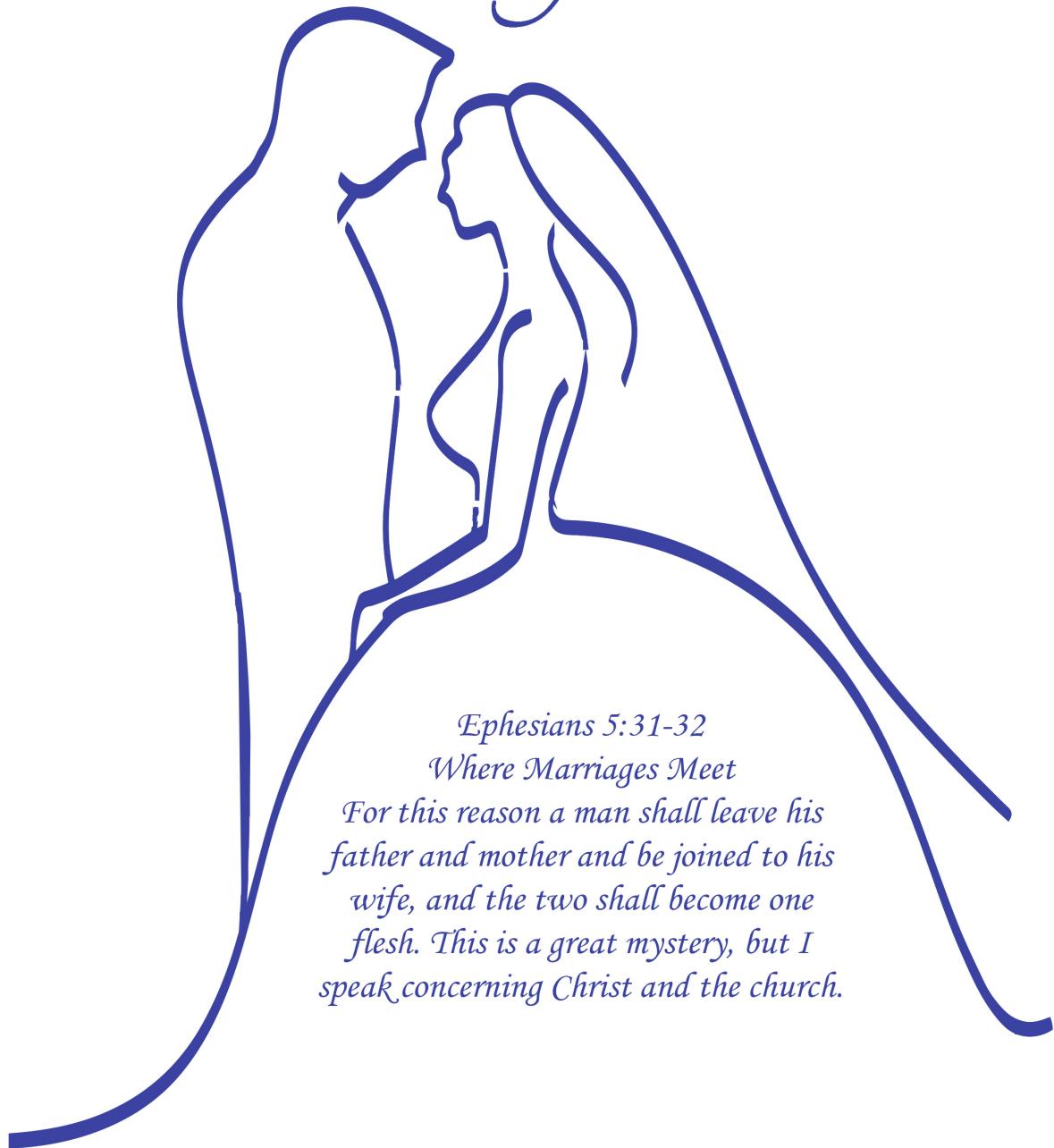


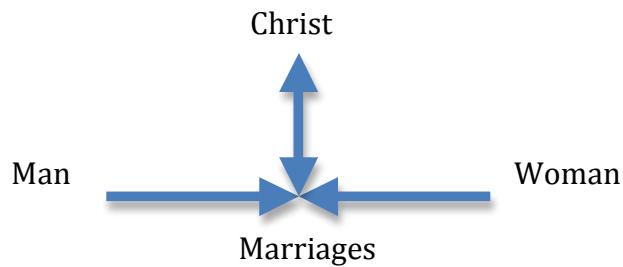
Christ

Man ————— Woman

Marriages



*Ephesians 5:31-32
Where Marriages Meet
For this reason a man shall leave his
father and mother and be joined to his
wife, and the two shall become one
flesh. This is a great mystery, but I
speak concerning Christ and the church.*



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.

Video

Review of weeks 1-3

Our Key Marriage Conference verses, where marriages meet are: **Ephesians 5:31-32** 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.

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

#1-Self Centeredness, whether towards Christ or our spouse. The antidote: If anyone will come after Me let them deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me... Luke 9:23

#2-Not serving our marriage partner, whether Christ or our Spouse. The antidote: Submit yourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord. Eph. 5:21

#3-Doing Marriage like the World, and we covered briefly how this is so.... And the antidote.....

Christians often forgive **as** the world forgives, not **as** God in Christ forgives

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

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

Christians often view communications and intimacy that is fulfilling **as** the world does: as a means to personal, self-satisfaction

And tonight:

Christians often have little faith and lack trust in Christ and in their *other* spouse, just **as** the world does

A couple of keys from week one: **Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified life**

Do we understand *The Seven Pillars of Grace* and how it is and on what basis God in Christ forgives us? If we do we will be able to apply our key verse for class #1: **Ephesians 4:32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even **as** God in Christ forgave you.

Do we understand the difference between forgiving and comforting yet allowing time, testings with observation to prove and establish or reestablish trust and faithfulness?

A couple of keys from week two: **Loving as a Bondservant:**

Do we understand that Jesus came in the *form* of a Bondservant? It was the best position for Him to take as the God-man to carry out the Father's plan of redemption for us and to love us?

Do we understand that we are to take on His mindset, be a bondservant who loves much, because we are forgiven much.

Remember some of the Key Characteristics of a Bondservant:

- 1-Little blessings are big to a bondservant, who knows there is nothing that they have that was not given to them.
- 2-'I deserve' is only said by a bondservant in regards to hell!
- 3-Heavenly minded bondservants are consistently 'earthly good'
- 4-Bondservants are easy to please and their first desire is to be pleasing
- 5-Bondservants receive from Christ and give and give and therefore they make the best spouses to Christ, servants to the church, the best friends, the best workers, the best earthly marriage partners.
- 6-Bondservants are harder to offend, less sensitive to self, quick to forgive and the first to ask: 'is it I Lord, is it my fault?'
- 7-Bondservants mature quicker and exercise their senses instead of letting their senses exercise them.
- 8-Bondservants are most like Jesus, but they will say they are a long way from being like Jesus.
- 9-A Bondservant has a balanced understanding of the fear of God: Equal parts of the terror of God mixed equally with the Love of God. Too much terror and we will not approach or fellowship with God. Love without any terror or and we will not submit to, respect or humble ourselves before Him. A balanced mix of the terror of and the love of God = **The Fear of God.**

A couple of keys from our last class: **Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling**

- 1-Mary chose the better part, sitting at Jesus' feet. Communications and Intimacy with her Lord
- 2-Martha also loved him, but chose just one more chore, one more task. She ended up once more, frustrated and mad.
- 3-God communicates thru His word and we learn thru His Word to distinguish His voice from all others.
- 4-How is your Worship life? Is it passionate, are you moved by your worship?
- 5-Communications and passion for God will be evident in your communications and passion for your spouse.

Notes on Introduction to Class #4

Week Four Growing in Faith and Trust

Our Marriages (Marriages: Marriage to Christ & our Marriage to our Spouse) grows with:

Understanding Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified life

Understanding Forgiveness and Living a Sanctified life in our Marriages leads to...

Loving as a Bondservant

Loving as a Bondservant in our Marriages leads to....

Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling

Communications and Intimacy that is Fulfilling leads to

Growing in Faith and Trust

Speaker regarding our Marriage to Christ is John Winder

Guest Speakers on our Marriage to our spouse are Joey and Chalyn McKee

What does growing in faith and trust look like in our marriage with Christ?

Key Verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:3-4: 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one. 4 And we have confidence (*trust*) in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

Which comes first Faith or Trust?

A strong, tested, growing Faith will lead to Trust in Christ and Trust in Christ regarding others, especially our spouse.

Trust starts with **Psalm 119:41-42:** 41 Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD— Your salvation according to Your word. 42 So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.

Psalm 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;

-The only way to know His name, which embodies all that He is, is thru his Word!

-Word + Know + Faith + Persuaded (2 Tim. 1:12, how are others persuaded? See also Phil. 1:14), = Lasting Trust

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am **persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Trust and Faithfulness are synonyms and they will abide following periods of testing.

Examples:

Luke 16:10-11 10 He who *is* faithful (*over time & after testing*) in *what is* least **is** (*not will be*) faithful also in much; and he who *is* unjust in *what is* least *is* (*not will be*) unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful (*notice He switches back from 'unjust' or 'unrighteous' to 'not been faithful'*) in the unrighteous mammon (*earthly money*), who will commit to **your trust** the true '*spiritual*' riches?

Being found to be and declared or proven to be faithful is found in....

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful (*discovered to be faithful after time & after testing*).

Be found faithful is also a work of Grace for we read.....

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me (*infused me with His strength*), because He counted me (*over time & after testing*) faithful, putting *me* into the ministry.

Principle #1: Jesus knows whether or not we will be faithful in all of His service, and He has us prove ourselves in order that we and others might know our faithfulness as well.

Principle #2: just because Paul had to be proven faithful does not mean that Jesus loved him less or had not forgiven him for any sin. Let it be so among us; with each other, and with our spouse!

Earthly trusts are always heavenly filtered....

Galatians 5:10: I have confidence (*trust*) in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; Note: How is it he trusts them? In the Lord, dependent on the Lord to maintain their faithfulness!

Romans 15:13-14: 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope **by the power of the Holy Spirit**. 14 Now and (*in light of the Holy Spirit's power in you*)

I myself am confident (*trusting*) concerning you, my brethren, that you also are: (1) full of goodness, (2) filled with all knowledge, (3) able also to admonish one another.

Note: His confidence in them is directly related to their being filled with the ability to be faithful by the Holy Spirit and 3 things are visible in them as observed by Paul:

- 1-full of goodness
- 2-filled with all knowledge
- 3-able to admonish one another

Philemon 20-21: 20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you **in the Lord**; refresh my heart **in the Lord**.
21 Having confidence (*trust*) in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Note: Paul knows thru experience that whatever comes to Paul *from* Philemon was *from* the Lord. Joy and refreshing were not natural, but supernatural **in the Lord**. There is no separating the fact that whatever Philemon gave to Paul, came first from the Lord.

Principles:

1-Jesus never wavered when those closest on earth wavered. His Father never wavered. He was never forsaken, or left alone, or withdrawn from by the Father (*except to bear the penalty for our sins for 3 hours on the cross*). The Father's faithfulness to His son was ROCK for Jesus. So it must be for us in our marriages! Jesus is the ROCK, not our spouse!

2-From principle #1 we must learn that only God will be 100% faithful, 100% of the time. I will not be, nor will anyone else....Which leads us to our 3rd principle...

3-Paul never separates those he has confidence in from his confidence in the Lord either in His relationship or their relationship with Christ.

4-Your trust in any person who has proven themselves faithful cannot be separated from your trust in Christ, who is your ROCK and not that person and by faith in Christ in your ROCK you can trust them!

5-Trust that is reestablished will seen over time in the fruits of true repentance. **2 Corinthians 7:10-11**

6-How do we get to the trust level spoken of in these verses?

Here is the *only* formula: Word + Know + Faith + Persuaded = Lasting Trust

Notes on Trust and Faithfulness

When trust is lost how do we know when it should be restored?

When The inner and the verbal repentance bears outward fruit:

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 10 For Godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation (*or deliverance from a bad state*), not to be regretted (*other use is: 'irrevocable', not taken back, Romans 11:29*); but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a Godly manner:

(1) **it produced** (*to bring about a result by doing something, emphasis on the result*) in you **diligence** (*haste with earnest care*)

what (2) clearing, (ἀπολογία 'apology') of yourselves (a proven clearing of yourself in this matter, and their clearing is very defensible),

what (3) indignation, They were angry at themselves. They were indignant about the shame caused to the church and to others.

what (4) fear, What was the nature of their (φόβος) 'fear'? They were alarmed at their own behavior and its effects. They were fearful of the possible damage to their Christian fellowship, or of the consequences of continued indifference to what had happened. They were fearful of not doing all that they should do.

what (5) vehement desire or longing, What is the focus of their ἐπιπόθησις 'longing'?

They longed to see Paul, and restore their relationship with him, not run from him in shame or avoid him. They were longing for Paul's approval, and for him to visit them again.

what (6) zeal, What was the object of their ζῆλος 'zeal'?

It was a zeal for Paul, a zeal for his message, a zeal to honor him and his ministry. It was a zeal for justice to be done, It was a zeal to do all that they should. Their zeal is a reversal of the apathy that had previously characterized them.

what (7) vindication! What does Paul mean by ἐκδίκησις (ek-dek-e-nos) 'rendering of justice' in all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. Justice was rendered or restored in the matter in question.

Note: the cloudy water vessel versus the clear water vessel! That is the picture of these verses: from cloudy, to certainty of clarity

In a phrase: 'you have taken great steps to reestablishing trust.....

In all things you have proved yourself to be clear in this matter.

In what way were they clear?

-They were very transparent

-Impurities were removed and thus clear (as in the two containers of water)

-Those things, attitudes, beliefs, reasonings, or people that helped you to become unclear or impure **you** have removed to help bring about and maintain clearness or purity.

-Over time and testing your clearness has remained

Notes on Restoring Trust

So they had reestablished trust so when do we trust them?

Will there be 100% certainty?

Answer: No. 100% certainty resides only in Christ our first spouse!

Faith in Christ will be necessary to reestablish trust in someone else, but we must do so!

Was Peter's trustworthiness reestablished as predicted by the Lord? See Luke 22:31-32

Was John Mark's trustworthiness reestablished? See Acts 15:37-38 then see 2 Timothy 4:11

Were the Corinthians trustworthiness reestablished in this matter of the man excommunicated?

Did God establish Abraham's trustworthiness when Abraham was willing to give up that which he held most dear? Gen. 22:12

Had Paul established Certainty in trust thru the Lord and like mindedness with regards to Timothy?

Phil. 2:19-22 19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus (*whom does Paul trust in?*) to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, (*reasons to not trust*) not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven (*over time and testing*) character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel.

What does growing trust look like in our marriage to our spouse?

Guest Speakers on our Marriage to our spouse are Joey and Chalyn McKee

Notes on Joey and Chalyn's Presentation

Discussion Topics Particular to Faith and Trust in our Marriages:

1-Do you confuse forgiveness and loving with trust and faithfulness?

2-Do we understand that we will never have true trust in *any human* without first Trusting in Christ regarding *any human*?

3-Do we understand that over time and with observation, and seeing changes trust can be restored?

4-Do we understand that because and only because of our Trust in Christ (that will never fail on His part) that we are to and can actively love those we are waiting on to be trustworthy?

5-Do we understand that we may have violated the Lord's trust; others have been unfaithful to you BUT Jesus will never be unfaithful to you and you are start over with Christ's faithfulness to build trust again in other humans, other brothers or sisters or our spouse?