

Ephesians 5:31-33

Walking in the Spirit - Love and Respect

4 yr old Suzy was so excited / she had just been told the story of snow white for the first time!
(Preschool)

A) Raced home to retell the story to her mother w/ wide eyed excitement / prince kisses her / what happened next?

B) Mom " *They lived happily ever after ?* " No !
frown *They got married!"*

1) W/out even knowing it Suzy hit on a deep truth: That getting married & living happily ever after **are not synonymous!**

C) A good **Marriage takes work: time & attention**

1) It is like a Garden it needs consistent time and attention if weeds are going to be avoided and anything fruitful is going to grow !!!

Now this is our 3rd and final study on the subject of marriage:

A) Preliminary Statements V.18 – Be continually being filled

We need the help of the Holy Spirit

B) V.21 Mutual submission – Marriage is a partnership – an ordered Equality – Both people submitted to Jesus fulfilling their roles

C) **Husbands Role** – To lovingly and willingly caring the primary weight and responsibility for the health of the family by being a loving servant lead who prefers the needs of his wife and family above his own.

D) **Marriage is a picture – Jesus and his bride the Church – we love him because he first loved us – Response**

1) Jesus is the perfect Servant leader – Saw our need Salvation as greater than his own Comfort -

2) **Picture for us - Tough – Why need Holy Spirit**

E) **Wife's Role: To support**

- To come alongside her husband in a supportive role, that respects the responsibility that God has given him be the servant leader of the family.

Today we pick up in v. 31

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 .33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

A) Here in v.31 Paul quotes from Genesis Ch. 2

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

B) The great artist Rembrandt was once asked : **When is a painting finished?**

1) His reply was *When it expresses the intent of the artist"*

C) Well Gen Ch. 2 is a wonderful description of God's intent for marriage

1) Two people, each gifted but incomplete, giving themselves to one another in a **leaving, cleaving, weaving relationship** that results in:

D) **COMAPANIONSHIP / EMPOWERMENT / UNITY & INTIMACY**

E) In using this verse from Genesis Paul reveals **4 distinctives** that should be a part of any marriage if it is going to **Abide / Grow / Vibrant**

1st Severance " for this cause a man shall leave his

A) There must be a leaving : to leave father & mother is to break the parent / child dependency bond

B) As kids we are totally dependent upon our Parents – but in marriage there needs to be a breaking away –

C) **Physically – Own place – Couple on their own creating own patterns and traditions –**

1) Also Expectations

Pre marital Expectations: Phil & R

A) Expectations cook clean – laundry – iron – Why? Mom did all that – Did she work outside the Home ? No? – His wife did / and college –

B) In fact at that moment her schedule was a lot busier than his !!! FAIR ?

1) SO sometimes it is easy to enter into a marriage with expectations that are based upon our parents relationship { Not very wise

C) Glean from our parents – things to immolate – but also things to avoid

2nd distinctive Permanence *Cleave to His wife -*

A) Word cleave = to clue together / it speaks of a binding that cannot be broken !

B) It refers to the Closets & most inseparable of bonds, like the layers of wood that make up a sheet of Plywood

1) Which are joined together to provide greater Strength

C) Now if you tried to separate those layers of the Plywood you would only Destroy it !! { Bound together

1) Divorce is like pulling apart two boards that have been nailed together

D) It only leaves permanent holes & Scars

1) GOD HATES DIVORCE – not pp who do....

“Marriage should be like going into a room, locking the door behind you & throwing away the key!”

**D) We are in this for keeps – good and bad/ sickness a health – rich or poor
Until death do us part**

3rd Distinctive is Unity *They shall become one flesh.*

A) In Mark Ch. 10 Jesus gave us some further insight into this Unity

6 "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh Mark 10:6-7

B) Now Jesus expands the Picture by mentioning something that Paul & Moses didn't !!! *"From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female*

C) It doesn't matter what culture tells us – The Bible doesn't accept same sex marriages or relationships

1) **God says** He made them male and female - to be distinct and different sexes –

2) **And This was no afterthought.**

D) God intended to have a race of human beings that was divided into two recognizable sexes -- male and female.

Listen: Submitted to his word – JESUS IS RIGHT – Only Way for Salvation

A) Died and rose to prove that

B) Jesus can't be who he said he is –

1) God in human flesh and be right about Salvation and wrong about Marriage

Ignore what Jesus said about Marriage and gender – you are ignoring who he claimed to be –

A) Who He wants to be in your life -LORD

B) Created them male and female – intended to become one

C) Physically designed – it works – Emotionally designed and wired – Spiritually designed –

1) God the Creator of the Universe the Master designer – designed men and women to function in this way.

D) SO THE 3rd distinctive is Unity – One Flesh

4th Distinctive we see *Intimacy " The 2 were NAKED & not ashamed!*

A) The intimacy described here speaks of a mutual love & respect & commitment to each other .

B) Results in security & intimacy!

1) This reference to nakedness speaks of several things:

C) 1st it speaks of two people who are willing to be real with each other – there is nothing to hide – no mask – no insecurities

D) nakedness speaks of a vulnerability with one another –

1) I trust that you are going to accept me as I am !!!

E) Nakedness - It speaks of a confidence in the love of the relationship :

1) I am confident in your love for me – not trying to cover up

F) **4th It speaks of a sexual closeness** – Two people who are committed to fulfilling each other in that way.

Now I want you to consider when intimacy was lost between Adam & Eve ? / When sin entered into the garden / into their lives

A) Covered up naked ashamed ! Hid themselves !

B) Sin destroys Intimacy

C) Now It is also is no accident that intimacy is at the end of this description

1) because in order to achieve it – You need severance , permanence, & unity need to be in operation

D) Four importance distinctives for a healthy marriage.

V.33 Paul sums up his teaching with this statement: 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

A) Emerson Eggerichs- Love and Respect book – A woman's greatest need is to feel loved – Man's greatest need is for respect

B) Previous two studies – we have talked about – what that looks like for both

C) Conclude our look at marriage today – by considering one of the greatest ways a couple can show love and respect

1) But learning how to effectively communicate together

D) Healthy communication is like doors and windows in a house

1) Points of access as well as light and illumination

But communication in a marriage can be tricky – Woman are generally better at it

A) **Men Speak 5,000 words a day – women 25K**
Problem you've used your 5K – she has barely started hers

B) How to grow in communicating with each other

1) Realize your differences

C) Men are more direct – Dude – look like put on

20lbs - A woman would never say that – way more tact

A woman was away on a business trip when she called her husband to see how he was doing. In the course of the conversation she proceeded to ask how her special Persian cat fluffy was doing. She had left him specific instructions on how to take care of the Cat.

Well the husband said – *honey I am so sorry but fluffy died yesterday.*

The wife was so upset thinking her husband had neglected the cat that she hung up the phone!

Her husband promptly texted her – informing her that fluffy all of a sudden got sick with a rare disease and that he took the cat to the Vet and they tried everything to save the cat – he actually ended up spending a lot of money trying to make the cat better, but to no avail.

After reading the text the wife – calmed down and called her husband – thanking him for being so kind to fluffy

She concluded the conversation this word of advice on communicating – She said – *Honey you could have broke the news to me slower when I asked how fluffy was doing you could have said – that she was on the roof right now – next time in the back yard .. you could have gradually broke the news to me that she was dead -*

The Husband said – *Ok dear I am sorry and I will try and remember that next time I am in that situation.*

It was then that the Woman asked so how is my mom doing – there was this long pause and then the man responded – *She is up on the roof?*

Although women CAN be better at expressing themselves, they also can speak in CODE –

A) And men are supposed to decipher --- and translate their code. Right?

B) A guy comes home from work – Says Hi honey how was your day – She responds FINE!

C) Here is where the **code comes in**: He has to pay attention to **THE TONE** of her Answer

- 1) If she says Fine – this way: **Happy – means Fine**
- 2) If she says Fine – this way: **SHORT OR SHARP = means Bad**

Here is what happens if he misses the tone: He hears fine and thinks great – she had a good day.

A) So he wanders into the family room and picks up that **male therapy device called the remote control - Completely unaware of what just transpired**

B) 2 hrs pass and he wonders why she didn't get dinner.

C) If goes to her and says – Honey is something wrong – she answers no – which really means yes
1) But it also means you weren't interested in finding out 2 hrs ago – **so don't think I am going to tell you now!**

D) How many of you know what I am talking about

1) Not fair – guys catch the tone – but ladies – be more direct

E) If your husband asks you how was your day – Horrible tell him

1) Hubby be ready to listen – Drive home – PRAYER

Men have the tendency to be only interested in INFORMATION in communication

A) While for women communication is an expression of **intimacy**

B) Denise & I Favorite place in on the coast in Oregon Lunch – great Clam Chowder –

1) At our table - when this couple came in & sat at the booth next to our table

C) Her seat faced the window & looked over the ocean / he had his back to the window /

1) he immediately picks up the menu & begins to look at what he wants to eat –

D) info: **I am hungry we are here to eat – food was on his mind –**

She hasn't even picked up her menu yet – she has just been taking in the view. A Romantic setting

A) I Over hear her say – why don't you come sit next to me the view is spectacular - **INTIMACY**

B) His woman is saying: I want you close to me – special moment – He responds - *No that's ok - I'm fine here – no vibe – mad – just clueless*

1) Oblivious to his Surroundings – We are here to eat MENU

C) She was looking for some intimacy ! - Lets share the view I want you close to me / she asked him again

1) And he answered the same – CLUELESS

2) **HEY BLOCKHEAD..... intimacy**

Guys you need to understand – Conversation is a stimulant for women

A) Guys connect through experiences – a good game – movie – awesome night

B) Barely said a word about anything important

C) Guys reminder events – Women remember conversations

1) Women connect more through conversations

D) Foreplay for a woman starts in the morning – touch – text – conversation

1) Men we have to be willing to under her world – Love language

Another Difference between men & women is Men have a tendency to want to fix things / Women sometimes NEED to just Vent

A) Women sometimes just need to let it all out –

B) You come home your Wife starts carrying on about her day / the kids - –

1) Man: **You spring into fix it mode** – it is what you do all day - You have a solution

C) She starts to visibly get irritated - ***Just listen to me & let me vent)***

1) **I HAVE LEARNED TO ASK NOW....**

D) Denise as learned to say- I need your brain – or I need your advice

1) **Awesome – What I love to do – FIX IT**

E) **JUST listen – don't try to fix it when she is not asking for that!**

1) **But after she VENTS – YOU PRAY –**

2) learn the hard way – Sorry babe that is terrible – sympathy listen – nothing I can do – PRAY...YVONNE

So it is important to understand your differences

A) Another way to build communication is to be intentional

B) Schedule time together – Date – where you are going to talk.

C) A Movie or activity is great – Experience –

D) But you also need to have times where you are going to talk and share from the heart

1) Men come prepared – things you want to talk about

Great way to do this is Journal – Not a Chick thing - Diary

A) Journals – leather – Nourish each other spiritually

B) Learn the most about my wife during those times

Helped break the monotony –

1) How was your day fine – you? Anything new? –

Unless you're a FBI agent or spy – probably not

Be not just intentional but be strategic

A) After a while in marriage – the conversation becomes all about things like the kids – school – problems – budgets – schedules – Bills

B) What I call the Business side of the Marriage – it is important and necessary -

1) Be strategic – once a week – keep it from becoming the focal point

4th Learn to talk through Problems

A.) Pr 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.*

Acronym T-H-I-N-K

B) T – is it Timely?

Prov 13:3 *He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.*

Prov 18:2,13 v 2 *A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.* v.13 *He who answers before listening that is his folly and his shame.*

C) **SO first need to ask is it timely – Is this the right time to enter into this discussion?**

1) Sometimes 11pm – Husband or wife has to get up early – not the best time

D) Are we going to really be able to talk about this.

H – is it helpful?

A) Is what I am about to say – going to help matters or hurt them ?

Eph 4:29 *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers*

B) Am I just wanting to get something off of my chest or is this going to be helpful to him or her – Pray about it first

C) Author Gary Smalley gave this insight in one of his writings/ husbands..

The right words in a marriage can greatly facilitate communication.

- Words that are salty create a thirst in your spouse to listen.
- Words that are affirming motivate your spouse to listen.
- Words that are accepting invite your spouse to share.
- Words that are forgiving release your spouse to admit failure.

I – is it inspiring?

A) Stimulate – encourage – build up – stir up- energize -

Job 4:4 *Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees;*

B) A husband and wife who are seeking to walk in the Spirit and show love and respect to one another –

1) Will be praying about how to Inspire their spouse

C) Again Gary Smalley helpful – not just what right use of words does

1) Also the wrong use of words

The wrong words in a marriage and too many of them can block communication and drive a spouse away both emotionally and physically. –

- Words that blame and accuse cause a spouse to become defensive.
- Words that overflow saturate a spouse with burdens and heaviness.
- Words that continually analyze or explain force a spouse to become a counseling client instead of a mate.
- Words that try to spiritualize your situation project an attitude of spiritual superiority or condemnation.

D)Think for a moment – your conversations about your spouse – Right use or wrong use

1)What about in Public – little jabs? Put downs

E)Hear that 2 reactions - I always wonder what their conversation is like in private.

1)Glad I am not married to that person

N – is it necessary? { Not only is it timely – doesn't it need to be said at all !!

James 1:19-20 *let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

K – is it kind?

Col 4:6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt,*

C) Salt – Healing – Medicinal / flavor enhancing gives life to a conversation / preserving

D)FINAL WORD FROM GARY SMALLEY

Conflicts can become a door to intimacy if we value one another more than winning. The basic rule of conflict needs to be “everybody wins.” This rule means that both you and your husband keep working on a solution to the conflict until both of you feel good about the resolution. – Gary Smalley

PARTENSHIP – ON MISSION TOGETHER

A)Team –

B)Synergy – Pulling same direction

C)God is glorified –

1)Jesus is magnified

In V.32 – Paul gives us a Reminder of the Picture: .” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church

A)THE GOSPEL – One of the greatest testimonies to the power of God and the redemptive work of the Gospel is a marriage that is Thriving

B)Two broken people learning to love the right way – because – Jesus has redeemed them

C)And Jesus is in the process of transforming them

D)Lean into the process –

1)Rough spots – spilled cup