails, she will reap his mistrust of her, resulting in an unending circle of hurt and pain for both of you. A man needs his wife's allegiance if the ship is to stay on course. He can sense when he is being disrespected by his wife. His spirit lets him know! **Read pg. 10, pamphlet #16, A Testimony of a Christian Wife.**
10. **The husband is a weak vessel, always depending on God's endowment of power to lead him.** But his beloved is the weaker vessel. She has the right to expect to be loved and protected by her man who, with selfless patience, guides her into proper respect and honor of himself. At times, the Holy Spirit will let him know when to sharply rebuke her for misbehavior. Rebukes are meant to awaken his wife to her duties. Rebukes given in love are a great help to the cause.

11. **A wife craves her husband's show of love, affection, and respect.** As she develops godly responses to him in every situation, even calling him "lord" in her heart, the husband can't resist to proudly and joyfully shower her with deep, abiding affection and physical enjoyment. The marriage takes on a union that reflects the unity or oneness of the Godhead - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
12. Remember, the love that drew you both into a life-long covenant at first, will carry you through every rough spot. Israel was freely given the land of milk and honey, but had to fight their enemies to secure it for themselves. Together, you will see final victory with joy unspeakable. Deborah and I are your examples. May God, who delivers our souls out of every darkness, deliver each of you as couples into the fullness of His glorious light. Amen.

