

40 DAYS; 40 NIGHTS & 40 YEARS



Ephesians 5:21-33

The Most Cherished Belief of Our Age

- “All you need is love, love is all you need...” Beatles
- The yield of the belief is 5 out of 10 marriages are ending – including evangelical marriages.
- Clearly: Love is NOT enough.
- Ephesians 5:21-33
 - LOVE for the wife is VITAL: Got it.
 - RESPECT for the husband is VITAL: Don't got it.
- The Washing Machine Dance or the Crazy Cycle!
 - Without love from him, she reacts without respect; without respect from her, he reacts without love.
 - Easily think: I married the wrong person.

Now Hear This Both of You!

- Our Submission to Christ gives us very Clear First Priorities and *It's NOT our Spouse!*
- Eph.4:23-24.
 - I am to be made new in the attitude of my mind.
 - I am to put on the new self created to be like God by the inner working of TRUE righteousness and holiness.
- Consider this: This conflict may be shaped just FOR you!
- What triggers unloving, unrespecting , out of balance reactions?

- **Man: Look Honey! I think those earrings are what you're looking for. She condescending: No they aren't. Those are yellow gold and I don't like yellow gold. I want white gold.**
- **Wife greet husband as he gets home and wants to tell him of news learned when visiting a friend. He cuts her off: Don't bother me. Traffic was a nightmare. I just want to kick back and watch the news until dinner.**
- **Husband and wife disagreement (usual one) She wants to talk it out, he clams up. She badgers to share his feelings. He picks up phone and is soon lost in a game – All unloved and disrespected.**

Life and Marriage Changers

1. Women are commanded – RESPECT even if you feel unloved. 5:33
2. Men are commanded – LOVE even if you feel disrespected. 5:33
 - *“Do not be foolish understand what the Lord’s will is.” 5:17*
3. DECIDE to believe no matter what she does not have evil intentions.
4. DECIDE to believe no matter what he does not intend, deep in his heart, ill will.
5. DECIDE to be GOOD WILLED. Eph. 4:17-23

Code of the Sexes 4:25

- **Code Defined: “What I say is not what you hear and what you think you heard is not what I meant at all.”**
- **Wife complaining, criticizing, crying – code reveals: Do you see me? Do I matter to you? Do you love me?**
- **Man speaking harshly, abruptly or maybe not at all – code reveals: Don’t you have respect for me?**
- **James 4:1-2 What cause fights and quarrels? Your desires within? Want don’t have. Kill, covet, don’t get. Quarrel & fight. Where’s God?**

Love and Respect Golden Rule

- The wife should respect her husband as she wants to be loved.
- The husband should love his wife as he wants to be respected.
- After 40 Days and 40 Nights have we reached 40 Years of Marriage. What single factor stands out as the reason for longevity?

_____ Having enough money

_____ Attending church regularly

_____ Spending enough time together

_____ A loving & respectful feel to most conversations

Blessing Gives Birth to Blessing

- “You **MUST** no longer live separated from the life of God due to hardening hearts, lost sensitivity, indulging in impurity and craving even more.

YOU WON'T FIND CHRIST THAT WAY.

- You **ARE** taught to develop a new attitude, to put on a self like God, expressing righteousness and holiness.” 4:17-24
- He who designed marriage and designed you will help you. Talk to him regularly. Learn also to be still and know his steady, quiet voice. “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

Phil.4:13

Do you have your heart set on Christ?

Do you have your heart set on doing the work of marriage?

Does your spouse know this? How?

God designed your salvation and marriage. Both require love and faithful work.

So What About It? How You Doing?