



Lesson 6

Showing Love and Submission to Your Husband

by Bonnie Merkle

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,
but with humility of mind regard one another
as more important than yourselves;
do not merely look out for your own personal interests,
but also for the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:3-4

Basics of Loving

- The very “fiber” of God is love – I John 4:7-9
- The two greatest commandments are centered on love – Matthew 22:34-40
- The mark of a disciple is love – John 13:34-35
- Love is a fruit of walking in the Spirit – Galatians 5:16-22
- Evidences of walking in the Spirit – Ephesians 5:15-22

Notes:

Love's Responses and Denials

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Love Seeks Not Her Own

Love to others will prompt us to seek their welfare with self-denial, and personal sacrifice and toil.

Notes on the Bible

When we married we agreed to forsake our me-first, single-oriented worldview and committed ourselves to building a *couple*. To be married to a man is to help him; that's the biblical model. Helping can take different forms, but it always serves the other person's good.

Sacred Influence

- “Seeks not her own” – is not self-seeking, but generously extends oneself to others in word or deed
- “Seek” – to go in search of; to make an attempt to find
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Romans 12:10

Notes:

Five Basic Needs of a Man

1. *One-flesh Unity* – I Corinthians 7:4-5

Not having a healthy marital relationship is not a pathway to more spirituality, but to immorality.

Mark Minnick

- Purposes of physical intimacy
 - Procreation
 - Pleasure and joy
 - Closeness and oneness
 - Protection from temptation
- Scriptural directives
 - Commanded
 - No rights
 - No options
 - Initiation by either partner
- Insights
 - Recognize your husband's "danger signals"
 - Concentrate on pleasing him
 - Be creative
 - Be a lover, not a roommate
 - Stay rested and fit
 - Plan to faithfully meet his needs
 - Communicate
 - Pray for your husband to remain pure

Realize that by God's design, you are the only appropriate outlet for your husband's desires. Anything you deny him becomes, by definition, an absolute denial, because he has no other place to which he can go to find satisfaction in a healthy or holy manner.

Sacred Influence

Notes:

2. *Recreational Companionship*

The wife who wants to show her husband that she likes him – that she is his friend – will be patient with his strange request to “just come out here and be with me.”

Love and Respect

- Genesis 2:18
- Titus 2:3-4
- “Phileo” – to treat affectionately or kindly, to welcome, befriend
- “Shoulder to shoulder” rather than “face to face”
- Insights
 - Find new ways of recreating together
 - Conduct a “shoulder to shoulder” experiment

Notes:

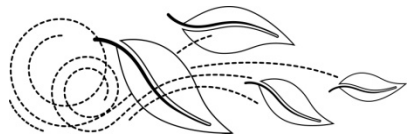
3. *An Attractive Spouse*

*Strength and dignity are her clothing
and she smiles at the future.*

Proverbs 31:25

- Dress attractively, but appropriately
- Attend to . . .
 - Your hair
 - Your body
 - Your smile
- Beware not to compare
- Concentrate on your inner beauty – II Corinthians 4:16

Notes:



4. *Domestic Support*

*She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

Proverbs 31:27

- Colossians 3:23-24
- Insights
 - Create a peaceful and well-managed home
 - Give him some “space”
 - Assess your time commitments
 - Attend to your responsibilities
 - Come to grips with your limitations

Notes:

5. *Admiration and Respect*

Behind every great man is a great woman.
Behind every man should be an admiring wife.
Heaven Help the Home

When I am thankful for my spouse, the control that the familiarity of contempt has on me is broken.
Sacred Marriage

- Ecclesiastes 7:20
- Think rightly and concentrate on his strong points
- Marvel at your man
- Cultivate a thankful attitude

Notes:

Conclusion

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

II Corinthians 3:18

The beauty of Christianity is in learning to love, and few life situations test that so radically as does a marriage.
Sacred Marriage

Sources

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