

FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE (& Relationships) Part 4 of 4 10.12.08

The “Pedestal Principle” from EPHESIANS 5 – Love and Respect

EPHESIANS 5: 21-33

- 21 And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
- 22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.
- 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself up for her;
- 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- 27 that he might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.
- 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself:
- 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,
- 30 because we are members of His body.
- 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. [Genesis 2:24]
- 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
- 33 Nevertheless, let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and *let* the wife *see to it* that she respect her husband

TO THIS POINT

In our previous three lessons in this series we have spoken of principle that will FIREPROOF our relationships from the enemy who wants to destroy them.

Lesson 1: The “Gomer Principle” from Hosea: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Lesson 2: The “Shulamite Principle” from Song of Solomon: MUTUAL POSSESSION

Lesson 3: The “Cleave Principle” from Matthew 19: TOGETHER FOREVER

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

In this, our final “FIREPROOF” message we look at Ephesians 5 – the greatest New Testament teaching on marriage. The relationship between a husband and wife is compared to the relationship between Jesus Christ and his church.

Our final FIREPROOF principle is the “PEDESTAL PRINCIPLE”

A pedestal is a raised platform, usually to showcase something special – such as a piece of architecture, or a treasured item. Its third definition in the Miriam-Webster dictionary is “a position of esteem.”

Used of a person, it has this meaning. That we have someone “on a pedestal” can be construed as a negative - implying that we see them not for what they are, but for what we wish them to be. However, I don’t use the term in this way. I use it to indicate a position of esteem, honor and love.

Clearly, we must have Jesus on the pedestal of WORSHIP and ADORATION as our Lord and Savior.

The Bible teaches that we are on His pedestal of LOVE and ELECTION as His chosen beloved.

In Philippians 2:3 we read “let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.” In this regard, we are to put the other “on a pedestal” of importance.

Likewise – the husband and wife must learn the principle of having their spouse on a pedestal of LOVE and RESPECT. Both are called to LOVE and both are called to RESPECT.

But the special command and challenge for the husband is to LOVE HIS WIFE – specifically as Christ loved the church.

And the special command and challenge for the wife is the SUBMIT TO and RESPECT her husband – specifically as the church should do to Jesus.

Perhaps it is because LOVE is the more difficult for the husband, and RESPECT for the wife.

Or perhaps it is because LOVE is what is most needed by the wife and RESPECT most needed by the husband.

I believe both are true.

VERSE BY VERSE TEACHING

- The husband: v. 23 **PILOT** “the head of the wife” and “the Savior of the body”

- The wife v. 24 *PARTNER* “subject to their husbands in everything”
- The husband v. 27 **PROVIDE** “love your wives just as Christ gave Himself up for her”, “sanctify her, having cleansed her”
- Note; a past, present and future sense to the provision, re: Christ
- The wife v. 33 *be PROUD* this includes TRUST and THANKS. But ultimately, a RESPECT
- The husband v. 28-30 **PAMPER** “love as their own bodies”, “nourishes and cherishes”
- The wife v. 31-32 *RESPOND* in love and in kind “we love because He first loved us” 1 John 4:19