

“WALK WORTHY” (IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY)

2/2/25 (#13) * PASTOR LEE**

- **Recapping:** we are now in our 2nd week, within our Ephesians’ Study, in which we are focusing on marriage and our relationships. This following passage is foundational:

Eph 5: 18-27 - -but be filled with the Spirit, (19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church His Body, and is Himself, its Savior. (24) Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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) so that He might present the Church Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- **You may be single with a realistic or an idealist view of marriage....you might be married experiencing the goodness of marriage or not...perceptions and experiences are all over the map...but the vision, as Pastor Lee exclaims, is something beautiful. He continues: Today...would you let God do a new thing in your life?!**
- **Such a thing will start *in your heart*when our heart is right with God...We can then turn toward our spouse. Marriage is spiritual!....it cannot be fixed without the Spirit of God in us. This is a theme building throughout Paul’s letter....given all of His Gifts- -the choice to completely submit to Christ...to be “all in”....is crystal clear! And, thereby, you are filled with the Spirit- -He will guide and help us..in our lives and our marriages!!**
- **On a day to day basis, in the Spirit, WE NEED TO BE IMITATORS OF GOD! WALK IN LOVE AS AS CHRIST LOVED US! (Eph 5:1)**

- **He sacrificed for Us.....modeling what we should do in our own lives. That sacrifice embraces not only relationships, but live styles, temptations, etc. (“sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness”). Without that kind of sacrifice, we cannot ‘WALK WORTHY’ in love with our spouse or in any other of our human relationships.**
- **In order for us to effectually heal our families and/or our spousal relationships, we must be repentive and, again, in the Spirit! Within this, God can change hearts...relationships can thrive and fruits of the Spirit will show themselves in your lives.**
- **Then and only then, we can begin to ‘submit to each other out of reverence for Christ’. (Eph 5:21)**

- **What is submit? To come under one another?...be accepting of another as more important?...or placing great value in their opinions? Here is a sampling of the many references to 'submitting' in the Bible:**
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James 4:7 - -Submit yourselves, therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

(Not so simple....not 'half-hearted...not 'picking and choosing' when convenient.....not rationalizing....not allowing 'cultural takeover' but complete submission to Him!)

Heb: 13-17 - - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and without groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

(Those who lead...in government, in business, in relationship, etc....with that responsibility, ALL will be held in account!...how "freeing" for the one submitting!...particularly in the context of "submitting to one another") ((Be careful of the general wave/mindset in our culture to avoid submission absolutely))

- **NOTE: Submission does NOT mean acceptance of physical or emotional abuse! Not for any reason! Loving a spouse is antithetical to this kind of behavior! Remember, JESUS IS OUR MODEL!**
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Phil 2:3-9 - - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ, Jesus, (6) Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled Himself by being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him a name that is above every name.....

(This correlates, in the context of submission, with our relationship with Jesus. In our so submitting, we become a 'visual expression' of what God is doing in this world...and even through our marriages!)

- **Back to Eph 5:22-24 re: wives....'submit to your own husbands, etc.'....there are further biblical citations:**

Col 3:18 - Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord

1 Peter 3: 1-2 - Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some not obey the Word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

1 Cor 11:3 - - But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

Titus 2:5 - - To be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

1 Tim 2:11- - Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.

- **All of the above reflects an order to the universe God designed/wills.**
- **Here's a critical and helpful passage that we will pick up again next week:**

Gen 1: 26-28 - - Then God said, "let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creepy thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created Him; male and female He created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- **This is a GOOD thing!!!! "Let THEM have dominion" (over the world!!!), being ONE, together.....take on the world!....be fruitful with children!...a blessed 'togetherness'! God gave Adam a gift....and Eve....and us. A covenant between us and God.....be cognizant of this gift AND also be cognizant of Satan and the effects, sometimes blurred over time, that he can have! Adam and Eve were our great example and we are all subject to the same temptations as well as life/relationship challenges.**

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- **That's why its so important, as Paul proffers at the open of Ephesians...that is... to remember how good our God is....thats the Voice that whispers into our ear!**

Gen 3:16- - I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire will be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.

(All related to The Fall...first, women's painful child birth!.....a parallel applies to men and their work. Significantly also, there is a tension in which the husband seeks to dominate the wife and the wife seeks to dominate the husband.)

- So there IS strife....and it manifests itself still further in the world culture that 1. Pushes a distorted form of dominant feminism.....and, 2. Historical Male chauvinism.
- So God, again, creates an 'order'...one in which the man *loves, cares for, protects and is responsible* for his wife....loving their wives (including sacrificially) as Christ loves the Church.

IMITATE CHRIST

WALK WORTHY IN LOVE

SUBMIT OUT OF REVERENCE TO GOD