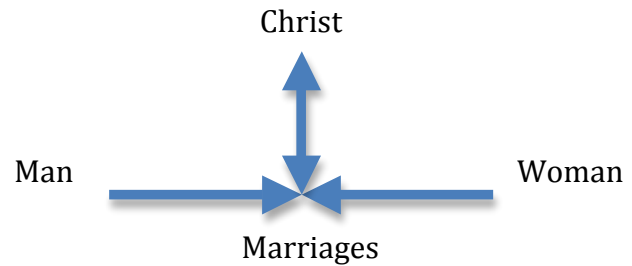


Ephesians 5:31-32
Where Marriages Meet
For this reason a man shall leave his
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Ephesians 5:31-32 Where Marriages Meet

*31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Watch the Video

Review of First Class

One of the rules of our Marriages is: to practice (APTMYS) Avoid Passing The Mirror to Your Spouse Syndrome

Remember the Three *slow* killing poisons in our Marriages, to Christ and our spouse

- #1-Self Centeredness, whether towards Christ or our spouse
- #2-Not serving our marriage partner, whether Christ or our Spouse
- #3-Doing Marriage like the World, and we covered briefly how....

Christians often forgive **as** the world forgives

Christians often live an unsanctified lifestyle and destroy their marriages **as** the world does

And in this session:

Christians often define love **as** the world does: primarily as a feeling and for self fulfillment

Thoughts relevant to Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified Life by GRACE:

- 1-Grace is and means: "God's kindness and favor given, knowing that this act of love may not be returned in kind. But only Grace received by faith is Grace experienced, and if experienced then it must be extended to others."
- 2-Grace is not: "If any merit is required or demerits are recognized in the object of Grace, then Grace ceases to Grace; if any additions to the cross are added, then grace ceases to be Grace."
- 3-Do you have a hard time forgiving? Then you do not understand your forgiveness from God.
- 4-Do we understand God's willingness and predisposition to forgive due to the totality of the Cross?
- 5-Do we understand the Grace of God due to the totality of the cross regarding all sin?
- 6-Do we understand Grace ceases to be Grace if GOD or we are compelled to withdraw it in the presence of human failure and sin?
- 7-Do we understand **The Seven Pillars of Grace**? If we do we will be able to apply Ephesians 4:32: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even **as** God in Christ forgave you.
- 8-Do we understand the difference between forgiving and comforting, yet allowing time, testings with observation to prove and (re)-establish trust and faithfulness?
- 9-Do we understand that even though our spouse may love us that they have a sinful nature that is always crouched (as a lion) to control them and take them out of a sanctified life?
- 10-Have you involved your spouse, your friend, your confident in the areas of where you need sanctification and separation from what tempts you to sin?

Great forgiveness (and there is no other kind) Leads to Great Love.....

Week Two Love as a Bondservant

Our Marriages (Marriages: Speaking of our Marriage to Christ & our Marriage to our Spouse) grows with:
Forgiveness and a Sanctified Life

Forgiveness and a Sanctified life in our Marriages leads to...***Loving as a Bondservant***

Key verse: Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as 'dear' (*the verbal adjective of Agape!*) children. **2** And walk in love, **as Christ** also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Love in the arsenal of a Bondservant

There are many words for love in the Bible

- 1-Agape:** Agape love, in its purest form, requires no payment or favor in response, puts the other first, driven by need and obedience, no regard for self, feelings per se do not drive this love.
- 2-Phileo:** is to be distinguished from *agape* in that *phileo* more nearly represents "tender affection."
- 3-Storgee:** is the love one has for a dependent: A child, a loved one (used with Phileo in Romans 12:10 be '*kindly affectionate (philos friendly with storgee)*' one to another with brotherly love (*Phileo*)
- 4-Eros:** is Not just sensual love, but it actually describes all emotional love; the feeling of love. This emotional love is the primary love of our culture, and of Christians who love in marriage **as** the world does.

Only a Bondservant who loves Jesus and loves His house will use these different loves fully and correctly!

How is love experienced?

Love can be a feeling, but feelings generally follow some sensory input or action or words. The sensory driven feelings may be from a past or present experience good or bad that does not exist anymore!

Can Multiple forms of love come forth in one event? Yes

For example: Matthew 26:39 He (*Jesus*) went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will (*may we add not as I feel*), but as You will."

Couple this refusal to do as He willed or as he *felt* with what He knew would come after loving as a Bondslave:

Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him (*yet future*) endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Great joy awaited His painful obedience and He knew that Joy would come after suffering! There you have the feeling that follows the act of love. The cross of obedience, and knowing that joy would follow.

So we are to 'Love as a Bondservant', what is a Bondservant?

Deuteronomy 15:16-17: 16 And if it happens that he (*the debt free slave*) says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he **loves** you and *he loves* your house, since he prospers with you, 17 then you shall take an awl and thrust *it* through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

Principle: Our choice of who we serve must always be based on love. Love for our Master who set us free or our love for ourselves.

Question: Whom did you ever save from everlasting fire?

What is the Love that comes into a bondservant who has been forgiven and how do they get it?

Luke 7:47 Therefore I *Jesus* say to you (*the Religious guy*), her (*the sinner already justified by faith*) sins, which are many, are (*already prior to this*) forgiven, for she **loved** much (*abundant in number, amount*). But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little (*few in number, small in amount*)."

Principle: Our love for God is measured in proportion to our understanding of 'forgiven much'.

Our Understanding of 'forgiven much' will be displayed in our loving much. The bondservant of Deut. 15:16-17 loves much.

Are there examples that model the love of a bondservant for his master?

The Love of Jesus for his Father while in the *form* of a bondservant.

How is the Son a bondslave since He was never in debt? Answer: By choosing to be *like* one.

Philippians 2:5-9: 5 Let this mindset be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, which is His eternal nature, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God (*did not clutch & defend His deity because He has taken on humanity*), 7 but made Himself of no reputation (*emptied Himself of His divine privileges, and depended upon the Father & the H.S.*), taking the form of a **bondservant** and coming in the likeness of men (*as God & Man in one person*). 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore *following his life and sacrifice as a bondservant God (The Father)* also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name...

What did this 'in the form of bondservant' relationship look like with His Father?

#1- Jesus took on all of the attributes of a Bondservant, except sin, in His earthly life under His Father.

#2- 'Loving like a bondservant' looked like this from the Son's point of view:

John 14:31: But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do (*to show that I love the Father I do His will*).

#3-The Son always 'does' the Father's will and thus pleases the Father:

John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

So then following the example of the Father and the Son, our Loving Christ as a Bondservant in our Marriage to Him and our spouse looks like this....

1-1 **John 4:9-11:** 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another **as** He has loved us.

2-**John 14:21** He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he or she who loves Me. And he or she who loves Me *in this manner* will be loved by My Father, and I will love him or her and manifest Myself to him or her."

- 3-This love is not: emotional (though emotions are often present, nor is this love based on reciprocity, nor is it based on material things given and received.
- 4-This love is not: preceded by feelings per se, but the feelings following obedience are this love's *after glow*.
- 5-This love is: self-effacing, is communicative, is distinguished by obedience, putting the needs of others before our own (our Master and His house whom we love, Deut. 15:16-17)
- 6-This love: denies itself first and then serves, and does not look to be served first; does not look to be loved in return. This lover know that his or her's 'love tank' is filled by God who has an unlimited re-supply of love for you to be filled with and and for you to give out.

Notes on loving as a Bondservant:

Let's be Clear about The Source and Flow of Love

- 1-The flow of love never begins with us!
The love in our marriage with Christ and in our marriage to our spouse must start with God....
Why?
- 2-For Love is of (*has its origins in*) God, not us...
1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, **for love is of** (*has its origins in...*) **God**; and everyone who loves is (*has been*) born *again* of God and knows God.

The History of 'Love' as God Views It

- 1-The first usage of Love in the Bible is in **Genesis 22:2**: Then He (God) said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you **love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."
- A-In verse one He did this to test Abraham
- B-Abraham obeyed above and beyond his love for his son
- C-Notice what God says when Abraham was about to offer up the son whom he loved: **Genesis 22:11-12**:
11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you **fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me."
- D-Notice He does not say that He loves God more than his son, that is implied, but there is something higher here: 'The fear of God', obeying him and thus demonstrating our love for God beyond any earthly feeling or bond.
- E-This is the first mention of 'fear of God' in the Bible
- F-So in light of the first usage of 'love' and the first mention of 'fear of God' in the Bible Paul says in: **Ephesians 5:21**: submitting to one another in an *atmosphere of the fear of God*. He then follows this verse with specific instructions for the Wife and the Husband based on submitting to one another in 'the fear of God'.
- G-What is the fear of God spoken of in Genesis 22 and Ephesians 5:18?
-The Fear of God: A balanced, inseparable blend of the 'Terror of God' and the 'Love of God'!
He whom you are only terrified of, but you do not love, you will not willingly come to, nor worship.
He whom you only love but are not terrified of nor reverence you will not humbly come and bow down to.

-The Fear of God is in the life fabric of a Bondslave who loves His Master and the Master's household on account of his great debt having been paid (and thus Terror diverted) and because of the life long benefits of living under his loving master.

The phrase '**The Fear of God**' is used 3 times in the NT where we live under Grace and not law.

'fear God' is used 7 times under Grace;

'Godly Fear' is used 3 times in the book of Hebrews, also a book for us under Grace.

The word English word 'terror' in regards to the Lord is used twice the NT.

Significantly in: **2 Corinthians 5:10-11** 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (*for Christians, not unbelievers*), that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, **the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men....

This balanced **fear of God** in the life of our Marriages (to Christ and our spouse) is encapsulated in **Ephesians 5:21**: submitting to one another in a *balanced atmosphere of* the fear of God.

Notes on Love as God Views it:

Why love as a bondservant?

1-It follows that if Jesus took the form of a bondservant and loved us, shouldn't we be *like* Bondservants in loving Christ and our Spouse?

2-The bondservant, still having a sinful nature at war with our new heavenly nature, and we living in a rebellious world, ruled by Satan; the bondservant is in the best position and attitude to love as Christ also loves us.

3-The bondservant is in the best position to fight the three slow killing poisons of our Marriages, the one with Christ and our spouse:

#1-Self Centeredness (*yours not your spouses!*), whether towards Christ or our spouse

#2-Not serving our marriage partner, whether Christ or our spouse

#3-Doing Marriage like the World

4-A bondservant has to be first a great receiver from God in order to be a self denying great lover of Jesus Christ and our spouse always.

5-A bondservant is the most complete vessel (*vessel of inexpensive clay*) to give out our four types of love, all of which we need to give as Bondservants:

Agape love

Phileo love

Storgee love

And Emotional love

6-Great love vessels require not only love but great faith

-It requires faith in the Father to Love as a bondservant in our Marriages to Christ and our Spouse.

-Faith and love work together, are together 20 times in the NT in the same verse.

-All 20 are in the letters to the churches under grace

- 'Faith and love' are found in this order 4 times, where faith comes first

- 'Love and faith' in that order 1 time

-Faith followed in the verses content by love, 14 times

-Love followed in the verses content by faith 6 times

-What is the point? More often than not we **by faith in Christ love** our spouse and others with a doing love without first feeling love. But feelings will follow the actions. Sometimes we do not feel like loving and that is when faith comes first followed by love actions. Sometimes we feel it and love comes before faith, hence the changing of which comes first: faith or love or love or faith!

Notes on Why love as a Bondservant:

Still not convinced?

Top Ten Characteristics of a Bondservant

- 10-They are not Raiders fans (or fill in your most hated team, OK it's the Raiders!)
- 9-Little blessings are BIG to a bondservant, who knows there is nothing that was not given to them.
- 8- 'I deserve' is only said by a bondservant in regards to hell when his great debt was unpaid!
- 7-Heavenly minded bondservants are consistently the only *earthly* good.
- 6-Bondservants are easy to please and their first desire is to be pleasing.
- 5-If contentment is found on the lowest shelf of earthly life the bondservant will be humbly found there.
- 4-Bondservants give and give and therefore they make the best spouses to Christ, servants to the church, the best friends, the best earthly marriage partners.
- 3-Bondservants are harder to offend, less sensitive to self, quick to forgive and the first to ask: 'is it I Lord?'
- 2-Bondservants mature quicker and exercise their senses instead of letting their senses control them.
- 1-Bondservants are most like Jesus, but they will say they are a long way from perfecting this list.

Notes on Top Ten Characteristics of a Bondservant:

Topics particular to 'Love as a Bondservant' in our Marriages:

- 1-Our long-play love for our spouse will directly reflect our love for Christ as a bondservant.
- 2-One of our biggest issues is leading and making decisions with the 'feel love' versus the 'doing, submissive love'.
- 3-Do we understand that our culture's view of love in a marriage is the exact opposite of God's?
- 4-To love as a bondservant is a choice that has to be made when getting up each day. Deny loving yourself and loving your spouse first, others second, yourself last of all because Christ is loving you: receive His love daily!
- 5-Reciprocity, loving as the world, is an act and attitude of unbelief and is ultimately selfish and reflects a weak faith and love life with Christ.