

“Toward Marital Harmony”

What do you do when one of your “problem people” is your husband or wife?

- I. The Big Three Questions
 - A. Do you love_____? You did at one time. Try to remember when and why. Pray for them.
 - B. Are you willing to make an effort to better meet their needs?
 1. **Ephesians 5:28&29** The basic need of a wife is to be cherished.
 2. **Ephesians 5:30** The basic need of a husband is to be respected.
 - C. Do you believe that God is able to heal/improve your marriage? **Philippians 4:19**
- II. The Issue of Submission
 - A. **Ephesians 5:21** We should submit one to another.
 - B. **Ephesians 5:22-24** The wife should submit to her husband because he is the head of the family. “You wives must learn to adapt yourselves to your husbands as you submit yourselves to the Lord.” **Ephesians 5:22** (Philips translation)
 - C. **Ephesians 5:25-27** The husband should submit to his wife because he represents Jesus to her and Jesus gave Himself to the church. (A woman = A church)
- III. A Man Needs a “Help Meet”
 - A. **Genesis 2:8** Adam is created alone => the first “not good thing”
 - B. **Genesis 2:20-23** God creates a “help meet” for Adam.
 - C. God gave you a wife to help you.
- IV. Heirs Together **1 Peter 3:7**
 - A. Dwell with your wife according to knowledge. Learn how to make her happy.
 - B. Giving honor to the wife - cherish her.
 - C. Recognize that you are a team and heirs together of the grace of life.
 - D. Because the husband has the unique role of representing Jesus to his wife (**Ephesians 5:25-27**), he needs to understand that mistreatment of his wife can affect his relationship with God: “that your prayers be not hindered”.
- V. What does mutual submission have to do with reverence for Christ?
 - A. The Sabbath and Marriage are under attack by Satan. Why does he hate them?
 1. The Sabbath tells us who God is: the Creator. **Genesis 2:2&3**
This sets God apart from false gods. **Psalms 96:5**
 2. Marriage also tells us who God is: Love. **1 John 4:8**
This shows us that man’s basic need is love in relationship (**Genesis 2:24 & Ephesians 5:30-32**) and fits the description of Christ the bridegroom coming for us, His bride. (**Revelation 19:7-9**)