

1 2  **BRINGING THE WONDERFUL LIFE HOME**

Where your real spirituality shows

3  **Review – Positive intentional Christian living**

- Remember your position in Christ
- Reflect the grace of Christ (put on the graces)
- Rely on the peace of Christ (to umpire)
- Ruminant in the Word of Christ
 - in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - avoid worldly substitutes for God’s music
 - sing with grace
- Remember to glorify Christ
 - in speech, in actions, with gratitude

4  **Now Paul gets personal....**

- If we have put off the old man and put on the new man
- If we have clothed ourself with the graces earlier mentioned in this chapter
- If we’re the real deal
- THEN it should show first at home
 - The wife should be happy and at peace
 - The children should be orderly
 - Even the dog should be better!

5  **Let’s start with the most important human relationship**

- People love to fall in love
- But today, it is a rarity to see people permanently committed to one another for a lifetime
 - August 9, 2012 – Pastor & Mrs. Thornton married for 55 years
- What Judy’s mother told me 32 years ago
- Marriage can still have ZING – but only if you work at it!

6  **“I Was Her Pumpkin Pie”**

*Before I married Maggie dear,
I was her pumpkin pie,
Her precious peach and honey boy,
The apple of her eye.
But after years of married life
This thought I pause to utter:
Those fancy names are now all gone,
I’m just her bread and butter.*

7  **Colossians 3:18-4:1**

18. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
19. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
20. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
21. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.
22. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:
23. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

8  **Colossians 3:24-4:1**

24. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
25. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.
1. Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

9  **HOME IS WHERE THE HEART REALLY SHOWS**10  **Real faith is seen at home**

- Faith should and does influence our relationships.
 - Home is the place where we are the most transparent and our faith is most easily seen.
 - The Colossians had made spirituality about mysticism and esoteric knowledge. Paul tells them that faith is PRACTICAL
- Paul refers to the “Lord” or “Master” 7 times in these verses because Christ’s Lordship

expresses itself in our daily lives.

11 **Roles have responsibilities**

- Husband, wife, and children each have roles to play within the family.
 - One role is not inferior to another.
 - The issue is function, not inferiority.
 - Colossians 3:11 -- cultural, racial, and even gender distinctions are no longer obstacles when it comes to salvation

12 **Relationships are reciprocal**

1 Relationships

- 2 • Wives, submit to your husbands

•

- Children, obey your parents

•

- Slaves, serve your masters with the fear of the Lord

3 Reciprocal relationship

- 4 • Husbands, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them.
- Fathers, don't discourage and dishearten your children
- Masters, treat and pay your servants well because you have a MASTER, too

13 **THE PROBLEM WITH SUBMISSION**

Misunderstanding the words....

14 **Submit vs. Obey**

- *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*
 - Note that it does NOT say she is to “obey.”
 - Children are to obey parents.
 - But wives are to submit to their husbands.
 - There is a difference.
- Ephesians 5:21 says that husbands and wives are to submit to the Lord and to each other.
 - *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

15 **Submission is not slavery**

- Not slavery
- Not inferiority
- It is ARRANGMENT – “to arrange one’s self under a delegated authority”
 - A Gallup poll showed that 69% of the public disagreed with the statement that “wives should graciously submit to the servant leadership of their husbands.”

16 **Why submit?**

- At the end of verse 18, we are given the reason for submission:
 - “*As is fitting in the Lord.*”
 - Another translation says: “*This is what the Lord has planned for you.*”
- So a wife is to submit to her husband out of her allegiance to Christ.
 - Design from the beginning (1 Timothy 2:13).

17 **So what is submission?**

- Not blind obedience
- It is *entrusting oneself to the leadership of another to accomplish a task.*
 - Wife, trust that God is leading you through your husband. Trust your husband, but also:
 - encourage him to follow the Lord
 - gently warn him when he is about to suffer the Lord's chastening
 - Husband, trust your wife to do you good and not evil.

18 **What is the result of submission?**

- A wife experiences release and fulfillment she can know no other way.
 - Downtrodden wives and homemakers often think submission is slavery and inferiority. They obey because the HAVE to.
 - But when a wife trusts God to work through her husband and when she fills her God-give role, it produces an environment of intimacy, and growth and a ministry partnership that will make a difference in the world.

19 **What is the enemy of submission?**

- Taking matters into your own hands.
- Proverbs 14:1 -- *Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*
- Dr. Thomas Cooper
 - During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, took 8 years editing dictionary, adding thirty-three thousand words, and many improvements.
 - Wife thought he would kill himself with study; she burned all his notes. He began again.

20 WHO IS REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAMILY TO SUCCEED

Sorry men, but it is you!

21 A husband's reciprocal responsibility

- Verse 19: *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."* Or as KJV says, *"be not bitter against them."*
- Why are men tempted to be harsh and bitter (lit. nasty tasting) toward their wives?
 - Part of the Adamic curse
 - A man's delicate ego is threatened when his wife shares cautions with him. He forgets that she will do him "good and not evil."
 - Don't call her "honey" and then act like vinegar.

22 Husbands must guard against bitterness

- Hebrews 12:15:
 - *See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*
 - The greater responsibility for a good marriage is put on the husband
 - Twice as many words in Ephesians 5 instructing husbands to love wives than telling wives to submit
 - Bad marriages usually have more to do with a husband's inability to love his wife than his wife's inability to submit.

23 The job of a husband

- Two key meanings of "husband"
 - One who "holds the house together"
 - A gardener who cultivates the soil and keeps out the weeds
- As husbands, our responsibility is to love our wives by:
 - holding things together
 - providing an atmosphere for growth and fruitfulness in our homes

24 Does your love for your wife show?

- *Agape* love is based on commitment, not emotions or romance.
 - Even if you don't feel like you're in love with your wife, it doesn't matter.
 - Biblical love is a verb and a command. Obey God in demonstrating love to your wife.
 - Emotions follow actions.

25 What does love look like?

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 reminds us that, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

26 The plain truth about marriage

- Marriage is hard work.
- Sometimes you won't have the right feelings, but that doesn't mean you can take a pass on your responsibility.
- Act with love, and the emotions will usually follow.
- A happy marriage does not come automatically because we are naturally self-centered and prideful.

27 Next time:

God's Principles for Parenting

28 APPLYING THE WORD TO OUR WALK

Let's be real!

29 Personal application (husbands)

- Husbands
 - Will you confess your inability to love your wife as well as you should?
 - Will you thank God for this incredible woman who puts up with you?
 - Will you ask Christ to love her through you?

30  **Personal application (wives)**

- Wives
 - Will you confess your fear and worry?
 - Will you ask God to help you trust your husband?
 - Will you ask God for wisdom to know how to wisely appeal to your husband?
 - Will you commit to trusting God to work through your husband for your family's benefit?