

- The purpose of this bible study is to gain the knowledge of God that He has given us in His word and then be able to apply that knowledge in order to strengthen Marriage relationships, Family relationships and any of our other Person to Person relationships.
- We will see that the bible gives specific instructions about how we are to treat one another. The 10 Commandments that we find in the Old Testament, let us see the mind of God and let us know that God wanted us to pay special attention to how we treat one another. These 10 Commandments that God gave were written on tablets by the hand of God and were the basic rules that everyone needed to pattern their life by. We can see by looking at the 10 Commandments that all of these commandments had to do with the way we treat others in our relationships. The first 4 commandments have to do with our relationship with God and the last 6 commandments have to do with our relationship with others.

Exodus 20:1-17

- How should we treat our relationship with God? - Listen to the first 4 Commandments.

1st Commandment - Thou shalt have no other gods before me - God wants preeminence in our relationship with Him: We are to put nothing in front of Him. He doesn't want a position in our lives, He wants preeminence. We are not to make something else a god to us and then put it front of Him. (person, possessions, money, hobbies, pleasure, things).

2nd Commandment - Thou shalt not make unto thee any given image - We are told not to create our own god by taking something that God has created and making an image of it and worshipping it. We are not to bow down to any other image and treat it as our god.

3rd Commandment - Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain - The name of God actually means, the name, character and person of God. We are not supposed to defile or dishonor the name of God or the character of God with any of our words or actions. To defile God with our words or our actions is to take His name in vain. Our relationship with God is supposed to be a relationship in which God is spoken of with all honor and our actions should honor Him.

4th Commandment - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy - In our relationship with God, there needs to be a special time set apart to focus on Him and to turn our minds toward Him and Him alone. God wanted a designated time that was devoted to strengthening every persons relationship with Him. This was a day that any other activity that would distract us or take away our focus from Him was stopped. God designated a distraction free day that He could have man's undivided attention. It was a day of rest from our labor because our labor requires so much of our attention. Our relationship with God is our priority relationship, when it is right, we can have healthy relationships with others.

- Now we see that the next 6 commandments have to do with our relationships with each other. Person to person relationships, husband & wife relationship and parent/child relationships.

5th Commandment - Honor thy father and mother - This commandment was given to man to strengthen the relationship between the parent and child. God established an order between the child and parent, giving the parent authority in the home and requiring that the child honor that parent with their words and actions. To honor is to respect, obey, and esteem someone. God is saying, in order for this relationship between parent and child to be strong the child must give honor to the parent.

6th Commandment - Thou shalt not kill - We are never to disregard the person to person relationship and decide to willingly take life away from someone else because we think we have the authority to make that decision.

7th Commandment - Thou shalt not commit adultery - This commandment has to do with the marriage relationship. The marriage covenant is a covenant that God has ordained. The husband and the wife are supposed to be loyal to each other and faithful to give their physical bodies only to each other. This also applies to those who commit adultery with someone else's husband or wife. Everyone is supposed to honor the marriage covenant whether it is your own or someone else's.

8th Commandment - Thou shalt not steal - This commandment is put in place to instruct us not to violate the person to person relationship by taking something that another person has. To steal is to take something that isn't given to you. This is a violation of the law of possession. When a person steals, they decide that they should have something that belongs to someone else and by doing this they disregard the person they take it from.

9th Commandment - Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor - Our neighbor is another person; any other person. To bear false witness is to lie. When we lie about someone or to someone we completely dishonor that person or people by stating something that isn't true. Our words cause others to be misled from the truth and God takes this seriously because He is the God of truth. When we lie about others or to others we violate the person to person relationship because we have made a statement claiming truth, but have actually attempted to deceive the ones we have lied to and misrepresented the ones we have lied about. The bible tells us that the devil is the father of lies, so when we bear false witness it is a case of us being obedient to the devil and disobedient to God.

10th Commandment - Thou shalt not covet (covet - to long to possess something that belongs to another person)- This commandment is a commandment to keep our desires under control. When we covet another person's possessions it is the beginning of our future actions of taking something from them. It is the beginning of jealousy. It is the beginning of discontent, it leads to killing, stealing, adultery and lying to get what we want. Notice that God is specific in giving examples with this commandment.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors house.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife.

Nor his servants, nor his livestock

Nor anything that is thy neighbors.

- To covet something is to desire something so strongly that you would disregard the other person that has something that you want, so that you can get something for yourself, no matter if it is unfair to the other person.
- Have you ever thought about this? - These were the foundational instructions that God gave us.
- All of these commandments are commandments from God to us, to give us explicit instructions on how we are supposed to handle our relationship with Him and with others. This is how important relationships are to God.
- The relationship principle was affirmed by Jesus in (Matthew 22) (Mark 12) and (Luke 10:27)
- Turn to (Matthew 22:35-40) "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind this is the first and greatest commandment and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

- On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
- This is how important our relationships are - God said and Jesus affirmed that everything that was commanded and everything taught by all of the prophets have to do with how we treat God and how we treat each other - Our relationship with God and our relationship with others.
- God continually gives man instruction in these areas because He knows that we have a big problem and if we can ever get a handle on this problem then we will please Him and we will be able to live obedient to Him. The problem is our SELFISHNESS. Our selfishness is the one thing that damages and sometimes destroys our relationship with God and each other.
- The first thing we need to do is recognize our own selfishness and ask God to help us to be unselfish.

As we talk about relationships we would do well to see how relationships began and our need for relationships.

We are going to focus on 4 main relationship groups.

1. Mans relationship with God
2. Husband and wife relationships
3. Parent/Child relationships
4. Person to Person relationships.

- We see that ever since God created man, He has emphasized our need for healthy relationships.
- In (Genesis 1) we see the creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in them.
- We see in (vs 24-29) the overview of the creation of man and animals.
- Notice in (vs 24-25) God made everything after its kind.
- (vs 26) God said let us make man in our own image after our likeness.
- Man was different than anything else that God had made, Man was made in the likeness of God - the reason that man was made in the likeness of God is so man could have a relationship with God, fellowship with God.
- Man was created to think differently than animals, man was created with different emotions than animals, Man was created with a soul.
- (vs 27) God created man in two forms or two models - Male and Female
- (vs 28) God gave man dominion over every living thing that He had created before - God established an order between man and animals and the order was that man would have authority over animals.
- Now in (Chapter 2) we see the details about the creation of man and we begin to see the relationships that man entered into.
- (Genesis 2:7) “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.”

- Notice, God didn't just create man, He formed him, he shaped him. Remember we were made in the image of God.
- But notice this next significant detail in (Genesis 2:7) After God formed man out of the dust of the earth - He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.
- I know some bible versions say "a living being" but I think "living soul" really lets us identify with what God did differently with man than any of his other creations.
- The breath of life that God breathed into man is a breath that can not be taken away. This breath of life gave man an inner self, a soul. This inner self will continue to live even when the outer body passes away. This Breath of Life "This Soul" begins to live synonymously in a person the minute they begin to live and the soul occupies the body of man and influences the actions of man. Animals and fish and birds were not given a soul, they were not given the Breath of Life, so they can not have the same relationship that we have with God.
- Sometimes the bible calls it the "Heart of Man", "the Spirit of Man" or the "Soul of Man", but we need to know that this innermost part of us is what makes us special. It is the Breath of God and everyone of us are ultimately judged according to what we have done with our soul while we were living in our body.
- It is most important part of us.
- Think about what Jesus said in (Matthew 10:28) "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
- You see our soul will never cease to be, it will either be eternally in heaven or eternally in hell. And God gave us the free will to choose.
- Notice (Genesis 2:8) God placed man in a specific place - The Garden of Eden. God put man in a place that would sustain man's every need.
- (Genesis 2:15) God gave man responsibility - to take care of the Garden of Eden. Next in (vs 16-17) God gave man rules. He gave man an opportunity to be obedient or an opportunity to disobey Him. And be punished.
- Every relationship has rules - we see this first in our relationship with God.
- Now we see a (key verse) - (verse 18) "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a help meet.
- "Help meet" is a ancient Hebrew expression that means "a second self"
- Up until this point we see that God had created the earth and the sea and saw that it was good and all the reproducing plant life and saw that it was good, the sun and the moon and saw that it was good, the fish in the sea and saw that it was good, and the animals of the earth and saw it was good but for man to be alone, God said it is not good.
- This is key for our study - God said that it is not good for man to be by himself. Man needs to have a meaningful relationship along with his relationship with God.
- (vs 19) For the first time we see what this man was named "Adam". Next we see that God gave Adam a job - This means that God had a relationship with Adam, he talked to Adam, he gave instructions to Adam.
- The job was to name all the animal and birds.

- But in this process we can see that Adam didn't see any animal or bird that he could have a meaningful relationship with. None of the animals were like him; "not even monkeys". None of the animals had a soul and none could communicate and feel and share with him.. Also he saw that each animal had a partner; a second self. He saw that there was a male and a female.
 - But for Adam there was not found a help meet.
 - So in (vs 21-25) God created a second self for man and Adam named her woman because she was taken out of man. This woman was brought to the man so that this man and this woman could have a relationship together and so both of them could have a relationship with God.
 - Notice in (vs 21-22) How woman was made. God put Adam to sleep and removed one of Adam's ribs and made woman out of the rib, and then he brought this woman back to Adam.
 - When God brought this woman "Eve" (Genesis 3:20) back to Adam it was to present her to Adam - this relationship was instituted and ordained by God. This is when Adam and Eve were married - God gave her and Adam took her. In (vs 23) Adam makes his first public statement in the bible. (vs 23) Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man."
 - Now listen to God's proclamation about this marriage relationship between man and woman that we see in (vs 24)
 - (Genesis 2:24) "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall become one."
1. We see that God put the marriage relationship in a place of importance above every other person to person relationship even the parent child relationship. The child is supposed to leave their parents and make their marriage relationship their priority relationship.
 2. He shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh. When the rib is joined back with the body then both the man who needed a rib and the woman who needed a body became complete. This is the picture of one flesh.
- We see here that God has given the husband and the wife something special; he has given them oneness. He has united man with his second self.
 - When God does this and man and woman become one flesh, he gives them something as a gift. He gives them the ability to join together physically in an expression of love and consummate their marriage.
 - Society today has labeled this action having sex, but this special act that God has given man and woman is a gift. It is an expression of their oneness, it is the closest two people can be and it is only given to husband and wife because they have been joined together to be one. God gave it to the husband and wife to strengthen their relationship, it is something that sets the marriage relationship apart from any other relationship and God takes it seriously when man decides that he can perform this act outside of marriage.

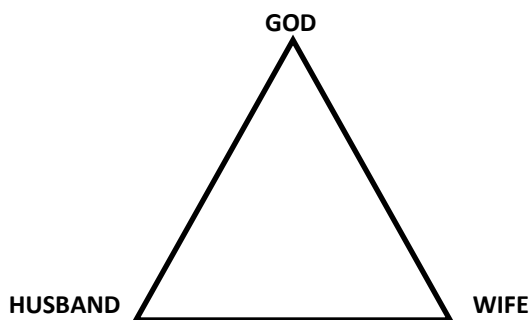
- This oneness that God has decreed in (Genesis 2:24) - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” This decree of oneness is showing us that when a person becomes married, they leave their father and mother as the primary relationship and their spouse becomes their primary relationship.
- To cleave unto your husband or wife is to become closer and more devoted to them.
- To become one flesh means that they become a single unit in society and they begin to function as one, not two.
- In the marriage relationship, God’s arithmetic is one plus one equals one. The husband and wife are supposed to make sure that they try to give their spouse everything that they would want themselves. We should want our spouse to be as happy and fulfilled as we want ourselves to be.
- A marriage relationship is not a competition to see what one person can get out of the relationship. When we compete, we are working against our competitor, but in marriage you are giving all your effort to make sure that your spouse is happy and fulfilled. If both husband and wife are doing this then the marriage is going to be successful. Both parties of the husband and wife relationship should be trying to out give the other.
- This oneness means that you are sharing a life together. You are sharing the good times and the hard times. And the reality is that if you are making your spouse happy and fulfilled then you will be happy and fulfilled because part of you is your spouse.
- The husband wife relationship is the picture of unity, two people joined together to make one person.
- Jesus echoed this command in (Matthew 19:5-6) “And said for this cause shall man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.”
- As we began to speak earlier about the oneness of husband and wife being represented by the exclusive physical intimacy that they are given to share, we need to realize that the bible tells us that this gift that God gives husband and wife is given so that they can represent their oneness to each other and strengthen their relationship.
- (1 Corinthians 7:1-5) This passage speaks about sex in the marriage relationship. Notice (vs 2) “to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife and let every woman have her own husband.”
- Notice here the use of the word “own” when we have something of our own. We claim it as ours, it is part of our personal property - “It’s mine”, “It’s nobody else’s”.
- This is also a command against polygamy or spouse swapping or open marriages. The spouse belongs to the other spouse.
- How many of us are comfortable in saying “My wife owns me” or “My husband owns me”? It makes us cringe to say such a thing, we would more likely say, “I am my own person, nobody owns me.”
- Notice as we go through these verses how God lets us see that in order for the marriage relationship to stay strong and beautiful, we have to unselfishly give up total ownership of ourselves because in marriage you have given yourself to your spouse. (vs 3) “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.”
- Due benevolence means - What you are supposed to or are required to give the person who owns something.

- In this case the bible is speaking about physical intimacy or sex in the marriage. This scripture as we will see is telling us that married believers are not supposed to sexually deprive their spouses.
- We will see that the bible says that celibacy is right for the single, but celibacy is wrong for married people.
- So we see this command in (vs 3) that tells the husband and the wife that they are supposed to give their physical selves to each other as an expression of their oneness and because they owe it to the other person based on their commitment to give themselves to their spouse.
- Now listen to (vs 4) as this is explained in even more detail. (vs4) “The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband, and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.”
- Are you shocked that we see this in the bible? We are clearly told here that when you give yourself to someone in marriage you are giving them power or authority over your physical body, not to abuse it but to enjoy it.
- We need to realize that in the marriage union the wife and the husband do not own their own bodies, they have agreed to share their bodies with the other person that owns them too.
- Now listen to (vs 5) and we will see the danger of disobeying this teaching of God, and realize that God knows us, he made us and he is giving these instructions so that we can have healthy marriage relationships (vs5) “Defraud ye not one the other” which means do not deprive your husband or wife of your physical body.
- Now we see an exception, we have a stipulation in this instruction. “Defraud ye not one the other except it be with consent for a time.” This means except by mutual consent and for a limited time.
- So what kind of time is the bible speaking about?
- (vs 5) goes on to say that the only time that you are supposed to keep yourself from one another is during a time of fasting and prayer.
- During the act of fasting a person is supposed to deprive themselves from any thing that gives them pleasure or fulfillment so that they can show God that they are focusing on him and him alone. During this time the married couple is supposed to mutually agree that they will not give themselves to each other so that they can devote themselves to their priority relationship which is their relationship with God.
- But notice the end of (vs 5) we see that when the time of fasting and prayer is over the husband and wife are instructed “and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency”
- This is an important instruction - We are told that after the spiritual interruption of fasting and prayer, the husband and wife are supposed to come together again and give themselves to each other. So that Satan will not bring temptation into the marriage because of one of the spouses lack of self control - incontinency means lack of self control.
- There has never been a marriage that was broken by adultery unless one of the spouses lost their self control and gave into the temptation of being with someone else. What God is trying to tell us is to make sure that we are fulfilling the physical and sexual needs of our spouse because the devil is looking for any area to tempt the husband or wife to break the oneness that God has given them. (Ephesians 4:27) “Neither give place to the devil” - do not give the devil a foothold in your life or your marriage. The devil is looking for an opportunity to break up the union of husband and wife. (1 Peter 5:8) tells us that our enemy the devil is walking around seeking whom he may devour. We are given those instructions because God wants to protect us.
- The bible tells us that marriage is honorable and we should treat it honorable. The husband and wife are given the gift of sexual intimacy so that they can strengthen their marriage and continually unselfishly give themselves to each other as a reaffirmation of their oneness.

- We need to be careful to keep the marriage relationship strong and secure and this area of sexual intimacy is one of the key areas. (Hebrews 13:4) “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled, but whoremonger and adulterers God will judge.” God is telling us how important our marriage relationships are to him.
- We don’t have to physically be with someone else to damage our relationship. The devil knows that men and women can damage their marriage relationship by fantasizing in their mind about another man or woman.
- Jesus says in (Matthew 5:27-28) “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”
- This is for women as well as men.
- I believe this is speaking about the fantasy thoughts that a person has about someone who is not their spouse or someone that is someone else's spouse.
- Pornography is the most common vehicle that is used to promote this kind of adultery and fornication. The devil knows if we feed our mind something that tempts us and we continue to focus our mind on it then we are going to fall into his trap.
- Jesus says that this fantasy or lusting is an act of adultery also. There is no marriage that is going to be strengthened by a husband or wife lusting after someone they are not married to.
- I know some would say, I just don’t have that desire because me and my spouse don’t even communicate, so I don’t have that strong desire to communicate with them physically.
- The bible addresses this also, so we need to see how the bible tells us to conduct ourselves in the marriage relationship so that the husband and wife will desire to be with each other and want to give themselves to each other.

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 - The marriage relationship is a union. We have read that God has said that these two have become one, so we can see that the marriage relationship represents one person made up of two people who have agreed to be one.
 - If there is anything that we know for sure, it is that a body has to communicate with itself. The leg cannot take a step unless the other leg rests and neither leg can do their job unless the mind sends a message to both of them that says walk. When the body does not communicate with itself, it can't do anything.
 - This is the part of marriage that I believe we need the most instruction with. We might think that the physical intimacy may be the part of marriage that people struggle the most with, but we need to understand that the reason that most people can't communicate physically is because they are not communicating verbally and emotionally.
 - A marriage relationship does not all of a sudden become bad. There is a common denominator in most every failed relationship. That common denominator is bad communication.
 - Definition of Communication - A sending or giving or exchanging of information.
 - Just like the one body communicates with itself, the two people who make up the one body must communicate with each other.
 - If you are going through this study and you are not married and you are saying this communication thing doesn't apply to me, you need to know that the success of every relationship that we have depends on the communication in the relationship. This exchange of information is vital for the relationship to work.
 - The reason that people go steady or date or are engaged before they are married is not for them to learn to be with each other physically, it is for them to learn how to communicate verbally and emotionally. The physical intimacy that we have been talking about earlier is not going to be an issue if the communication is good verbally and emotionally. God has designed us in a way that we are more free to express ourselves physically and give ourselves to each other physically when we have first given ourselves to each other emotionally.
 - There is more of a desire to give ourselves to someone we feel closer to and the only way to feel closer to someone is to know them better and the only way that we can know someone better is for us to communicate more with that person.
 - Whether you are dating or married or know that you may be in the future, you need to know certain things that will help your relationship be fruitful and successful.
1. The marriage relationship should consist of two people that have one thing in common, no matter if you have nothing else in common. The two people must be believers - They must both be saved.
 - When both people are saved in the marriage relationship then you will actually be able to communicate better because you will receive help from the one thing you have in common, which is God.
 - If the man and woman are both saved then the Holy Spirit is communicating with both of them and God is never going to tell the man or the woman something different. God is never going to contradict himself.

- The relationship of a man and a woman that are both believers is represented by a triangle. Draw a big triangle on your paper. The top point is God and the lower left and right point are the man and woman. It is God's love triangle.



- The husband and the wife can always communicate with each other back and forth but when they are both communicating with God and they are both growing closer to God then they are ultimately going to grow closer to each other.
 - (2 Corinthians 6:14) “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness.”
 - If both believers are truly seeking to grow close to God, they will absolutely grow closer to each other. (1 Peter 3:1-7) We are given different rules in marriage.
2. We need to understand that we are made differently and that you are not going to think the same way about everything, so we need to be able to communicate our differences.
- Most people think that the key to a good relationship is how well they get along. I think it is more important to disagree well, than it is to get along well. In order to disagree well we need to understand that we are made differently and we respond to things differently.
 - (1 Peter 3:7) “Likewise, ye husbands dwell with them “your wives”, according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered.”
 - Women and men have a different emotional make up.
 - Men are innately born with a protector/provider instinct. When they see a pattern they are prone to react immediately and try to solve the problem.
 - Women are innately born with a nurturing/compassionate instinct that drives them to not be reactionary but instead emotional.
 - Men are reactionary, they deal with stressful situations by using anger while women can deal with the same situation by expressing the emotions of sadness or crying.
 - It really would seem odd and out of place if they were to act the same.
 - The woman needs to know that the man needs this part of him reinforced. The man sees his role as protector provider and if the woman is always questioning his competency in this area then the man is not going to be secure in this role. The man needs to know that his wife looks at him as the man that is better than any other man. The man that has this reinforced will try harder to maintain this role.
 - The man needs to know that the woman has a strong need to be taken care of, even though the contemporary woman may not admit it.

- Consider how woman is made; she was made from the rib of man. The rib is the most protected bone in a mans body.
- Ask any woman what the most comforting feeling that she can have is and she will tell you “to feel safe & protected”.
- God gives us a picture of his order of communication in (Ephesians 5:22-33) This scripture gives us a picture of the marriage relationship and compares it to the relationship between the believer and Jesus.
- In (verse 22) we see that the wives are given a command to “submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.”
- We really hate the word submit don’t we? In (verse 25) husbands are given a command to love your wife also as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.
- Do you know that if the woman knows that the husband loves them so much he would give his life for them that they are more than willing to submit to him?
- This part of our bible study is about getting our marriage in God’s order. Read (Ephesians 5:22-33)
- As we discuss this we need to remember that God made the man and woman, so He knows how to make the relationship work best between them.
- In (vs 22-25) we see a specific instruction given specifically to the wife (vs 22) “wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as to the Lord.”
- In this day and age the word submit seems to be an offensive word, everyone wants to be equal in their authority but the bible specifically tells wives to submit themselves unto their own husbands.
- To submit to someone is to give yourself to someone; to give up yourself to someone. When we submit ourselves to someone, we are giving up our own desire to be in authority and we are agreeing to come under the authority of someone else. In this case the woman is commanded to willingly submit to her own husband. The submission is not the husband’s to command, it is the wife’s to freely give.
- We need to understand that God is establishing the order of authority in the home. Even though this it not what society says, God is saying this is the way to make marriage work.
- The thing that causes every woman to not want to submit to her husband is her own will to be in authority. When we put our own will over God’s will it is the greatest example of selfishness, after all, the thing that everyone wants is “to have their own way”, which means to have their own will be done.
- This verse ends by saying “as unto the Lord”. This means that as every Christian woman knows that they must submit to the Lord, they can’t truly do His will unless they obey his command to submit to their own husband. A wife that is not submitting to her husband is not submitting to the Lord.
- This verse is not implying that the husband is the master and his wife is the slave, the husband is not the dictator and the wife the oppressed person living in his world. This verse is given to us to establish order; God’s order. This is also not a command for the wife to do things that are against God because the husband tells her to.
- The order that God put in place is that the husband is supposed to be the head of the household, but the husband is supposed to submit to the authority of God, so even though we think the head of household is the husband, God actually tells us that the head of every household should be God. We are shown this as we read. (vs 23)

- (vs 23) “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the Savior of the body.”
- We are given the picture of Jesus and the church to show us how this order is supposed to work. The husband wife relationship has the same order as the relationship between Jesus and the church - “The church”, are those believers who have been saved by accepting what Jesus did for them.
- (vs 24) We see again that as Christians submit to Christ, the wives are to submit to their husbands.
- The submission of the wife should not be a hard thing for her to do if she knows that the husband is making decisions that are unselfish. Christ is our picture of unselfishness, He gave his complete life for our benefit.
- If the wife knows that the husband is consistently acting on behalf of what’s best for the wife and she can see that he has devoted his life to making sure that the wife is cared for and protected and taken care of in the most unselfish way, then the wife would be crazy not to submit to him because he is giving his life for her the way Christ gave his life for us.
- Any woman who would choose not to submit to the authority of a husband that is giving his life for her is truly a selfish woman who desires the power of the relationship so that they can have their own way.
- This is important for men to hear. This willing submission from the wife is a product of them seeing that you are not selfish in your actions. They need to see that you are always acting for the good of them and the family, not your own good.
- The husband needs to understand that this role of head of household does not mean dictator or slave driver or master, it means that you are the one that is easiest and most beneficial to follow because it is easy for them to see that you are devoted to their well being before you are your own.
- So now lets go to the husbands command. (vs25) “Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it”
- This command to love may seem like an easier thing to do than submit, but it isn’t. In order to truly show love it requires someone to continually give, and in order to submit only requires a person give up their authority over the other person.
- God instructed the husband not just to say they love the wife, but to show they love the wife, even up the point of giving their life for their wife.
- This love that the husband shows to this wife is a love that is a reflection of the love of Christ. (vs 26-27) We are told that Christ gave his life for us to sanctify us and cleanse us so that we could be part of that glorious body of Christ that God later described as the bride of Christ.
- Husbands are told to love their wives this way so that this same kind of union will be represented in their marriage and by the husbands act of unselfish love it actually sanctifies the wife in her role in the marriage and helps to wash her from her selfish desires to want to be the one that is always getting her way by trying to be the one in control.
- This love that the husband shows purifies the wife the same way Christ’s love purifies us, and in the same way that we sin by doing something that goes against what Jesus said and then realize that Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us, the wife will see she is doing something that goes against the husband and then realize, this man loves me so much he would do anything for me, even die for me and that causes her to leave she selfish position that she had taken.

- In (vs 28-29) Men are told to love their wives as their own bodies. “He that loveth his wife loveth his own body. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh but nourisheth it and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church”
- How should a man love his wife.
 1. Like Christ loved the church
 2. Like the man loves himself.
- What a great example - this is truly a picture of unselfishness. The bible told us that the husband and wife have been joined to make one body so the man is told to love his wife the way he loves himself.
- We love ourselves, no one has to tell us to feed ourselves, we do that instinctively, no one has to tell us to do things that make us feel good we continually want that for ourselves, no one needs to tell us to keep ourselves safe we instinctively do that. This is the way the husband needs to love the wife; with this subconscious instinctive love.
- We should want to do for our wives the way we do for ourselves.
- We should want them to get things they need and want the same way that we want to get the things we need and want. Why? Because we are in a relationship like Christ and the church. We are members of His body in the same way that the wife and the husband have joined together to become one body.
- (vs 31-33) Paul sums up this command for us by telling us this example of our relationship with Christ is the standard that we aspire to achieve in the husband wife relationship and he concludes with (vs33) “Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular love his own wife even as himself: and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”
- We need to know this is not a suggestion, this is the only order that we can live by that will absolutely produce a Godly fruitful marriage.

- One of the first things that I ask a prospective husband or wife or a couple that has problems in their marriage is “Do you love the other person?”
 - As we see in (Ephesians 5) God commanded the husbands to love their wives, we all know how important it is to have love in the marriage relationship.
 - Our first true sign of commitment in the dating relationship is when one of the people says those three words, “I Love You” hopefully they are met with the response “I Love You Too”.
 - Think about it, the relationship has to have this exchange before it can materialize into a long lasting relationship. That’s how important love is.
 - Without true love the marriage is in danger and can never be as fruitful as it should be.
 - Throughout the marriage relationship and even the dating relationship, this phrase “I love you” is continually repeated as a commitment or vow. Sometimes it is said as a pure expression of love, sometimes it is said in order to check the response of the person that you are telling it to, and sometimes it is said because we feel we need to comfort the other person.
 - We need to know also that this phrase “I love you” is used as a cover up. We think that we can say it when we don’t show it and it will make everything better.
 - What I think we really need to know that will help us in our marriage relationships, and dating relationships and our person to person relationships is what love really looks like and what love feels like so that we can identify it and work to strengthen it.
 - Why is love so important? Because everyone has a desire to be loved and if that person is not having that desire filled, then they will not feel fulfilled in the relationship and they will never truly be happy. We also have a desire to love someone, to feel this strong feeling towards someone that reinforces the feeling of completion when we are around them.
 - First of all we need to define love. The definition of Love - A powerful emotion felt for another person, manifesting itself in deep affection, devotion or sexual desire.
 - The Bible tells us to love one another, so we know if we use this definition of love, it doesn’t apply to all relationships; after all we know God doesn’t want us to express our love to all of our fellow church members and friends and family by expressing our sexual desire.
 - So we need to see that the bible speaks about three different types of love: Eros, Agape, Philos
1. Eros Love is a Greek term which means to desire or to long for. Eros is the name of the Greek god of love and it is referred to as erotic love. This love is a selfish kind of love and it is associated with sexual love. Eros love is based on the strong physical feelings that we have for someone and it is driven by our desire to fulfill our longing to feel something physically. (1 Corinthians 7:9) This kind of love usually develops during the 1st stage of a romantic relationship and if it is not tempered by the presence of the Lord, then it can become destructive because it is a possessive love that seeks to fulfill a fleshly desire and ultimately causes us to want to control or conquer someone else.
 2. Agape Love is the love that represents the divine love of the Lord. He had this love for his son Jesus and He also has it for all of mankind. (John 3:16). Agape love is an all inclusive love, an unselfish love, a love that is not based on words, but actions. Agape love is a giving love which makes it unique. It doesn’t ask for anything it only wants to serve and give and sacrifice. Jesus displayed this supernatural love on the cross. This love is an action and it is represented in (Romans 5:7-8)

3. Philos Love - This is the kind of love that you have for a friend or companion. It refers to loving someone like your brother or sister because you feel an attachment to them. This love is usually a product of shared experiences with someone else or something that you have in common. This is the kind of love that many Christians practice towards one another. This is an unselfish love also that makes you want to serve or do something for someone else. This love is the love that Jesus told us that we need to have for each other as friends and brother and sisters in Christ (John 15:12-19)

- So what kind of love does a marriage need to have? The marriage relationship needs to have a healthy blend of all of these.
 - It needs to be a Philos love that is the love that you have for a companion. It needs to have Agape love that is the love of giving and is actively trying to serve someone else by showing extreme unselfishness and it needs to be a love that fulfills the physical desires of both individuals which is Eros love.
 - So many times people mistake the love that God commands a man and woman to have in marriage or dating with one of these types of love when actually it requires a unique blend of all three.
 - The key to strengthening your love in your marriage is to find the kind of love that you are lacking in and work on that area.
 - A person without love can be an empty person, but a marriage without true love is always going to be an empty marriage.
 - In (1 Corinthians 13) God tells us what love is. I think this is one of the greatest tools that we can use to strengthen our marriage. What we need to do is use this scripture to measure our love. We can use it for our relationship with God, with our husband or wife or with our person to person relationships.
 - Notice that we didn't say parent/child relationships because the love that a parent has for a child unless they are truly a self absorbed, selfish person is a great picture of love because they are designed to care in such a way for the person that is a product of themselves.
 - Read (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)
1. (vs 4) Charity suffereth long - Love is Patient - Love doesn't have to have immediate gratification, this kind of love is willing to endure, it is willing to work, it is willing to go the distance.
 2. Love is kind - Love has a gentle spirit, it is giving, not mean, but shows kindness.
 3. Charity envieth not - Love does not envy - This love is not jealous of their spouse's good fortune or benefits, this love is happy for them not jealous.
 4. Charity vaunteth not itself - Love does not boast - This true love does not esteem itself over their spouse to say they are better.
 5. It is not puffed up - Love is not proud - This is arrogance, this true love is not arrogant in the relationship always pointing out how much better they are.
 6. (vs 5) Doth not behave unseemly - Love is not rude - Rudeness is an aggressive act of total disregard for the other persons feelings.
 7. Seeketh not her own - Love is not self seeking - True love is not selfish. All of these attributes of love can be based on this attribute.
 8. It is not easily provoked - Love is not easily angered - Love does not go to anger as the first emotion of disappointment.

9. Thinketh no evil - Love keeps no record of wrongs - Love doesn't keep score. This is one of the greatest problems in marriage, husbands and wives are keeping score. A husband and wife are on the same team, only opposing teams keep score.

10. (vs 6) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth - Love does not rejoice in evil but rejoices with the truth - This love celebrates the good and doesn't look for the bad.

- (vs 7) Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, it always protects, always trusts, always preserves.
- (vs 8) Charity never faileth - Love never fails.
- This kind of love is the kind of love that we need to aspire to have in our marriages and dating relationships.
- If your marriage has this kind of love it will not fail.
- We also need to remember not to become distracted in our marriages, by letting something replace that first love that we are supposed to have for our husbands or wife. (Revelation 2:4) is our example of where God was telling the church at Ephesus that they had left their first love.
- We see a great example in Jesus' letter to the church at Ephesus of how easy it is to think that you are doing the right thing and get so caught up in trying to do the physical things, that we fail to do those things with the right intent.
- We see here that Jesus compares his relationship with those in the church at Ephesus to the relationship that a man and woman have when they are in a love relationship together. This speaks to husbands and wives as well as those who have been dating a while.
- He says in (vs 2) "I know thy works and thy labour". There were works and labor in this relationship and many of us can also say this about our own relationship with our spouses. He says again in (vs 3) "they have borne, and hast patience and for my namesake hast laboured, and hast not fainted."
- Translating this verse, He is saying you have persevered through troubles and you have endured hardship while we have had our relationship, you have represented your position and you have not grown weary.
- But in (vs 4) we see that he condemned this church at Ephesus on one major thing. (vs4) "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." What does this mean? - "thou hast left thy first love"
- This doesn't mean that they didn't love Christ, it meant that they were not acting out of love towards him. They were still serving and doing but they were not motivated by their love. They had become motivated by their duty.
- This is huge so pay attention - this is what happens to so many marriages and even dating relationships that have lasted for years. The man and woman are still going through the motions and assuming their responsibilities and doing them, but their actions are not motivated by love, they are motivated by duty.
- What Jesus is actually saying is that you aren't acting toward me the way you were when you fell in love with me. You used to want to do for me and want to be around me and want to give to me and want to serve me because you loved me. You used to express your love to me, because you wanted me to know you loved me, but now you put your time in with me and you persevere through our challenges but you are not doing it to prove to me that you love me, you are doing it because you feel like you have to .

- What Jesus is saying is, “I can tell that you are doing those things without the zeal that you used to have when you fell in love with me.”
- I see this happening in marriages today. It’s as if we have begun to be mechanical in our relationships. We turn the marriage machine on in the morning and do all of the requirements and then turn it off at night once the day is completed and then turn it back on the next morning.
- This is not the way a marriage relationship is supposed to run but it seems to be common.
- We tend to get so caught up in the product that we think we are supposed to produce, whether it be raising children, or securing our finances or improving our homes, that we literally turn the marriage machine on and we stand at it doing our duty so that we can produce this product that we desire to have.
- This process might give you a product, but it will never truly give you happiness. What is missing? “LOVE”
- I’m not saying you don’t love each other, I’m saying that you are no longer using your love as the motivation for you works and it should be easy for us to see, because it feels different to do something because you want to instead of because you have to. Examples - Remember when you used to want to do things for the one you loved?
- Women - Maybe cooking something because you want to show an act of love, and you know that he will really love it.
- Men - Maybe fixing something because you know they really need it or want it, and you know that she will really love it.
- Giving gifts to each other because you know the other person would love to get the gift. This is different than the way people tend to give gifts today. They say, “I have to get them something because it’s Christmas or their birthday” instead of saying “I know they will love to get this and it will make them happy, so I want to get this gift for them.” The best gifts are the gifts that are given out of love not duty!!!
- This is what happened to this church at Ephesus. They didn’t fall out of love with Jesus, they just stopped acting out of love and started acting out of duty.
- Sometimes as our relationships mature with time, we begin to become so busy trying to fulfill all our responsibilities to the other person that we forget why we are responsible to them. We are responsible to them because we promised them to love them and they promised us that they love us. That is the first responsibility, to love them and act out of love.
- Ask yourself; are my actions towards the one that I say I love motivated by love or by duty?
- Now lets go back to (Revelation 2) Jesus was saying that this motivation of love is important to him. He condemns them because they have left their position of acting out of love.
- As it pertains to husband/wife relationships or dating relationships there is also another danger that can be put in the category of leaving your first love. This happens when you begin to make something else in your life a higher priority than the thing you say you love the most.
- Think about it, if your spouse sees that you would rather be doing something else that doesn't relate to them more than you do something that relates to them, what would they naturally think?
- When a hobby or a job or even another person brings you more excitement or anticipation or they see that your main focus had shifted from them to that other thing, they are going to see by your actions that they are not in that first place of love in your life.

- This doesn't mean that you can't have other interests in your life, but it does mean that we need to remember that we have vowed to give that person the first place of love in our lives. Would you want to know that you lost your priority as someone's first love? We need to know that the one we have vowed to love doesn't want this either.
 - What do we do if this happens? Go to (Revelation 2:5) "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen and repent, and do the first works."
 - Jesus tells them to remember where you started. You started on the mountain of love, but you have fallen. Remember what made you fall in love with that person, remember what you felt, remember when you wanted to please that person, remember when you wanted to do for that person, remember when you wanted to give to that person, remember when you expressed your love to that person freely?
 - And then Repent!!!! - This means change your direction. Stop falling off the mountain of love and start climbing the mountain of love to get back to the place where you were when you realized this person is the one for me, the person is my soulmate. This person is what I am looking for and I have found them.
 - This is going to require effort, it always takes effort to climb but when you get back to the top you will see the beautiful thing that you saw, when you realized I love this person and they have my first position of love.
1. Do the works of love, let your actions be motivated by love not duty.
 2. Make sure that person you love knows that they are in first position.

- As we finish our bible study on the marriage relationships, I would like you to listen to the part of the wedding called the “affirmation”. This is when the husband and wife affirm their intentions to each other, to God, and to the witnesses.
- I will ask you to affirm your intentions by saying “I will”. Will you have this (woman/man) to be your wedded (wife/husband) to live together after God’s ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love (her/him), honor (her/him) and keep (her/him) in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep yourself only for (her/him) so long as you both shall live?
- These areas of commitment are key areas in having a fruitful marriage relationship.
- We have already talked about loving them - we need to remember that they have the first position of love over any other human, only God is in front of them.
- We are committing to show them love, not just say that we love them.
- Now lets talk about honoring your husband or wife.
- To honor is to respect someone, to speak highly of someone, to reverence someone.
- This is key in every marriage. Every person wants to be honored and if they are dishonored and disrespected then they can grow resentful.
- Part of honoring is acknowledging the other person and recognizing their role in the marriage.
- In todays Christian marriages, I don’t think the husband and wife do enough to acknowledge the other’s contributions to the marriage. Some of this can come from this tendency to keep score in our marriages, always dwelling on our own contribution to the marriage.
- We don’t compliment enough. If anyone should be complimenting your husband or your wife it should be you. Everyone wants to be acknowledged, maybe not publically but absolutely in the intimate marriage relationship.
- Complimenting helps to reinforce the strengths of the person you are complimenting. It’s not just words, it is an acknowledgement saying “I notice what you are doing” and you are doing it great.
- Something else that we need to know is how to take a compliment. If nothing else, just say thank you, don’t try to disprove the compliment that your spouse has given you or it will make someone less eager to compliment you because they think they are going to have to debate you over the compliment.
- Remember part of honoring is acknowledging.
- (Read 1 Peter 3:1-7)
- (vs1) Tells wives to be in subjection to their husband, this means submissive. We have already studied (Ephesians 5) where wives are told to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord and husbands are told to love their wives .What we need to know is if you are doing this then you are honoring your husband by obeying the order that God put in the marriage.
- And in (1 Peter 3:7) we read - “Likewise ye, husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life: that your prayers be not hindered.”

- The husband needs to continually put the wife on the pedestal of honor in the home. The husband has been given the position by God as the head of the household but this is not a power position, it is an accountability position. The husband is suppose to notice things in his marriage and live with his wife according to the knowledge that he gains by noticing things. What makes her happy, what makes her sad, what encourages her and what upsets her. Husbands are suppose to notice the things about her that nobody else notices, and then live together according to that knowledge. This is a way to honor your wife.
- The wife is supposed to reverence her husband as to the position that God gave him and if she does he will naturally try harder to maintain her reverence.
- This is the way God said marriage is going to work best, no matter what society today says.
- If this mutual honor is implemented in the home it will pass down to the next generation in the home.
- So now we know about loving and honoring so lets talk about keeping our spouse in sickness and in health.
- Keeping means “to take care of”, “to watch over”, “to guard”.
- This is one of the most comforting things about marriage, to know that there is a person devoted to your well being, whether things are good or not good, whether you are sick or well, whether you are facing challenges or everything is going your way.
- This goes back to an unselfish love that we are commanded to have that causes us to love someone like we love ourselves. If your spouse doesn’t know that you are devoted to their well being, to take care of them, to watch over them and to guard them from anything that could hurt them then they are going to feel insecure about having you as a spouse.
- Now lets talk about this last thing that we said we would do. “Forsaking all others, keeping yourself only for them” This speaks about faithfulness in the marriage. This is so important (Hebrews 13:4) “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”
- This means marriage should be honored by everyone. The husband and the wife should honor the marriage covenant and everyone else should honor the fact that some other person is someone else’s husband or wife.
- It tells us that the marriage bed should be undefiled, which means the sanctity of sexual relationship in the marriage is a huge point of honor. This sexual relationship between husband and wife is something that those two people share and it is exclusive, it is important and no one else should ever be brought into this special place.
- God has always declared that this is one of his commands to us (Exodus 20:14) “thou shalt not commit adultery”. In the Old Testament law (Leviticus 20:10) both parties are to be put to death. (Matthew 5:27-32) Jesus speaks about adultery. (Matthew 19:19) Jesus speaks about adultery.

- So giving your spouse the first position of love.
- So complimenting your spouse to honor them.
- Acknowledging the things they do.
- Reverencing them in their role in the marriage.
- Noticing what they do and what makes them happy or sad.
- Taking care of your spouse, watching over them, and guarding them from anything that may harm them.
- And keeping yourself for them and giving them the exclusive sexual relationship that only the husband and wife share and not violating it.
- These are all things that are key to having a great marriage relationship.
- Every husband and wife naturally desire these things and you want to be sure that you are providing these things for your spouse so the devil doesn't tempt your spouse in an area that you have chosen to be deficient in.
- Remember those vows!!
- I _____ take thee _____ to be my wedded (wife/husband).

To have and to hold from this day forward,

For better for worse

For richer for poorer

In sickness and in health

To love and to cherish

Until death do us part.

- We make these vows to our spouse and we make them to God. A vow is a covenant promise.
- The marriage vow is the marriage promise and it is a sacred promise. It is a vow that you honor even when it requires a lot of sacrifice to honor it.
- Things that you need to make sure of before you make this vow:
 1. If the person that I am making this vow with a saved person - Will we be equally yoked together by our belief (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 2. Does the person I am marrying feel strongly about the need to worship God consistently (Hebrews 10:24-25) "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another and so much more as ye see the day approaching." This applies to Christian marriage. Husbands and wives should first and foremost be encouraging each other spiritually.

- A. You want your spouse to be spiritually strong and spiritually obedient. Even though both have a lot of obligations, you want to make sure that you never lose focus of your spouse's spiritual temperature. A husband or wife that is close to God and listening to God and worshipping God and seeking God is a spouse that is going to be led by God. You may have differences but you will have your walk with God in common and if you are both walking with God you will be walking together.
- B. You need to be faithful to pray together and be comfortable talking to God together. There is a confidence that comes when you know that your spouse is faithfully praying.
- C. You need to make sure that you have a worship plan for your family and then as husband and wife, you need to be the examples.
- These spiritual issues are important and they will be the strength that you will be able to have that non-Christian couples don't have.
 - In (Colossians 3) we are given these instructions:
 - (vs17) "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"
 - (vs 18) "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."
 - (vs 19) "Husbands love you wives and be not bitter against them."
 - If you are a Christian wife or a Christian husband, you are a Christian first and a husband or wife second. Whatever you do and whatever you say, do it and say it in the name of Jesus. Represent him in your marriage. (Colossians 3:23) "And whatsoever ye, do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men." We are actually serving the Lord by being good husbands and wives. I am supposed to be a good husband because the Lord commands me as his servant to be a good husband.
 - As we see Paul tell the wives to submit unto your own husbands as it is fit in the Lord, we need to realize that the wife is accountable to God first then her husband. She is supposed to submit to her husband but if her husband is telling her to sin then she is accountable to God first not to sin. That is why it is important for both husband and wife to be walking with the Lord, so there is no difference between them in what they consider sin.
 - Next in (Colossians 3:19) Husbands are told to love their wives and be not bitter against them. Husbands are not supposed to have an attitude of harshness and bitterness with their wife. In some relationships you may see the husband that is seeing himself as the general of the family. The alpha male that is shouting orders because he is in authority. Sometimes people in authority get angry or frustrated at the people around them if things aren't going their way and they yell at them or continually fuss at them or talk down to them or criticize them or speak harsh to them. This is what the bible is calling "being bitter against them".
 - Men are commanded to show love, not bitterness, if a man is showing bitterness instead of love, he may get the authority he wants but he will not get the respect. God wants the wife to want to be submissive to the husband not have to be because he is a tyrant. The woman is made to be attracted to a man that has a loving authority in the home that is acting as protector and provider.
 - In a lot of homes today there has been a role reversal, the woman has assumed the role as the dominant spouse and she is the hard one, the one that is acting bitter. This is also a problem. First all the man is naturally going to resent her because she has assumed the authority but then it will continually grow into a deeper resentment because he begins to feel humiliated in his position.

- No one likes getting treated harshly, husband or wife, and both need to know that they are equally valuable in this relationship, they are two people who have become one so it doesn't make sense to treat the other person harshly because you are in essence making yourself weaker.
- Remember, God brought Eve to Adam after he took Eve out of Adam and Adam said "Now this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh".
- God presented Eve to Adam because it was not good for man to be alone - God made a helpmeet for Adam "a second self" and at the same time Adam became "a second self" for Eve because she needed a helpmeet also.
- Man was commanded in the marriage relationship in (Genesis 2:24) to leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. This means that as a man and woman are married then they become each others priority relationship.
- We learned that God gave the man and woman who became one by marriage the most special way to express that oneness. He gave them physical intimacy, which we call a sexual relationship. In this relationship the husband and wife can share each other physically and express their love and their bond together. This relationship is reserved for marriage and marriage only because it is the special bond that God gave that represents them as one flesh.
- Another expression of oneness is the children of the marriage, which are a result of the husband and wife coming together to become one. Think about it, the result of this action of oneness is that a child is produced and this one child is made of two parts, the husband and the wife.
- We read in (1 Corinthians 7) that when a man and woman become husband and wife they actually give ownership of themselves to their spouse, and they are not supposed to deprive each other unless they are both consenting to focus on their relationship through fasting and prayer and then they are commanded to come together again so they will not be tempted outside of their marriage.
- We learned that the wife is supposed to submit to her husband and the husband is supposed to love his wife, and that this works if the wife knows that the husband loves her so unselfishly that he would completely give himself for her best interest, then she will gladly submit to someone who always is looking to give to her.
- We learned that it's important to express your love to each other and that you need to be careful not to leave your first love. You need to remember that first position of love belongs to your spouse before any other human being, no one wants to be second. This love is a combination of Eros love, Philo love and Agape love. Eros love is physical and fulfills our desires, Philo love is that companion love that binds you together as companions and Agape love is an unselfish giving love.
- Unselfishness is the key to a good healthy Christian marriage, trying to out serve one another and showing your love to each other. Expressing your love, encouraging and complimenting each other and giving to the other person because you truly want them to be happy.
- God designed marriage between a man and a woman to be something that brings glory to him. Is your marriage bringing glory to God?
- Take this time and pray for your marriage, pray for someone else's marriage, or pray that when you do get married, that you will have all these things that God wants you to have.