

## HOW TO HAVE A GROWING MARRIAGE, PART 2

### EPHESIANS 5:21-33

#### Ephesians "What I Do" part 7

Jeff and Sherri Wall

**WIVES:** "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything." *Eph. 5:22-24 (NIV)*

#### HOW TO DEVELOP THE ATTITUDE OF RESPECT

##### An example to empower your respect

The way the Church loves Christ

"As to the Lord" – This is the #1 key to a great marriage

##### Barriers to respect:

"There's nothing to respect"

"But I disagree"

"Our marriage might not last"

"Then he'll never change"

"Wives, fit in with your husband's plans; for then if they refuse to listen when you talk to them about the Lord, they will be won by your respectful, pure behavior. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words." *1 Pet. 3:1 (TLB)*

##### Reasons to motivate your respect

God commands it

My husband needs it

I need it

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." *Rom. 15:7 (NIV)*

##### Actions to show your respect

1. Prayerfully release my expectations and "rights" back to God.
2. Decide to totally accept him.
3. Check out my own faults first

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" *Matt. 7:3 (NIV)*

4. Focus your thoughts on the positive

"Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected." *Phil. 4:8 (NCV)*

5. Tell him and show him.

#### **Unhealthy "respect"**

Resignation – When I blindly follow

Flattery – Faking respect to get what I want

**HUSBANDS:** *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”* Eph 5:25-27

## HOW TO DEVELOP THE ATTITUDE OF SACRIFICE

### Examples to empower your sacrifice:

The way that Christ loves the church  
The way that I love myself

*“In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, for we are members of His body.”* Eph. 5:28-30 (NIV)

### Reasons to motivate your sacrifice:

It helps my wife to grow in Christ!  
It draws her towards me!  
It makes me happier!

### Barriers that hinder our sacrifice:

“My needs will go unmet.”  
“My sacrifice will go unrecognized.”

### Actions to show your sacrifice

1. Pray for an attitude of humility.
2. Start with the little things  
The BIG sacrifice... Jesus died for the church  
The DAILY sacrifice... Jesus cares for the church  
The daily sacrifice is often harder to make than the big sacrifice!

*“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!”* Phil. 2:8 (NIV)

3. Recognize my responsibility to be a Spiritual Leader!

The one responsibility I cannot ask my wife to take for me is the responsibility to be the spiritual leader in our family.

This answers the question... “Who gets things started?”

### Unhealthy “sacrifice”

When I’m giving in order to get.  
When sacrificial love turns into martyrdom.

### Question... HOW DO YOU CHANGE YOUR SPOUSE?! Eph. 5 :31-33

What are some of the methods that we generally try?

You cannot make someone change!

You can invite someone to change!

The most powerful way you can invite your husband to change is RESPECT

The most powerful way that you can invite you wife to change is SACRIFICE

Our #1 struggle with respect and sacrifice... they make us VULNERABLE

### **WHEN WE ALLOW CHRIST TO WORK IN OUR MARRIAGES**

- It makes us happier!
- We give encouragement to the body of Christ.
- We give a witness to the world around us.

### **How the attitudes of respect and sacrifice make a difference in...**

- Making Contact – Communication
- Making Decisions – Problem Solving & Decision Making
- Making Love – Sex
- Making the Bed – Roles, who does what
- Making Mistakes – When your spouse errs or sins
- Making Peace – Handling our Differences

### **Home Work**

Wives: Make a list of things you respect about your husband at least one for every year you have been married.

Husbands: Write down three small sacrifices you can make for your wife this week and then do them!