

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

Volume 09 Issue 25

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## Spouses' Responsibilities

Over the last two weeks, I presented four lessons dealing with various responsibilities we have, depending on our situations in life. But as I covered the idea of men in general, women in general, fathers to their children, and mothers to their children, I did not say much regarding the responsibilities of husbands and wives to one another. Since I'm away today, preaching in Parkersburg, I thought that an article on the subject might be a good way to conclude the series and throw in some final thoughts.

Let's start with husbands. Eph. 5:25-28 says, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the

same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

The very first thing that it says is that love is needed. Sounds simple, right? It is, in a way; loving someone is easy. But to have a clear understanding of the kind of love that God's Word is talking about takes time & effort. Just look at the example it gives: "as Christ loved the Church." He loved the Church enough to die for her, to endure humiliation and pain; the love Jesus showed is summed up in two words: self-sacrifice. He gave of Himself. He did not put His own wants first. Literally, anything and everything that He could do, He did. Can you, as a husband, say the same? Do you ever even come close?

1 Pet. 3:7 is another passage where the Lord speaks directly to husbands. It says, "Likewise, husbands, live with your

wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." This tells us a number of things; first of all being that love is just a part of the whole picture. A husband must also be patient, understanding, and honor (respect) his wife. I fear that many marriages exist with love (or what we think passes as love) but the husband does not respect his wife.

But finally, and perhaps most importantly, that verse tells us that failure to live in such a way, to love, honor, cherish, and live patiently with one's wife is danger to one's soul. Your prayers are hindered if you do not fulfill your responsibilities towards her! Make sure that you take your marriage commitment seriously, because the Lord does! Remember that she is your suitable helper, your partner, and you share one life with her; as it says in 1 Cor. 7:3-4, "The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does."

Now, onto the responsibilities of wives: Going back to Eph. 5, in verses 22-24 this time, we read: "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands." More or less

the same thing is stated in Col. 3:18.

Just as I examined what it means to love concerning husbands, I want to examine what it means to submit here. Submission is not, as stated in these passages, a state of fear and desperation. It is willingly letting the other party take the leading role. It is following their direction because you trust that they know what they are doing and that they have your best interests in mind. All of us have, from time to time, been in submission to doctors' orders. It does not mean that we are in any way inferior to those doctors, but it means we listen to what they say and follow their instructions. Remember, meekness (a loving, patient and gentle attitude towards others) is not weakness! Christian women that we have as examples in the Bible are strong, capable, intelligent, and driven! Don't believe me? Think about what we know of Priscilla, Lydia, Tabitha, Damaris, Chloe, Phoebe, and others!

Wives are also given this command in 1 Pet. 3:1-2; "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct." So, not only are wives to be in submission, to love & respect their husbands, but this says that by doing so they may bring their husbands to an obedience of the gospel, which would save their souls!

Like in my sermon about parents, love is to underscore

everything we're talking about. Why do wives respect their husbands and be in submission to them? Love. Why do husbands respect their wives and be the leader of the household? Love. But what makes these commands difficult is just that: they are commands. Not suggestions. The Scriptures do not say, "respect your husbands as long as they're acting respectable" or "love your wives as long as they're being lovable." We do not get to judge and decide when we follow God's Word. Maybe you feel like it would be easier to just opt out, do nothing, and let her make all the decisions? Well, you may want to do that out of laziness or trying to avoid a heated discussion, but to do so would be to fail in your responsibility to be the leader God commands you to be. Maybe you feel like you need to punish him for speaking without thinking. But do not disrespect your husband!

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Eph. 5:31) The marriage relationship is sacred; it is a covenant entered into with a commitment to remain faithful. It has countless blessings and provides many privileges, but it includes several responsibilities as well. If you are a husband, love your wife! Respect her, be patient with her, listen to her, and take the leading role that God tells you to! If you are a wife, love your husband! Respect him, be patient with him, listen to him, and take the submissive role that God tells you to!

Jarred Currence

Happy Moments,  
*Praise God.*

Difficult Moments,  
*Seek God.*

Quiet Moments,  
*Worship God.*

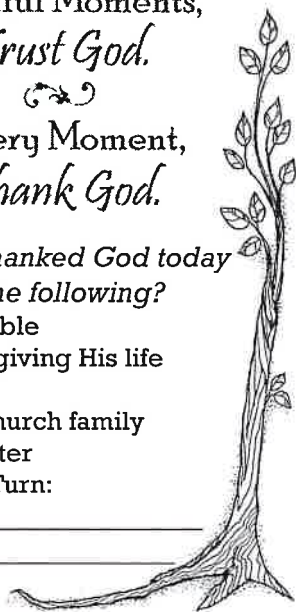
Painful Moments,  
*Trust God.*

  
Every Moment,  
*Thank God.*

*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life  
for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:

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# BIBLE Trivia!

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. What Roman governor had a Jewish wife named Drusilla?**

- a) Pilate
- b) Felix
- c) Festus
- d) Lucius

**2. Who was Jesus responding to when He told the parable of the unmerciful servant?**

- a) The Pharisees
- b) Thomas
- c) A lawyer
- d) Peter

**3. What army man was given a feast when he joined the side of David?**

- a) Abner
- b) Joab
- c) Jonathan
- d) Abiathar

**4. Where were Joseph's bones finally buried?**

- a) At Mamre
- b) At Jericho
- c) At Mt. Sinai
- d) At Shechem

**5. Where was Jesus when the sinful woman kissed His feet and anointed Him?**

- a) The upper room in Jerusalem
- b) The village of Emmaus
- c) The home of Simon the Pharisee
- d) The home of Mary and Martha

**6. What tribe sent out five spies to check out its land?**

- a) Dan
- b) Simeon
- c) Benjamin
- d) Issachar

**7. What church was Julia part of?**

- a) The church at Corinth
- b) The church at Ephesus
- c) The church at Rome
- d) The church at Jerusalem

**8. How did God deal with the Israelites who were complaining about their misfortunes in the wilderness?**

- a) The earth swallowed them up
- b) His fire devoured them
- c) He sent them manna & quail
- d) He sent a plague among them

**9. Who said, "He must increase, but I must decrease."?**

- a) John the Baptist
- b) Paul
- c) Barnabas
- d) Thomas

**10. King David's acts are said to be recorded in the book of which court prophet?**

- a) Zadok
- b) Samuel
- c) Nathan
- d) Ahijah

## **LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:**

- 1) D, Reference: 2 Kings 8:1-2
- 2) C, Reference: Luke 2:24
- 3) B, Reference: John 8:44
- 4) C, Reference: Judges 11:1
- 5) A, Reference: Mark 15:12

- 6) B, Reference: Leviticus 11:22
- 7) C, Reference: Joshua 24:30
- 8) D, Reference: 2 Corinthians 11:33
- 9) D, Reference: Exodus 10:21-23
- 10) A, Reference: Acts 12:12