

# **Marriage Transformed!**

**Oct. 1-3, 2021  
Christ Church of Hollister, CA**

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# **Our Purpose**

**“Marriage is not a contract. People sign contracts for three reasons: to protect my rights, to limit my responsibilities, and to safeguard my interests. Marriage is entirely different. Marriage is a covenant. In marriage, you don’t protect your rights; you lay down your life and surrender your rights. In marriage, you don’t limit your responsibilities; you increase your responsibilities. In marriage, you don’t safeguard your interests; you agree to safeguard the interests of your covenant partner.” Pastor Vlad Savchuk**

**The purpose of this weekend is to open your mind and spirit to receive from God the ability to walk successfully in that kind of covenant relationship.**

## Session I

### Is Nothing Sacred?

#### II. In Our American Culture, We Have Largely Lost Our Sense of the Sacred — in Only One or Two Generations.

##### A. Rhett Butler Using the Word “Damn” in 1940

Pastor’s pulpit

##### B. What Does “Sacred” Mean?

**(The Secular Definition) — Afforded a high standard of respect and therefore worthy of special honor and care.**

**The American Flag**

**Soldiers & Veterans**

**The American Constitution**

**Vows, Oaths & Promises**

**(The Religious Definition) — Defined or set aside for the intent and purposes of God, and therefore regarded with respect or reverence.**

**The Earth Itself**

**The Vessels of the Temple**

**The Ark of the Covenant**

**Sabbath & Feast Days**

**The Holy of Holies**

**Types of Christ**

##### C. Things That Used to Be Sacred:

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Life Itself (Motherhood) | 4. The Right to Vote               |
| 2. Land                     | 5. The American Flag               |
| 3. Common Language          | 6. A Man’s Pledge, Promise, “Name” |

#### III. Two Things Which God Counts as Sacred: Covenants and Types

##### A. Covenant

##### 1. Defined:

**Secular Definition: “a legal relationship, bound by oath, between two or more parties.”**

**Biblical Definition: “a binding & solemn agreement between two parties, potentially binding both them and their descendants to the legal terms of that agreement.**

**Covenants form the backbone of Scripture, defining the relationship**

of God and men. A covenant, in Scripture, usually consists of five parts:

- a. The Definition of Terms (Blessings, Curses & Duration)
- b. Exchanging of Garments (Belt, Coat & Armor)
- c. Exchanging of Names (Marriage Ceremonies, Abram, Jacob)
- d. Exchanging of Blood — (Binding Future Generations)
- e. The Covenant Feast — (Shared Assets & Celebration)

2. Civil Examples:

- a. Marriage Ceremonies
- b. Community or Subdivision Covenants
- c. Peace Treaties or Trade Agreements
- d. Oath of Loyalty upon Entering the Armed Forces

3. Biblical Examples of Covenants

- a. David & Jonathan (1 Sam. 18:1-5)
- b. God & Abraham (Gen. 15:1-21)

B. Types

1. **Defined:** a Biblical type is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows some New Testament character, story or truth. (There are hundreds of types in the Bible. Every Jewish holiday, for example, involves types in one form or another, prophesying about New Testament truth.)

2. **Examples:**      **The Serpent in the Wilderness — Num. 21:8-9**  
*“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.” NKJV*

**Jonah in the Belly of the Whale — Luke 11:29-30**  
*“And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He (Jesus) began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 30 For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.” NKJV*

**Jewish Holidays, especially Passover — 1 Cor. 5:6-8**  
*“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” NKJV*

**C. Vital Truth: Does God Take His Covenants & Types Seriously?**

- 1. Covenants: Joshua & the Gibeonites (Josh. 9, 2 Sam. 21:1-6)**
- 2. Types: Moses Striking the Rock (Num. 20:10-13, Deut. 3:23-28)**

**Num. 20:10-13 —** *“And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” 11 Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. 12 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” NKJV*

**IV. Marriage, Right from the Beginning, Was Designed by God to Serve as Both a Type and Covenant — and Sex, Both in Its Pleasure & in Procreation, Lies at the Heart of Marriage Both as Type & Covenant.**

**A. Marriage as a Type of Our Relationship with Christ.**

**Marriage was invented by God to be an image, a sacred “type” illustrating His relationship with us as His church. God’s word consistently uses the image of a bride and groom to portray the relationship between Christ, the bridegroom, and His church which is His bride.**

- 1. At least 45 of the Bible’s 66 books include this comparison or “type.” In Genesis, the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah is a type of Jesus and the Church; while the Book of Revelation ends with John’s cry in Rev. 22:17 —** *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” KJV*

**Isaiah 54:5 —** *“For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.” NKJV*

**Isaiah 62:4 —** *No longer will they call you Deserted or name your*

*land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah — “My Joy Is in Her” — and your land Beulah — “Married” — for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married. NIV*

2. Three books — Ruth, Song of Solomon and Hosea — are about very little else.
3. The unfaithfulness of both Israel and New Testament believers is consistently portrayed as a form of adultery.

*Hosea 1:2 — “The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.” KJV*

*Ezek. 16:14-15 — “And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign Lord. 15 “But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his.” NIV*

*James 4:4— Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. NKJV*

## **B. Sex Itself, within an Exclusive Covenant Relationship, Is a Type of Our Relationship with Christ**

1. Sex itself is a sacred “type” of the Lord’s life in us. In sex, the bride receives her husband into her innermost being as an act of sacred commitment performed in both faith and love. In that union, which was initiated only one time in blood, by his seed pressed into and received by her body, new life is conceived.

*a. Eph. 5:31-32 — For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. NKJV*

2. We honor our spouse by regarding marriage as a sacred covenant and sexual fidelity as the sacrament and testimony acknowledging God’s favor to us.

- a. This is why the “F-Word” is so offensive.
  - Profanity is “irreligious or irreverent language.” Synonyms are idolatry, sacrilege, impiety and blasphemy.
  - Vulgarity is an attempt to establish your own authority at the expense of God’s glory.
  
- 3. Sex begins long before the act of intercourse. Sex begins with the groom recognizing that He represents the person of Christ who honors her with the understanding of the privilege she gives him in the form of exclusive and most intimate knowledge of her body. And, for the bride, sex begins with her recognizing his desire and responding by receiving him fully into her innermost being.
  - a. The analogy of Paul C. and the prenuptial agreement.

## Questions & Exercises

### I. Questions —

- A. What are those things in my day-to-day life (outside of my marriage relationship) that I regard as sacred, and how is that reflected in my actions?
  - 1. I regard \_\_\_\_\_ as sacred, and that regard is reflected in these actions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. I regard \_\_\_\_\_ as sacred, and that regard is reflected in these actions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. I regard \_\_\_\_\_ as sacred, and that regard is reflected in these actions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
- B. The vows we spoke in our marriage ceremony are sacred. How is that reflected in the relationship I share with my spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
- C. What are those things that I appreciate and love about my spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**D. What are those things which my spouse does now that makes me feel that he or she values our marriage relationship? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

1. My love-language is                       Acts of Service                       Touch  
 Time/Attention     Gifts     Words of Affirmation     Food
2. My spouse's love-language is     Acts of Service                       Touch  
 Time/Attention     Gifts     Words of Affirmation     Food

**E. What are those things in our marriage which make me feel devalued or demeaned? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**F. Do I always honor my spouse before our family and friends?  Yes.  No. Why is this so critically important? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**G. If indeed God sees our sexual coming together as sacred, how might that change the way we perceive or practice our sexual union? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**H. Given an understanding of marriage and sex as sacred covenant and type, why is pornography an offense against both God and your marriage? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**I. What might I suggest or we do to make the sacred quality of our marriage more evident and real in our lives? (Suggestions: shared communion, shared prayer or devotions, scheduled date-nights, changing home accessories, changing patterns of entertainment, etc.)**

## **II. Exercises —**

- A. Open Communication (C&A)    B. Regular Communion**  
**C. Morning Blessing                      D. Defining Your Home**  
**E. Naming Your Home**

## Session II

# Man Up!

## The First & Greater Responsibility for the Quality of Any Marriage Rests in the Husband.

*“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour — the protector and defender — of the body.”*

**Eph. 5:23 KJV**

### **I. Before Eve Was Even Created, God Invested into Adam Responsibility to Both Manage and Defend His Home (the Garden).**

**A. Gen. 2:15-17** — *“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* (Vs. 18: *“not good for man...”*)

- 1. To “Dress” is “abad” and used 290 times in the OT. In 229 of those times, it is translated into English as “to serve.” Five times, it is translated as “to worship” or even “worshippers.” There is a lesson in this word about the nature of work as a form of worship and your place of work as a sanctuary. (Tony Campolo & Bus Driver)**

**Within that context, then, what does the use of that word say about Adam’s assignment to “dress” the Garden? How does that transfer into the position and assignment God has given you in your home? (Remember here that Eve was not even yet created.)**

**Ex. 20:23-24** — *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor SERVE (“abad”) them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.”* KJV

**Psalm 100:2** — *“SERVE (“abad”) the LORD with gladness: come*

*before his presence with singing.” KJV*

**2 Kings 2:21** — *“And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the **WORSHIPPERS** (“abad”) of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. KJV*

2. To “Keep” is “samar” (sha-mare) meaning “to guard,” “to watch over,” “to protect and defend” or “to keep watch and ward over” — assigning responsibility without any suggestion of ownership. Of the 468 times “samar” appears in the OT, the KJV translates it as “to keep” 283 times. Eight times, it is translated as “watchman.”

**Gen. 3:24** — *“So God drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **TO KEEP** (“samar”) the way of the tree of life. KJV*

**Gen. 17:9** — *“And God said to Abraham, Thou shalt **KEEP** my covenant, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.” KJV*

**NOTE:** If Adam had “kept” the Garden, serving as watchman, the serpent never would have gained access to the attention of Eve.

**NOTE:** That responsibility, to both “dress” and “keep” the Garden was given to Adam (Gen. 2:15-17) before Eve was created (Gen. 2:18-25).

**NOTE:** “A life of meaning is a life of responsibility.” J. Peterson

## **II. The Entire Garden of Eden & the Responsibility Given to Adam Stands as a Type of the Responsibility Given to Husbands, Pastors & the Church.**

**A. Remember what a type is — an Old Testament illustration of a New Testament truth.**

### **B. The Crescent Moon as Illustration**

1. In the illustration, black represents evil and chaos — the Kingdom of Darkness.
2. In the illustration, the white area represents the Kingdom of Light.
3. Remember that, before Adam



was ever created or assigned responsibility, Satan had already been cast down and confined to Earth. Earth was God's "Maximum Security Prison."

4. In the midst of that prison, God carved out the Garden of Eden, giving Adam and Eve "dominion" (representative AUTHORITY or lordship in His name) over the whole Earth but POWER (actual control) over only that designated area.
5. Adam's first responsibility, his divine charge was to "keep," to defend the area God had already put under his stewardship and control (but not ownership).
6. Adam's second responsibility and Eve's first was to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." That means they were to produce and raise up and equip children so that, both through and with their children, they could extend God's control — the white space — over that area — the dark space — held in Satan's power.

*Genesis 1:27-28 — "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, replenish (fill) the earth, and subdue it: have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." KJV*

7. "Replenish the earth." The word "replenish" is the Hebrew word "mala" (mah-la') which means "to bring to fullness," "to consecrate" or "to satisfy."

*Rom. 8:19-21 (NIV) — "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."*

*Rom. 8:19-21 (CEB) — "The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. 20 Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children."*

8. **“To subdue” is the Hebrew word “kabas” (ka-bvash’) meaning “to subject,” “to dominate” or “to make subservient”. — keeping in mind that Adam was not working for his own interests but to advance the authority (the Kingdom) of his Lord. This is the heroic model of most great literature.**

### **III. The Perspective of God re: Structure of the Family**

- A. **From Creation, God planned for us to be at war — not simply to subjugate ourselves or even Satan, but to use Satan as an instrument by which to exalt, raise up His children into warriors of divine authority and power.**
- B. **The first responsibility — to “dress” and to “keep” the Garden which was Adam’s & Eve’s home — was given to Adam. The first responsibility for the quality of the marriage which defines any home rests in the hands and heart of the husband. It is critical to the success of both marriage and family that the husband know, understand and use his divine authority to serve and defend his family.**
- C. **The second responsibility which is “to replenish” and “to subdue” the earth, overcoming darkness and bringing the earth into subjection to the Kingdom of Light, is a shared responsibility — shared between husband, wife and then children as well.**
- D. **A life of meaning, of purpose and value to the Kingdom, is then found in a life of authority and responsibility, shared among family members. Marriage stands as the covenant agreement framing and empowering the family, God’s most fundamental social structure.**
- E. **The husband in any family bears first responsibility, standing in the door of His home as the watchman and servant-leader.**

## **Questions & Exercises**

### **I. Questions —**

- A. **What does it mean in your life that God gave Adam the command “to dress” and “to keep” the Garden of Eden BEFORE Eve was even created?**

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**(Husbands) What is it that you do now to spiritually defend your home?**

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**(Husbands) What else might God move you to do in order to “keep” or defend your home and family? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**(Wives) Given that the realities of spiritual warfare are not limited to the husband, what might you do to join your husband in spiritually defending your home and family? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**(Wives) Is there any area in which you feel vulnerable and unprotected that you would like to bring to the attention of your husband? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**B. God spoke to both Adam & Eve, commanding that they “be fruitful,” “multiply,” “fill the Earth” and “subdue it.” What does that say about God’s purpose in your marriage and home? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**What is the significance of God giving that assignment to both Adam AND Eve? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**C. Do you understand that God birthed us into a world at war, that we are here for training in warfare on behalf of a much larger Kingdom? Do you see that in the illustration of the crescent moon?  Yes.  No.**

**1. How does that understanding effect your role as husband? Wife? Parent? \_\_\_\_\_**

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2. **Using this illustration, Jordan Peterson comes the conclusion that “a life of meaning is a life of responsibility.” Out of that worldview, he encourages young people to begin that by cleaning their rooms, claiming their own space as part of the Kingdom of Light, Wisdom and Order. Once that’s under control, then ongoing responsibility is to bring another area of life into that same Kingdom. This is the process of “subduing the Earth.”**

**What does that image contribute to your marriage relationship? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What does that image contribute to your home — your physical living space? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What does that image contribute to the systems and practice of raising children (or grandchildren)? \_\_\_\_\_**

## Session III

# Understanding & Responding to Your Spouse Is the Key

- I. **Gen. 3:17-19** — *“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*
- 17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” KJV*
- II. **The Lessons of Revelation & Ministry**
- A. **In Gen. 3, the consequences of Eve’s sin dwelt entirely in her family relationships.**
- B. **While there is a lot of controversy over the meaning of that phrase, “your desire will be to your husband,” I believe God has revealed this truth which, in turn has been consistently borne out in ministry. A central consequence of Eve’s sin is that women, by their very nature, build their own self-esteem out of the way the men in their lives regard them.**
- C. **That process of actually building the image which a woman holds of herself begins in her relationship with her father, then secondarily with her husband, and finally is affected by other men of lesser significance — brothers, sons, lovers, teachers and friends.**
- D. **The freedom and praise which God holds for women lies in His ability to reconstruct the foundations of their self-perception, negating the wounds and short-comings of men. He rebuilds the souls of women on the foundation of God’s unqualified love, favor, affirmation and promises. In love and passionate desire, Christ as the bridegroom transfers the foundations of a woman’s self-perception from her soul (which is one of the two dimensions of our “flesh”) to her Spirit which is the Presence of God in her.**

- E. The prevalence of “orphan spirits” among the women we serve in ministry
- F. The illustration of Steve and Libby.

### III. The Blessings & the Curses in This Truth

- A. The curse of this truth lies in the fact that men then have tremendous, even creative power over their wives and daughters. Many men, out of their own flesh — their own ignorance, false pride and brokenness — abuse that power tremendously. The result of that trauma in the lives of women — many times women they love — is that the trauma itself opens doors for the enemy. Using the only two weapons he has, the enemy then fashions strongholds of shame, anger, resentment, fear and self-hatred. Orphan spirits, possessing and oppressing spirits which foster self-loathing, are particularly common in our experience.
- B. The great blessing of this truth is that husbands who understand, who love and exalt the women in their lives as Christ indeed loved and exalted the church, become instruments of God in building the women they love into all God Himself ever intended them to be. Free of oppression and marked by confidence, they easily receive God as Father and Groom, growing in that relationship in grace, wisdom and favor.
- C. For the husband, that means...
  1. ...recognizing the primacy of the Spiritual realm in His world, understanding that he holds both responsibility and power to be the spiritual shepherd, the provider and defender of his family.
  2. ...separating himself from the family and friends of his youth, putting his wife first in all honor. A good husband will not dishonor nor allow his wife to be dishonored even by his family. (Story: “...I’ll be with her for the rest of my life.”) 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.”*
  3. ...beholding his bride and daughters as beautiful, he reminds them of the Kingdom status they hold in every action, spoken word and tone of voice. There are two times when this is most important: (1) in alone times and (2) in the presence of others.
  4. ...honoring sons by staying engaged with them, providing wisdom and opportunities to develop confidence and wisdom, holding them accountable to meaningful responsibilities. (Story: Mal Mele)

5. **...he becomes first a listener and then an observer, noting and appreciating the things that hold his bride's interest. Careful listening is the greatest compliment any human being can ever offer to another.**
6. **...he pursues God on their behalf, learning to exercise the fruit of the Spirit in family relationship, always exercising self-control in order to respond and not react to the issues of life.**

**D. For the wife, that means...**

1. **...understanding that her perception of herself was formed largely in response to the way that men in her life have regarded and treated her. If this has in any way been traumatic, then the lies and accusations which the enemy plants in your soul — mind, will and emotions — very often affect the way that you perceive yourself as well as the way that you present yourself to the world.**
2. **...understanding that this perception, formed under the influence of the world, is not valid or truthful. As a believer, she has a new identity — even a new Father and spiritual husband who perceive you from the vantage point of you as a finished work.**
3. **...as she comes to know the love of the perfect Father, His perspective becomes the foundation for a new image of herself as made in His image and clothed in His righteousness. The more she immerses herself in communion with His Spirit and bathes in the truth of His promises, the stronger and more beautiful she will become.**
3. **...her responsibility to your husband is not so much to serve the old man but to see and call forth all that is good and holy in the new man whom God has ordained and created him to be. The Holy Spirit will provide her with the wisdom as to how to manage that effectively.**
4. **...the practice of seeing her husband as the a new creation, a man recreated by God and constructed (as you are) in His image — “As He is, so are we in this world.” 1 John 4:17 NIV — has the power in itself to transform both him and your marriage.**

# Questions & Exercises

## I. Questions —

**A. List three adjectives that your relationship with your biological father. then briefly describe the way your father made you feel as a child.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Looking back, how did that relationship shape your self-image? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. If you have been married previously, list three adjectives that describe your relationship with your previous spouse. Then describe how that relationship contributed to the way that you perceive yourself.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If there was second previous marriage, answer the same questions here.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. As you think back over your history, what were the most impactful words ever spoken to you, either good or bad, and how did those then change the way you thought about yourself? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. So list three adjectives that describe the way that you see yourself.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you see a correlation between the adjectives here (how you describe yourself) and the influence of the relationships you have had with your biological father and/or previous marriage partner(s)?  Yes.  No.**

**E. In your own history, can you see how specific circumstances where spiritu-**

al doors were opened for demonic influence in your life, including...

1. ...a spirit of fear?  Yes.  No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. ...a spirit of self-hatred or condemnation?  Yes.  No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. ...an orphan spirit? (Orphan spirits oppress those usually who have experienced extreme forms of rejection. Orphan spirits provoke deep-seated attitudes of shame, guilt, insufficiency and self-condemnation resulting in such character traits as insecurity and jealousy, depression, temper, or even an over-the-top hunger for approval. Orphan spirits contribute to issues such as promiscuity, obesity, auto-immune diseases and substance abuse.)  Yes.  No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

F. Below you will find five truths, all drawn from Ephesians 1, that God says about you. Examine these to test the truthfulness of your own self-image. (All verses are NKJV.)

1. You are BLESSED — *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has BLESSED us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...”* Eph. 1:3 The word “blessed” here is the Greek word “eulogeo” meaning “praised, celebrated, favored, caused to prosper, made happy.” “Every spiritual blessing” means the entire storehouse of God’s favor.

a. Is the word “blessed” a word you would commonly use to describe yourself?  Yes.  No. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. You are CHOSEN — *“just as He CHOSE us in Him before the foundation of the world...”* Eph. 1:4.

a. Is the word “chosen” a word you would commonly use to

describe yourself?  Yes.  No. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. You are HOLY, WITHOUT BLAME and LOVED — “that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ,...” Eph. 1:4.**

**a. Are the words “holy,” “without blame” and “loved” words you would commonly use to describe yourself?  Yes.  No. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. In full knowledge of who you would be and the life you would live, God, before creation, chose you to be ADOPTED — “having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ,...” Eph. 1:5.**

**a. Is the word “adopted” a word you would commonly use to describe yourself?  Yes.  No. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. You are ACCEPTED — “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” Eph. 1:6.**

**a. Is the word “accepted” a word you would commonly use to describe yourself?  Yes.  No. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Can you receive and declare these five truths over yourself? As you do, is there something inside of you that wars against and resists these truths?**

**Yes.  No. If so, you should make an appointment with the church for an exercise in deliverance in order to break away from your mind and emotions the lies and accusations of the enemy.**

## Session IV

### The Role of the Bride in Marriage

(All Scripture in this section is from the NIV unless otherwise noted.)

- I. In our own personal experience, the most commonly taught reference on the Scriptural role of a bride is Eph. 5:21-27. Unfortunately, this Scripture has very often been abused and used to dominate and constrain women rather than to exalt and strengthen them. To use verse 22 — *“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.”* — as a corral or a bludgeon to try to manage a woman’s behavior is a sin against the woman involved, God and the Scripture.

Let’s look at the full content of Eph. 5:21-27.

*“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

*22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

*25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”*

Now understand that I do not view the bride’s role in marriage as being any less significant or less worthy of honor than the husband’s. As we’ve seen, the Scripture, even from the book of Genesis, God places the first responsibility for the quality of a marriage square on the shoulders of the husband. God then provides the husband with significant power over his wife in His pronouncement of the consequences of Eve’s sin, saying, *“Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”*

In this sense, look again at verse 22, *“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.”* In light of the truth that the husband bears the first and largest responsibility for the maintenance of this covenant, it is also fitting that, in decisions which significantly impact that covenant, his position

should steer the ship. On the other hand, the wife is empowered by three factors:

- A. First, the preceding verse, Eph. 5:21, says, “*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*” The word “submit” here is the Greek word “hypertasso,” meaning “to subordinate oneself” or even “to yield to one’s admonition or advice.” It is the same word used in verse 22, “*Wives, SUBMIT yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.*”
- B. Second, the charge to husbands in these verses includes these words “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*” Even as the husband’s responsibility and authority may be greater than his bride’s, his charge in the exercise of that authority is to serve his wife’s interest just as Christ did for the church. In the same way that Christ washed the feet of the apostles, the husband is supposed to be the SERVANT-LEADER of the home.
- C. And finally, the end-game, the goal, the destination that a Christian husband is to hold in mind is that He is working “*to present her (his bride) to himself (Christ) as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*” For a husband to use his authority to force or manipulate his wife into serving his selfish and fleshly desires without regard for her person or interest is not what this Scripture points to at all.

## II. Understanding Your Husband

**Gen. 3:17-19** — *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*”

- II. Even as a woman builds her self esteem on the ways in which men in her life regard her, so men build their self esteem on the strength of their competitive abilities — of what they can do. Career path, compensation, physical presentation, apparent life-style — a man wants to be recognized for what he can do, for the image he can project of power, affluence and charisma.

### A. Old Men’s Clubs

- B. The Most Famous Last Words of a Redneck. (Boys)**
- C. The Accountant & the Super-Model**

**On a more serious note,...**

- A. This is why men fall into adultery.**
- B. This is why a man needs to be educated as to how to please his wife sexually.**
- C. This is why men will focus their energy and attention on things outside of the home and family where they can excel either in person or vicariously. (This is why the audience for the Hallmark Channel is 75% women, and why 44% of men define themselves as avid NFL fans while only 16% of women make the same claim.**

**Recognizing that factor in him affords women tremendous power to either build and strengthen or demean and destroy their husbands.**

### **III. The Role of the Bride**

**Oddly enough, there is not a tremendous amount of Scripture defining the role of a wife and mother. The most complete portrait of “A Wife of Noble Character” is provided in Pro. 31:10-31. Drawing largely from that portrait, here are some considerations:**

#### **A. The Bride as Sanctuary.**

*Prov. 31:10-12 — Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

**The bride’s role in marriage is to RECEIVE her husband, to embrace and honor and identify with him — encouraging and strengthening him to be and become all that God calls him to be. As we have seen already, Eph. 5 outlines a very similar and complimentary role for husbands. That concept of “receiving’ involves the fact that men need a relationship where they can turn at times for comfort and counsel, encouragement and motivation. Men need to be confident that this relationship is founded in love and dedicated to the family’s best interest.**

#### **B. The Bride as Partner**

*Pro. 31:27 — “She watches over the affairs of her household*

*and does not eat the bread of idleness.”*

Again, it is an odd thing that neither Proverbs 31 nor the whole of Scripture don't specifically define the division of responsibility within a home. The Scripture seems, in reference after reference, to portray both husband and wife as responsible for the welfare, education and raising of children. At the same time, three facets point toward the woman holding hands-on authority over the family home.

1. The phrase “*She watches over*” in the above verse is the Hebrew word “sapa” (pronounced “tsaw-faw”) meaning “to peer into” or “to keep watch.” And the word “household” is the Hebrew word “bayit” (pronounced “bah-yith,” meaning “house.”)
2. Biologically, it is the role of the wife to carry and give birth children as well as, historically, providing sustenance from her own body not only in pregnancy but for the first months or years of a child's life. Primary care, therefore, for infants and young children have been historically the role of the wife, requiring her to exercise authority in that regard.
3. Finally, from a sociological perspective, the concept of the woman in a marriage relationship governing the home is almost universally accepted. (Margaret Mead)

#### C. The Bride as Breadwinner

*Prov. 31:13-22 — “She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.”*

#### D. The Bride as Champion

*Prov. 31:23 — “Her husband is known in the gates, when he*

*sitteth among the elders of the land.”*

**E. The Bride as Counselor — Providing Knowledge, Wisdom & Accountability**

*Prov. 31:25-31 — “She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. 31 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”*

## Questions & Exercises

**I. Questions —**

- A. Eph. 5:21-27 provides for a balance in the relationship and authority of husbands and wives within a marriage relationship, raising children and managing their home. Is that balance maintained in your home so that both partners are empowered and exalted?  Yes.  No.**

**In this regard, list three ways in which you can say the two of you really succeed.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Now list three facets of this balance in which you struggle.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Recognizing that a man's self-esteem, outside of Christ, is formed on the foundation of his competitive abilities, what particular abilities have been significant in the life of the husband in this relationship?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Have these factors been served a beneficial purpose in your marriage relationship or have their influence been more detrimental?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. (Husbands) In each of these respective roles, write down some way in which your bride has been effective and appreciated. Why has her action in each role been truly appreciated?**

1. **Bride as Sanctuary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Bride as Partner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Bride as Breadwinner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Bride as Champion:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Bride as Counselor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Closing Request**

**Thank you so much for investing your time and attention into this seminar! This is the first time that we have conducted this seminar, and it would help us to have your honest appraisal as to the value of this work. Would you please help us to improve this program and strengthen other marriages by responding to us as follows?**

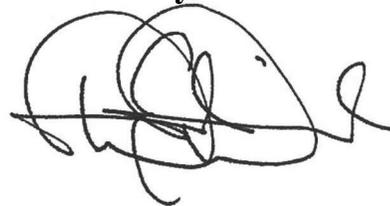
- 1. Please provide whatever encouragement or constructive criticism you can. Dave's e-mail is [ddiamondncs@yahoo.com](mailto:ddiamondncs@yahoo.com).**
- 2. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please provide a Post Office mailing address. Forward that to [ddiamondncs@yahoo.com](mailto:ddiamondncs@yahoo.com), or text Dave at 985-630-1186.**
- 3. If you would consider including our ministry in your giving (especially as we approach the end of this year), you can do so by check or credit card.**

**To support our work by check, you can mail contributions to Faith & Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 4565, Covington, LA 70434.**

**To support our work by credit or debit card, you can do so at this link: <https://www.davediamond.net/to-donate.html>. Faith & Freedom Ministries is a dba of Freedom Train, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization incorporated in Louisiana in 2010.**

- 4. If you are not currently involved in Christ Fellowship of Hollister or a church which is Spirit-led and Scripture-centered, we would encourage you to visit Christ Fellowship or such a church and get involved.**

**Thank you!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dave', written in a cursive style.

