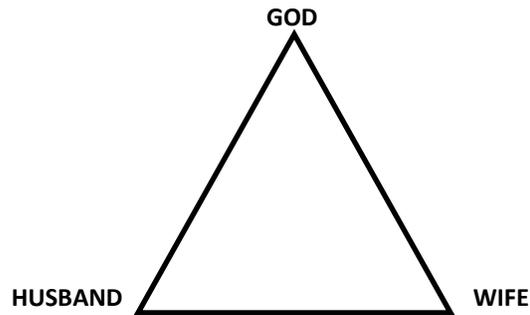


- I know some would say, I just don't have that desire because me and my spouse don't even communicate, so I don't have that strong desire to communicate with them physically.
  - The bible addresses this also, so we need to see how the bible tells us to conduct ourselves in the marriage relationship so that the husband and wife will desire to be with each other and want to give themselves to each other.
  - 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 problem 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.