

**LOVE,
HEADSHIP
&
SUBMISSION
in Marriage**

*The Obedience God Demands
and the Wisdom You Need*

PASTOR PAUL RIKA

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LOVE, HEADSHIP & SUBMISSION IN MARRIAGE

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Children of God in a marriage union who have made up their minds that Satan cannot use any marriage situation to hinder them from going to heaven; they have purposed in their heart not to transgress God's word in their marital life.

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INTRODUCTION

This book: Love, Headship & Submission in Marriage, is written to strengthen the righteousness and holiness of Believers in a marriage Union, whatever challenges the marriage may bring. It is a deep exposition of the word of God on marriage highlights as:

- (i) Headship and Submission in marriage
- (ii) Living the godly life before an ungodly marriage partner
- (iii) Obedience to God's word and wisdom for holy living in marriage

The book is filled with knowledge, wisdom and power to make the believer overcome Sin, Satan and the flesh that hinder many married Christians from making heaven. Get this book as a gift across to many and promote God's righteousness and holiness in the marriage union and family life of Christ's followers.

The book shows the believing wife the kind of obedience she is expected to offer to her husband. She must submit her life in obedience to her husband as the true and righteous church does to Christ. Her submission and obedience to her husband must be in righteousness. She must not yield to her husband in his sinful demands and commands because of her honour to her Superior Lord and Master Jesus Christ. The husbands likewise are instructed to love their wives as Christ also loves the church. He must love her with passion and sacrifice as Christ did to the Church.

Ephesians 5:22-27

22. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24. Therefore as the church is subject to unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

26. That he might sanctify it and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

27. That he might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The book is full of new insights and words of wisdom that thrill the reader and persuade you, compel obedience to Gods word and holy living in marriage.

Pastor Paul Rika.

CHAPTER 1

HEADSHIP IN THE FAMILY

By headship, I mean the one leading and overseeing the home, the pastor over the house, and the Commander-in-chief. This is the man or husband. God gave him headship by creation, in Christian marriage and the home.

1 Corinthians 11: 3-5

³But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.⁴ Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. ⁵But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

1 Corinthians 11:3 mentions three heads: God as head over Christ, Christ as head over the man, and the man as head over the woman.

1.1. GOD, THE HEAD OF THE TRINITY

The Father is the head of the Trinity: the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Though they are one and equal, we see here in the redemption design that the Father is the head of Christ. When Jesus came to the world, He clearly showed that the Father was His head. The Father was the authority that sent Him. He showed it very clearly. The leader of the Godhead, though one person, is the father.

Headship was revealed to us through redemption. Someone must be the leader that commands actions. Others are the followers, although we know the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one Person.

John 14: 28

²⁸Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved Me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for My Father is greater than I.

My Father is greater than I because He sent Me into the world for the purpose of redemption. I have put aside my equality with Him. I am here to do His will.

Philippians 2:5-9

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name:

Jesus laid aside the rank of God He had with the Father from the beginning, took the form of a servant, and became obedient.

1.2. JESUS' SUBMISSION TO FATHER

Something must be put away to achieve the desired result: and that was the form of God. The authority Jesus had as God, He laid aside. Why? He had become a man and had become a servant. He was subject unto the Father and became obedient and submissive to Him. You can see this submission from His utterance.

John 15: 9, 10

⁹ As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love. ¹⁰ If ye keep My commandments,

ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

There is a reason the Father loves Me! He loves me because I keep His commandments. He is My head; He is My leader; He is My Overseer; He is My Captain; He is My Director. I receive loving care from the Father because I keep His commandments.

John 15: 14-16

¹⁴Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

¹⁵Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.

Is He not God to have spoken of Himself? Instead, He said, I have heard of My Father, I listen to My Father, I receive from My Father, I am doing all you see Me do by My Father. Can you see subjection to authority? He laid aside the form of God in Him. Now that He brought down Himself to the form of a man, He showed submission and obedience to the Father in action, life, and character.

John 5: 37-44

³⁷And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape. ³⁸And ye have not His word

abiding in you: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not. ³⁹Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life. ⁴¹I receive not honour from men. ⁴²But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. ⁴³I Am come in My Father's name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. ⁴⁴How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

He bore witness, saying, the Father sent Me. The greater sends, the lesser. You do not have His Word in you; because He sent me, but you are not receiving me. He authorized me, but you are not accepting my authority. I came in my Father's name, in my Father's authority. That is why the early believers were baptized in the name of Jesus: the authority of Jesus, according to Matthew 28: 19.

Jesus is saying He came in His Father's name, which is to say, the Father sent me. I am doing all this in His authority, in obedience to Him. I am not doing anything in my name. The disciples were not baptizing people in their name but in the name of Jesus, who authorized them to preach because He had given them the authority.

Matthew 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Their baptism was not in their name or their authority, but in the name of Jesus: by the authority of Jesus. Jesus said, I came in my Father's name, but you are rejecting me. I seek not my honour but that of my Father.

1.3. WIVES MUST SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS

Jesus here speaks about how He behaves toward the Head over Him while on earth. The woman must exemplify Jesus' language of submission. This character must be mirrored because Jesus is under the authority of the Father, as the woman is also under the man's authority.

Jesus says, "I have the Father as My head and submit to Him. Since I became a man and a Servant of God, I am lower than My Father, who is still on the throne as God. I obey and serve Him." This is the godly character of a person under authority. You should seek the glory of your head and listen to your head. Do not do things in your authority. You do not do things in your power because there is a head over you. Always consult your head.

The husband is the head of the wife. In honour and submission to him, let the wife demonstrate her loyalty openly before the church, neighbours and family.

John 14: 7-11

⁷ If ye had known Me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him. ⁸ Philip saith unto Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. ⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? ¹⁰ Believest thou not that I Am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I Am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake.

Here, Jesus speaks about equality and oneness with the Father. He further said, "I am lower than the Father because I became man; otherwise, there is no difference between the Father and Me. The Father and I are one. I am a replica of the Father in all ways. By His life, words and action, Jesus showed clearly that the Father is the Leader or Head of the trinity as far as human redemption is concerned.

1 John 5:7

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

John 14:28

Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved Me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for My Father is greater than I.

1.4. THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST OVER THE MAN/HUSBAND

We also see the headship of Christ over man.

1 Corinthians 11:3

³But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God.

Should the man behave the same to Christ as Christ behaves towards the Father? Yes, this is what it means. As Christ did to the Father, saying, “I am not here to show my glory, prowess, power, wisdom; I am here as one sent Man,” so should the man do in marriage and the family. You are not to show in the family that you are somebody all

must tremble at or fear slavishly. You should say, “I am here as one the Lord has recognized and given the position of headship.”

1.5. THE HUSBAND OR FATHER MUST NOT BE DREADED OR WORSHIPPED

The man should not receive worship in the home. The man is not to treat family members, the wife, children, and occupants of the house as though they were his captives or slaves.

The man must be careful to maintain gentleness in the family so that his wife should not become a slave, trembling before him. His children should not become slaves, trembling at the sound of his voice.

Man, Christ is your head. Why should your family be bowing and worshipping you? Not that they should not bow in respect: there is a difference between bowing in respect and bowing in worship. Their respect for you should be in love and not by threat. Peter refused to be worshipped because he was a man. You, too, must resist it. Why does your family dread you? Why does your wife dread you? Why can she not talk, relate, or even reproof you for your wrongdoing? Why will you not accept it? Are you not a

man? Have you become God? Because God set you over the woman, you become God? No!

Acts 10:25-29

²⁵And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. ²⁶But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found many that were come together. ²⁸And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

Peter said, “I am a man like you.” God told me not to call you infidel, unclean, or one lower. So also, God says to you, husband, do not treat your wife according to the customs of men. Do not treat your wife according to the traditions of your tribe, race, or culture, and do not copy natural men in treating your wife as they do. She deserves respect, and honour, though under your headship. Fully submit to Christ who’s your head. Follow His word in your relationship with your wife.

As soon as you sent for me, Peter said, I came because the Lord asked me to go. That is why I have come; else,

I would not have come. I do not do anything on my own. I do only what I see from the Lord, what I hear from the Lord. Whatever I do is not of my authority. I must ask the Lord. I do it by the Lord. Let the husband, therefore, yield to Christ fully in the family. Christ is your head: the head of the family.

Some families have a portrait that says, Christ is the head of this home, the silent listener to all conversation. So always remember, Jesus is your head and will not be pleased with you if you take actions that do not bring Him glory. If you make demands that He does not want, He will not be happy with you.

The children of Israel complained about Solomon after he died that he had made their service grievous. Solomon backslid, going after beauty and human glory and burdening people. He was no more looking to God to guide his ways. He was going after the desires of his heart instead. But the people suffered for it. Likewise, when the husband backslides, the wife and family members suffer: the wife and the children suffer because he is no longer connected to God and does not receive instruction from Him. Husbands, receive your instructions from God. What you bring into the family should be what Jesus allows. The rules you bring into the family should be what the Word of God instructs. This will clearly show your family and others

that you are under the headship of Christ, and then your marriage will stand the challenges of life if you obey and submit to Christ and rule them by God's Word.

Luke 6: 46-49

⁴⁶And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? ⁴⁷Whosoever cometh to Me, and heareth My sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: ⁴⁸He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. ⁴⁹But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

1.6. HEADSHIP OF THE HUSBAND OVER THE WIFE

1 Corinthians 11:3

³But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

The head of the woman is the man. As Christ submits to the Father, so should the man, the husband, do to Christ, and the woman, the wife, to the man (husband). That is the order. Has Christ ever disobeyed the Father?

John 8:29

²⁹And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.

Jesus said, so does my Father love me because I always do those things that please Him. If you want to enjoy marriage, woman, always do those things that please your husband. Again, hear Jesus speak: “My Father loves me because I keep His commandments.”

John 15:10

¹⁰If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Therefore, a woman must keep the commandments or instructions of her husband to provoke his love for herself. Disobedience to her husband provokes him to be angry with her. This hinders the free flow of love towards her. I seek not my glory but the glory of Him that sent me: Jesus Christ said.

John 8:50

⁵⁰And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

Seek the glory of your husband. Do not seek your recognition; seek the recognition of your husband.

Do not magnify yourself in the family; instead, magnify your husband. That will make him know that you are submitting to his headship.

Proverbs 31:23

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

This way, your husband will love you and promote you in the home and before men.

Proverbs 31:28-29

²⁸Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. ²⁹Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

CHAPTER 2

DISOBEDIENCE IN HEADSHIP

1 Corinthians 11:4

⁴Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

This scripture tells us that there can be disobedience to headship. The man can dishonour his head, who is God or Christ, while the woman can dishonour her head, that is, the husband. Christ never dishonoured His head, God the Father.

2.1. **DISHONOUR TO CHRIST BY THE HUSBAND**

Who is the head of the husband? Christ is his head. But it can happen in a marriage where the husband dishonours Christ.

Many testimonies and accounts of disobedience to Christ by men abound. Here it is in the physical sense. If the man is in

the church for worship and covers his head with a cap, a hat, or cloth, he is saying he is not under Christ; he is not submitting to Christ. It means he has covered Jesus, his head, and is depriving Jesus of being seen and honoured by men in his life. Eventually, he is saying, "I cover the presence of Christ, I cover the glory of Christ, I cover the authority of Christ in this place, I remain alone." That is what it implies when a man covers his head in the church or during prayer.

It is the same as when some people come into your room, and you take a piece of cloth and cover something so they should not see. That is precisely what a man does to Christ when he puts a cap, hat, or cover on his head during prayer or church worship.

In the spiritual sense, many men dishonour Christ when they reject the control of Christ in their family. When your desire or authority supersedes that of Christ's in the home, you have dishonoured Christ. When that which you require your wife or children to do for you is against what Christ instructs in scripture, you despise Christ. When you ask your wife or children to go beyond righteousness to the realm of evil, you have covered Christ. You are now saying, "I am the only one in charge in my family. I reject the headship of Jesus Christ over me."

When you ask the children to do something evil that Christ will not allow, you are saying, "You are not under Christ; you

reject His headship. Christ never disobeyed His Father; He never spoke or took any action that would bring contempt to the Father. He never taught us to disobey the Father.

Luke 18:18, 19

¹⁸And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ¹⁹And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God.

Give honour to the Father; recognize Him. See how Jesus gave honour to the Father? Why, then, man, do you dishonour Christ? Woman, why do you dishonour your husband?

When you deny your husband the honour you should accord him, you disrupt the presence or impact of God in your family. When you fight, argue, shout, display carnality, boast, and curse your husband, you dishonour him, and by scripture, you have dishonoured Christ. This is a direct rejection of the presence of righteousness in your marriage and family.

Have you ever wondered how it would have been if Christ disobeyed His Father? How would it have been if Christ never did what pleased the Father? God would obviously not have been pleased with Him. Why aren't you respecting Christ in your marriage and home? Why demand things that you know Christ would not support or approve?

How can you demand a kind of obedience that you know Jesus would not like?

When you ask your wife for oral sex (to use her mouth, lips or tongue to stimulate your private part or anus), is that not disobedience to the authority and righteousness of Christ? Why do you blame her for denying you such obedience? Must she not be subject to Christ, your head?

When you perform acts with your wife which you should not in the sanctity of Christ, in the purity of Christ and speak words you should not speak, are you not dishonouring Christ? Indeed, He will not accept you; He will turn away from you and will not regard you. Now that you have dishonoured Christ, what are you expecting to happen? Christian wives must not submit to their husbands when they demand obedience, leading them to sin against God, the Supreme One.

2.2. **DISHONOUR TO THE HUSBAND BY THE WIFE**

Women also dishonour their head, the husband.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of

darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

1 Corinthians 11:5

⁵ But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

Every woman that prays with her head uncovered dishonours her head. What does that mean? You are dishonouring man, your head, which should not be done.

Man is honoured before God when the woman covers his headship by covering her head in the presence of God. To leave your head uncovered in worship and prayer means you want to tell God that man is equal to Him in glory and headship. That is an offence to God. You are supposed to cover man's headship and glory when you come before God. This is done by covering your head with a head tie.

1 Corinthians 11:7

⁷ For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

In the presence of God, cover the glory of man. If you are not ready to do that, you dishonour the man by disobeying the order set up by the Lord, his head. You will

even hear some women ask, “Why must I cover my head when the man is not covering his?” The man is not covering his head because the Lord told him to leave it uncovered. His open head is a physical way to show the presence of Jesus and His authority over such spiritual activities. Since man cannot control such moments, his presence and authority should be covered. This is done by covering the woman’s head with a head tie. To refuse to do this shows that you are neither subject to man nor God in your Christian life.

This problem extends to some homes, where the woman competes with the man. “You leave your head uncovered, so I will also leave mine uncovered. That is competition, which is disrespect. You do not want to acknowledge that the man is greater than you and has been made your head by God Himself?

Jesus openly acknowledged the greatness of His Father over Him, saying, “My Father is greater than I.”

John 14: 28

²⁸Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

The man should never take God’s glory. Let him learn from Christ and from Peter, too, as seen in the scripture below:

Acts 10:25-26

²⁵And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.²⁶But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

The woman should understand that she is the glory of the man and stop trying to compete with him. God gave the man a privilege above her. When the woman refuses and says, “No! Why must he be above me? When you challenge the man God authorized, you also challenge Jesus and the Father. It is a spiritual law.

Matthew 10: 40

⁴⁰He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

If you obey your husband, it is God you are obeying. If you submit to your husband, it is Christ to whom you are submissive.

Can you see the chain? He that despises you despises me; he also despises the Father who sent me. Now that you are stubborn to the man and will not submit but struggle with equality, refusing to honour your husband, you are dishonouring Christ and the Father: the God who made you. When you have issues submitting to your husband, who is your head, speaking back at him when he speaks, thinking that you have the same authority, you are not

following God's order. God says that the man is the head of the woman. Obey God and submit to Him in all matters of righteousness and holiness. This is the will of God for you, woman.

When a woman refuses to submit to her husband, she refuses to submit to Christ. When you speak back to the man, it is to Christ you are talking back. You are rebelling against Jesus when you refuse to obey a godly instruction from your husband. Do not think you are rebelling only against your husband. If you cannot obey your husband, whom you see with your own eyes, how can you obey Jesus, whom you do not see?

When you obey your husband, you are obeying Christ. Who are you obeying when you cover your head? Get little in your own sight and obey your husband who also is under Christ.

Ephesians 5:22-24

²Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body. ²⁴Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Can you see the position God puts your husband in the marriage and home? How then do you say, “I am going to heaven, whether Satan likes it or not,” yet sin against your husband? Who will give you heaven? You are not qualified for heaven! Jesus is the One who puts your husband in his position over you in marriage and the family. His Word says you should submit to your husband as unto the Lord.

Your husband is the physical representation of Jesus. It is easy to examine whether you are going to heaven or not because you have a physical image or person in your husband as God’s representative. What you do to him determines where you will be. It determines where you will spend eternity. Write the exam and correct the paper; you will know whether you wrote well or not since you have the answer. Ask your husband whether you serve him well according to scripture to know your eternal fate. This is so if your husband is **walking according to the scripture and demands from you scriptural obedience only.**

You can grade yourself. It is like doing exercises in a textbook, with the answers at the back of the book. When you answer one question, go to the back of the book and check if you got the answer right. Regarding your character, go to the back of the book and determine whether you got the answer right. Your husband is the back page of the book

that helps you to see whether you got the answer right, whether you are qualified for heaven. It is that simple.

You may say the man's demands are too challenging. Jesus thought as much about the Father, but how did He respond? He said, "Father, this cup is terrible for me; it is heavy for me; I wish you could take it away from me." But that was not the end because he also said, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done."

Luke 22:42

⁴² Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done.

Even Jesus suffered. He would have wished as a man not to obey some demands the Father asked of Him, especially going to the cross. It was difficult for Him, but see the submission: "Not my will, but Thine, be done!"

So, what are those things you are accusing your husband of? Will they kill you? Can you name them? Remember that Jesus obeyed the Father, even to the death of the cross! He submitted to the will of the Father. Practice costly obedience and win the lasting love of your husband.

2.3. WHAT ABOUT MAN'S SUBMISSION TO CHRIST

Is it easy? Consider the case of the apostle Peter, who, instead of standing courageously for Jesus, turned his back on Him in fear, denying knowing Him three times. The Lord did not give up on him. He reinstated Peter after His resurrection, empowering him to walk in obedience because there is no room for rebellion in our walk with God.

It is not easy. Consider Paul's sufferings. Consider the sufferings of the apostles. Who among them withdrew?

James 5:10-11

¹⁰ Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. ¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy.

You need to be patient with your husband. Patiently leave your husband in the hand of God. Endure hardship in your husband's hand even as Jesus Christ endured hardship in the hands of men.

2.4. REASONS WHY MANY WOMEN SUFFER IN MARRIAGE

Submit to your husband. Hagar, why are you in the wilderness? I am running away from my mistress. Why? She was so hard on me. Why was she hard on you? Your character caused it. Go back and submit to her. You were stubborn to her; you despised her because you are pregnant, and she is not? So, you disdained her; you forget that you are a maid? Can pregnancy now give you leadership over her?

Genesis 16:8-9

⁸And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? And whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. ⁹And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

Woman, did you not cause that trouble in your life? Now your husband is having trouble with you. Life is difficult for you because he deals with you with an iron hand. Are you not responsible? Is it not because you despise and disdain him? Is that not why he treats you harshly? Sarah told Abraham: "My sin be upon you. Why did you agree when I told you that you should take another woman, my maid? You knew it was because of my impatience I was putting pressure on you to marry my maid. Why did you not

refuse? Did you not know that it would result in evil? Did God tell you to marry someone else? Is it not me who told you? Why did you agree? I hold you responsible for the evil that has come up between this lady and me.

This woman is giving me trouble here. I am going to deal with her. She saw she was pregnant and despised me; she downgraded me. I will deal with her. What did Abraham say? “Behold, your maid is in your hand. Is it not you who asked me to marry her? I have not belittled you because of her. You deal with her in a way you think will make her submit to you. I am not the reason for her pride over you. What a great lesson men and leaders should learn. Do not support the ideas of your wife or follower(s), no matter the pressure. Make sure it is the will of God.

So, woman, find out why things are the way they are in your marriage and home.

2.5. **SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBAND**

Ephesians 5: 22-23

²²Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body.

Christ is the Saviour of the body, not you! When you make statements such as, “I am the one buying food; I am the one paying the bills, buying clothes; I am the one paying my children’s school fees; the question is, why are you the one? How did you get the money? It is because you refused to submit the money you have to your husband to make him the one to do what needs to be done. Why did you keep the money? Are you the saviour of the family? Is it not the money you made in that house, in that marriage? Are you not one with your husband?

Ephesians 5: 31

³¹For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Because you kept the money, you are calling your name over it. Did Jesus seek His glory? Why did you not submit the money to your husband? Why not do all those things in your husband's name? Why are you calling it your money? Why not call it your husband’s money?

I am saying that by doing this, you refused to cover your head. By such action, you are saying, “My husband's head is bare; mine too will be bare. I will not cover it; I am as he is.” That is where the trouble is: insubordination. Learn submission, and you will find peace and eternal life. If you

do this, your backsliding husband will come over; he will come back.

When Naomi heard that the Lord had visited Israel, she returned to Bethlehem. Submit, and the Lord will visit you. You will see changes in your household; you will see changes in your husband. He will return to you to love and care for you.

CHAPTER 3

HEADSHIP OF CHRIST OVER THE FAMILY

3.1. OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION IN THE FAMILY

Both parents have headship over children. The Christian family must recognize the headship of Christ and willingly submit to Him, and obey Him fully in all subjection. The household must recognize Jesus and submit to Him.

Matthew 22: 37-39

³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The first thing a Christian family must dedicate itself to, is to love the Lord God with all their heart. God must come first and not the husband, wife, or children.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God is the first commandment. So, first things first. Woman, it is the Lord your God first, not your husband. You should love him, but God first. The man should love his wife but secondary to Christ. Children should love their parents, but their first love should be for Christ. The first love of everyone in the family should be to the Lord God. Parents should cherish their children, which is the second commandment and should come after the first command.

The first is the Lord your God. If the family has Jesus as the head, they should love Him with all their heart, soul, might, and strength.

The husband's first duty in the family is to direct the love of the wife and children to God. Not to himself but God first. Not your will, but the will of God; because He is your Head. Jesus is your head; Jesus is your God. Let your first love be directed at Him. Do not stop your wife from loving the Lord. Give her time to worship God. It is one of the ways you will show your love for the Lord. Give her time to pray and study the scriptures and know her God. That is an expression of your love for God. Give her time to fellowship and attend conferences in her sincere love for God.

Give your wife and children money for transportation or transport them yourself to Christian meetings. God must come first in everything, and our actions should reflect that. When your children are not serious in the house of God but are serious in school; when you spend much money to send them to school but leave them at home when it is time for fellowship, that reflects how misplaced your priorities are. First things first: Love God, direct them to the love of God.

Wife, you must put God first before your husband. Adam, why not God first? Why put your wife in the first place before God?

Adam, God said you should not eat that fruit, but you have obeyed your wife to disobey God and have eaten. God first! Do not listen to your wife if it contradicts God's Word. Do not mind her crying; otherwise, she will put her blame upon you as Sarah did. Abraham asked, "Were you not the one that advised me? Sarah answered, when you knew my advice was bad, why did you take it? Why did you take it when you knew my advice would lead you away from the will of God?" 'But you were crying.' "If I cry, will I not get tired? Have I cried in your house for 24 hours? Ignore my cry; do what God tells you. Now that you have not done it, it has become a problem at home." God first, not your wife. Do not mind her crying, "I will leave this house; you do not love me..."

God first: God will bring her back if she goes because God would be on your side.

Love God first, then your wife. Love is not divided. The way you love God will naturally flow to your wife. If you love God first, it will flow over to your wife. Likewise, if you, woman, loves God first, it will flow over to your husband. The love for your spouse will be pure because the love of God is pure. Similarly, it would flow fresh and pure to the children.

Love God first, and then you can go ahead and love your wife and children, which is the second commandment.

Matthew 22:39

³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

As a wife, you can love your husband after doing the first duty: to love the Lord. When you are connected to Him, the love will flow down. God is up; man is down. Throw love up to God, and it will fall on man. The Lord will allow it to fall on your husband and children as you throw love up to Him.

God first! The man must not contend with Jesus for headship. Since Jesus willingly gives His headship over the marriage and family, the man must not compete with Him for headship.

Man, do not struggle for headship with Jesus. Leave your head open: uncovered. Jesus is the head. Do not wrestle with Jesus for glory in your home. You are the glory of Jesus. It is not the husband's will but Jesus' that should be done in that home. As the Lord said to the Father, "Not my will but Thine," you too should say to Jesus, "Not my will but Thine," and your wife should say the same to you. This is headship and submission in marriage for your peace, joy, and blessing.

Hence, all in the family must first obey the Lord Jesus, the rewarder of their soul. What do you have for your wife, man, that shall not die as the flower disappears in the burning heat of sunrise? What reward do you have? Can your reward cover her soul, that you want to remove her from Jesus, her Lord, her God, the rewarder? Since you want to turn her eyes from Jesus, can you give her eternal life? You want to remove her from the worship of Jesus; can you give your wife eternal life? Can you even give her peace of mind, can you heal her body, and can you protect her from Satan? Therefore, allow your wife to submit to the will of Jesus, not yours. Jesus is the rewarder of her soul; He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Allow your wife to seek Him so that she can receive rewards, both earthly and eternal.

3.2. ALLOW YOUR WIFE TO SUBMIT TO THE COURSE OF GOD

Allow your wife to tithe; it is to her God and Master. Also, allow her to support projects concerning the name of Jesus, though you are to check to ensure she is not contributing to the detriment of your family's welfare. Do not stop her from being kind. Do not stop her from being charitable. Do not threaten her so much that she hides her charitable actions from you, and it becomes a sin to her. Let your wife have the liberty in Christ to serve God and do righteousness. This is what the Lord demands from a true Christian husband.

The wife and children must not hesitate to prioritize obeying Jesus first, who is greater than the man in the home. They must be ready to deny the man submission and obedience if he contradicts Jesus. Yes, the Lord made him the head, but he should not try to lead his family against God, who gave him the authority. What then is your security if you are now obeying someone that shall die? After he has died, where will you go? With whom will he leave you if you abandon God to follow him? My husband has said I should not come to church; my husband has said I should not come to Holiness Revival Movement; my husband has said I should not leave the Catholic Church; my husband has said..., When he dies, where will

you be who forgo the eternal for the temporal? How can you turn your back on the everlasting God for a short-term man? Can you not stand? Deny him obedience in matters that contradict the will of God, the Word of God, and the commandments of the Father.

3.3. GOD IS GREATER AND BETTER

Acts 4:7-13

⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, ⁹If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; ¹⁰Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹²Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Why are you afraid of your husband when he challenges you on matters of God; jewelry and ungodly hairdo? Why obey

him when he tells you that you should dress in pants (trousers) and wear shorts to go out with him because he likes it? Why are you silent before that man that can die at any moment, talking as if he is better than God? Why are you not bold? Why are you afraid? Why do you hide the truth? Open your mouth because you have a Father. God supported the three Hebrew children. The marriage that brought you together can end at any time. When the king of Babylon, Belshazzar, promised Daniel the position of being the third in command if he interpreted the writing he saw on the wall, Daniel did interpret the dream but told him to keep his gifts.

Daniel 5:16-17

¹⁶And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom. ¹⁷Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

The kingdom was taken away from the king, who died that night. What can your husband do? How long will he live that you want to give up Jesus for him? He can suddenly die in an accident or through any other cause. You can't give

Jesus up for mortal men. Please do not allow the fear of men to stop you from speaking about Jesus to him.

See what the disciples said when asked by what name the sick were healed: “By the name of Jesus, whom you crucified. And we are telling you there is no other name, under heaven, by which man should be saved, except by the name of Jesus.”

They were shivering within themselves, saying, these people are bold; they have been with Jesus. Jesus was a brave man. The Lord is helping us train bold and courageous women, bold and brave wives, who will stand for Jesus and ignore the power of rebellious men.

Acts 4:17-20

¹⁷But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. ¹⁸ And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Woman, why are you bothered by the threats of your husband? Child, why are you worried that your father or

parents will not pay your school fees? Must you go to school before you go to heaven? Woman, must you marry that man before you go to heaven? Have you not seen people come out successfully from the bondage of marriage and make it to heaven? For this reason, many prefer to stay unmarried.

The widow, Anna, stayed unmarried until she was eighty-four, after being married for only seven years. She spent Seventy-seven years loving and serving the Lord in fasting and prayers in the temple, and she eventually embraced Jesus, the God of eternity. Do you not want to embrace Jesus in heaven? Please know God well, so you will not give that much value to marriage. You may say, what will I do with my children? Jesus said, if anyone would come to me and will not forsake himself, herself, husband, wife, children, property, he is not fit to be my disciple:

Luke 14:26-27

²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Does your husband really have the power to send you out? The Lord said the hairs on your head are numbered; none shall fall to the ground except the Lord allows it.

Luke 12:7-8

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

1 Kings 1:52

⁵²And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

3.4. BE BOLD AND COURAGEOUS BEFORE YOUR HUSBAND

None of your hairs shall fall to the ground except the Lord allows it for your blessing. A woman confessed adultery to her husband. In anger, he grabbed a knife, took her to the bedroom, threatened to kill her, and asked her to say her last words. The woman closed her eyes and said, “I owe mama Jemima: remember to pay her; remember this and **remember** that. I’m done. You can go ahead and kill me. He threw the knife down and began to cry. He is now serving with his wife in the faith and in Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide (HOREMOW)

How do you want to convert the man if you are not ready to suffer? Do you give up after minor threats? Were not the apostles threatened? Their enemies had no power to kill

them because God is higher and stronger than their power. Besides, they operated under an organized government that would query their actions. Your husband cannot go against God or the government of the nation to kill you. So why are you full of fear?

Acts 5:27-29

²⁷An when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, ²⁸Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. ²⁹Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Do not obey any of your husband's demands that are contrary to scripture. Otherwise, you will reap evil rewards from God. You will explain to Him why you lifted your husband above Him, the Creator. Why have you made your husband an idol and cannot stand for Jesus? Obeying your husband against God will make you suffer in this life and the next life after death.

Luke 9:62

⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Respect your headship and train your husband to respect God, his headship. He should respect Jesus by not demanding you to disobey Jesus' word and order. The three Hebrew children said to king Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, we are not careful to answer you in this matter." In other words, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. As our king, you are head over us. But there is one who is greater than you and your god. Our God will deliver us if you throw us into the fire. If He chooses that we should die, then you can go ahead. As for us, we will not obey you in this matter.

Daniel 3:10-18

¹⁰Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: ¹¹And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar, in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor

worship the golden image which I have set up? ¹⁵Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. ¹⁷If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Why don't you tell your husband, who exalts marriage above life, the same? Why are you afraid because he has threatened to put you away? What is marriage? Is it the best thing women are enjoying outside Christ? What glory do they have? You will be surprised to hear that many women wish they stayed out of marriage to serve Jesus. To behave as if you are an orphan without a God is sinful. If you have God, and your husband sends you away, know that he is sending you to God. God likes that challenge because if you stay righteous, He will pick you up and shame that man. He will not abandon you.

Psalm 27:10

¹⁰ When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

In other words, God, in His righteousness, will take care of me when my husband forsakes me.

3.5. THE HUSBAND'S HEADSHIP MUST BE RECOGNIZED

Ephesians 5:22-24, 33

²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ³³ Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The headship of the man over his wife and the family must be recognized and willingly submitted to and obeyed. The woman must obey her husband in all things that do not contradict obedience to Jesus. Submission to her husband must be as unto Christ.

Would you speak to Jesus rudely? Would you slap, spit upon, or pour water upon Jesus? If Jesus were lying down narrowly, would you look at him spitefully? Would

you deny Him food? Would you take Jesus to the world and crucify Him with criticism? Would you speak evil of Jesus? Why do you do so of your husband?

Here is an insight into one kind of woman. While gathered, some women were criticizing their husbands. Each took turns. The woman whose husband had been good to her had no bad report. She thought, if I tell these women my husband has been good to me, they will envy me. So, she joined them with made-up criticism. She was not ready to give God glory for what her husband was doing for her. She felt the need to belong, to be accepted, even while in the congregation of demons. What took you there? Why are you among wayward women to the point that they are making you call good evil? Woe to them that call good evil.

Isaiah 5:20-21

²⁰Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

The Lord has been good to you. He gave you a good husband and gave you a good life. But just because you must please sinners, you speak foolishness. Is that gratitude to God for what He did for you? You prayed, and the Lord gave you a good husband, yet you want to disdain and embarrass him. Do not follow the customs of this life.

When a man spoke about his wife, he said she criticized him for not loving her and never buying clothes for her. Another man asked if women are programmed to be so because his wife does the same. Are they not able to speak good about their husbands? That is the way of the world. Stop that sort of complaining; otherwise, the Lord says, I have heard as you have said. That is the type of murmuring that deprived the children of Israel the Promise Land. Appreciate what God is doing for you.

Both men and women should learn to appreciate one another and what God is doing in their life. Why do you say to him, "I regret marrying you?" Is that the same man you testified to people to that you are now expressing regret? What things has the man done that has caused you to regret? Can you count them? Why would you condemn your husband just for one mistake? Is the man not striving, perfecting holiness, and not learning more in Christ? Stop the things that provoke spouses to anger and ruin a marriage. Speak good of your spouse.

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

3.6. THE SUBMISSION DEMANDED FROM WIVES

Ephesians 5:22-24

²²Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Take note of the fact that you must submit IN EVERYTHING. The Lord expects you to obey ALL the commandments as you are in Christ. Because you are married, the Lord expects you to obey ALL the commandments of your husband.

1 Peter 3:5-7

⁵For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: ⁶Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. ⁷Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Sarah called Abraham, Lord! That shows the degree of honour she had for her husband. It shows the degree of humility she exercised toward her husband. She did not just call him lord but showed it in her actions by obeying his advice even when it was inappropriate. This is proof that she respected her husband.

In your case, do not sin against God in your obedience to your husband; exercise this degree of honour and respect. Exercise it in your words and actions. That is what God expects or demands of you. Cover your head. Do not be proud, do not say you are equal with him. Whatever your degree, qualifications, or financial status is, cover your head. Do not allow your head bare as the man. Understand this, practice it. Children, too, should be obedient and submissive to their father; this is their duty.

The wife must not accept the undue authority of the husband over her, which would lead her to sin and rebellion against Christ, their supreme head. She must resist this unto separation. She must not usurp the husband's authority in the home, which God forbids. The unbelieving woman would want to hold her husband down, using natural and unnatural witchcraft powers. Believers must ensure that they marry believers. For a woman to consider her husband common is sinful.

1 Timothy 2:12-14

¹²But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. ¹³For Adam was first formed, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

The woman, Eve, forwarded herself and contracted Satan in the garden. Remember the control of your husband to save yourself and your family from the fall. Satan knew he would not have deceived Adam, so he went to Eve.

You are now on top of family affairs while your husband follows you. That family will crumble because God did not give headship to you. Even devils know this. Satan respects man because it is the ordination of God. Woman, yield to your husband; do not belittle his understanding because he is gentle and quiet; give room for him to exercise his authority; listen to him.

“I listen to My Father, hear from My Father, and declare what I hear from My Father.” That is what Jesus said. Follow His example. Don’t be talkative. You can’t be a good listener when you talk too much. You are usurping authority. The way to heaven is narrow; many women miss it in this backsliding age.

PART II

LIVING THE GODLY LIFE IN MARRIAGE WITH AN UNGODLY PARTNER (SPOUSE)

CHAPTER 4

MARRIAGE TO AN UNGODLY PARTNER

If you are a believer and your marriage partner is not, something is wrong. What is that? You have married an unbeliever. How can you still be godly? How can you be holy and qualified for the rapture? How can you succeed with this unbeliever? The same principles do not control your unbelieving spouse as you are. This is the root cause of your difficulties. The Bible tells us not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

What brought you to this relationship? We cannot say come out of the marriage. It is a union that has joined you together until death.

4.1. REASONS FOR UNGODLY MARRIAGES

What brought you into this ungodly marriage relationship? The following may account for this.

4.1.1. YOU MARRIED BEFORE CONVERSION TO CHRIST

Two of you were unbelievers, so you were at liberty to marry without divine guidance. You married as a sinner and got converted while in the marriage. You are saved, but your spouse is not. In such a case, you are in marriage union to an ungodly person.

4.1.2. YOU MARRIED IN CHRIST, BUT YOUR PARTNER BACKSLID AFTER MARRIAGE

Both of you were in the light, following the truth, adhering to the scriptures, serving God, worshipping God, and believing the bible. The bible controlled you, but later, your partner backslid. Now you begin to ask what has happened. He was carried away by temptation. It started on a good foundation but has ended now, with you alone maintaining

your righteousness. Praise God you remain in Christ. But he has left Jesus and is now with Satan. He is currently in the darkness bringing you torment and sorrows.

4.1.3. YOU MARRIED IN CHRIST BUT TO ONE NOT TRULY CONVERTED

You were deceived. Maybe you did not pray well or thought the person was of God because she was active in the church, teaching, preaching, and evangelizing but was not truly converted. The feelings of your body moved you; you walked by sight or were in haste and did not pray through. You did not have enough time to pray effectively for marriage, so you picked her or accepted him because you are together in choir and evangelism team. But now, you know that she is not truly converted. He that is born of the flesh is flesh. She cannot pursue righteousness because she is of the flesh. Those of the flesh cannot please God; it is not possible.

Romans 8:8

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

4.1.4. YOU PURPOSELY MARRIED AN UNBELIEVER THINKING OF CONVERTING YOUR PARTNER

You are among those who believe they can convert people and wrongly think they have the power of conversion. You

think you are a spiritual machine that can convert anything to powder; you can mould powder into solid, turn water into gas, or condense gas into solid. You said, "...give me anyone, and I will handle him." Are you wiser than God? You did not consider the scripture. So God allowed you like the prodigal son. You backslid. But thank God, mercy brought you back to righteousness. You have gotten the husband you wanted. How is your husband? He is doing well, but life is not okay. He is an unbeliever; you have discovered that all your principles, power, and strategies to convert him are not working. You are face to face daily with an unbeliever!

4.1.5. YOU WERE FORCED BY A CIRCUMSTANCE TO MARRY.

Maybe you backslid and slept with a lady, she got pregnant, and you were pressured or obliged to marry her. It was a temptation you fell into. Yes, you followed through into marriage; you yielded to external pressure and married. Now you got restored, but you have an unbelieving wife.

4.2. WHO IS AN UNBELIEVER?

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial?

or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

That word is higher than a mountain, deeper than a valley, wider than the desert. Let's have an idea of who an unbeliever is.

What type of sin does the unbeliever commit? The unbelieving marriage partner has the liberty to commit the kind of sins he wants because he is not under the control of God. He does not know Jesus. He does not know the Holy Spirit, the truth, or the way.

Ephesians 2: 11-12

¹¹Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

The unbeliever is yet uncircumcised in the heart; the heart has not been tampered with the power of righteousness. He does not know Jesus. Jesus is not Lord and Saviour to your

marriage partner. He is not aware of the promises of God, the promises of judgment that make people aware of sin and avoid it, promises of blessing that will make people want to serve God. He is not aware of heaven and hell. He does not know hell and is not bothered about it. She is not afraid of hellfire. She has no hope of heaven and is not looking forward to going to heaven, for whosoever has this hope purifies themselves. She has no hope of inheriting any mansion in heaven. To her, God does not exist. God does not control her; she has no fear of God and is not serving God.

Who is an unbeliever? What does the scripture say? The unbeliever is unrighteous. They take pleasure in unrighteousness, in doing what is wicked and not good, what would hurt your life and bring you to shame, disgrace, and much more.

The unbeliever is darkness. How do you walk with darkness? How do you live in darkness, where there is no light? How do you live in a home with no light, no candlelight? When the light of the day arises, it does not reach your home. Be not unequally yoked! You, who are not yet married, take this seriously.

The unbeliever is Belial, or Satan, a child of Satan. The one you need to contend with in that marriage is Satan. Your

spouse belongs to Satan and works for him. God has not yet conquered your spouse! The deeds of Satan he will do.

The scripture below shows some of the things the unbeliever practices:

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The unbeliever is in the flesh. They serve idols and practice witchcraft which they were maybe introduced to from childhood. They have hatred in their hearts and lack real love: they are controlled by the spirit of competition in the house because no one must be greater than them. They drink and get drunk, vomit, fall on the ground and fight, dance and kill. The unbeliever has the tendency to do these things. Their conscience may not condemn them because they do not know God or the scriptures.

The Bible warns that the believer should not marry an unbeliever. The unbelieving spouse is bound to commit these sins because of the presence of sin in his life. Such as: adultery, idolatry, drunkenness, lying, witchcraft, hatred,

anger, disobedience, polygamy, polyandry, and wickedness. Stealing is part of their lifestyle, and the truth is far from them. How can you live with someone who does not tell the truth?

With all these challenges, what is God's moral demand on His children that must be kept? God does not want you to consider having an unbelieving marriage partner.

CHAPTER 5

GOD'S DEMANDS IN MARRIAGE

What are God's demands in your life irrespective of who you are married to?

5.1.1. DO NOT FASHION YOUR LIFE AFTER YOUR FORMER WAYS

Do not live as you lived in the past.

1 Peter 1:14

¹⁴As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

Do not live the type of life you lived when you were ignorant of God and did not know Jesus. You could fight or scheme evil and beat your partner then. You must stop such practices as a believer because you are a new person.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Do not, therefore, fashion your life after the past. If you want to maintain your victory as a child of God, do not get angry, do not fight, and do not be abusive. Do not use charms to make your partner love you. You can no longer do that; you are now in Christ.

5.1.2. PUT ON THE NEW MAN

In the presence of your unbelieving partner, live the life of the new man that you are in Christ Jesus. In those days, you used to fight, and you used to exchange blows. You knew how to deal with your husband while he was asleep. But you cannot do that anymore because you have put on the new man.

Ephesians 4:23-32

²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. ²⁵Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the

thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.³⁰And grieve, not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³²And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Even if your partner does not fear God, does not obey you, does not love you, practices evil, and abuses you in the presence of friends and children, you must put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. You must be righteous and holy in the presence of your marriage partner and the evils performed. Speak the truth with your spouse. Do not pretend you have money when you do not have money. Lie no more.

When your spouse provokes you, please do not get angry and speak forth in abusive ways. As a woman, do not deny your husband food. Follow the scriptural instruction that says that if your enemy is hungry, feed him; give him water to drink if he is thirsty.

Romans 12:20-21

²⁰Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

As a husband, do not deny your wife money for food because you are unhappy with her. Whether she gives birth to children or not, you must feed and clothe her. It is your godly responsibility.

In the Old Testament, the Lord told Hosea to marry a harlot. God instructed him to bear with her sins and evil character. As an Israelite, the harlot was eligible for marriage by being a covenant child. This cannot be done today because not every professed Christian is a child of the covenant.

When your spouse steals your money, do not steal your spouse's money or anything in retaliation. Do not hide your expenditures from one another. You are a new creature (**verse 28**).

With all her stubbornness, speak words of blessing reflecting Christ in you. Do not spew insults at your partner. That is corrupt language. If your unbelieving spouse talks to

you that way, do not reply. Please do not say anything to stir him further into anger. Whatever your unbelieving partner does to you is not worse than hell. Please do not join them in their unrighteous behaviour.

Do not respond to the corrupt language of unrighteousness. You have no alternative but to pursue righteousness in your marriage and family (**verse 29**).

You are sealed. Do not take any step that the Holy Spirit will not want, resulting in Him being grieved and eventually leaving you (**verse 30**).

Be kind. Do not carry the offence of last year, last month, last week, yesterday, to today (**verse 31**). It would help if you learned to forgive your partner. When you travel, return with a gift to show your love and thoughtfulness even while you are apart (**verse 32**).

5.1.3. YOU MUST LIVE IN LOVE

You must learn to live in love with your unbelieving partner.

1 John 4:7-8

⁷Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

⁸He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

If you love everyone except your unbelieving partner because of her behaviour towards you, you have failed as a child of God.

He that loveth not is not of God; is not born again. If you go to a house and hear the man speak lies to his wife, then that means Christianity has been affected. Speak the truth to your wife. Be kind and compassionate to her. Abstain from all appearances of evil. Abstain from anything evil or having evil intent.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

May the Lord provide you with grace if you are married to a drunkard because you will have to cope with the stench of drunkenness. You have to bear it because you cannot deny your spouse your body even though she is an unbeliever or a womanizer. Please do not say I will not eat her food; I will not give him my body.

5.1.4. BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY

1 Peter 1:14-17

¹⁴As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶Because it is written, Be ye

holy; for I am holy. ¹⁷And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Do not live with your marriage partner in fear. Timidity or a fearful heart will make you compromise with him and make him push you off from the boundary of righteousness.

Even if you find your spouse compromising with another person, for example, coming home and seeing that he has an extramarital relationship, make sure you do not shift from righteousness. Shine as a light over that darkness or challenge in your marriage.

Philippians 2:15-17

¹⁵That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;¹⁶Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. ¹⁷Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

As a husband, you must remain blameless before your wife. Do not be an instrument in Satan's hands to hurt her. As a child of God, you are to be clean and serve as the light.

As a wife, you must ensure that you have not taken any action to hurt, poison, kill, criticize, or spread his mistakes around society. Do not gossip or backbite him. That is evil and cannot bring a solution to the problem. The man will accuse you of tarnishing his reputation. Telling all your friends and relations your husband's weaknesses will not help the situation. Hold forth the word of life; practice this word of life: doctrines of righteousness and truth. Your righteousness must remain perfect in your attitude towards your spouse and children.

Why are we teaching this? We are doing so to keep you from labouring in vain. We do not want to shepherd people who will not go to heaven. We do not want to work, teach, pray and fast for people who will not go to heaven. We pray that God will deliver you from every kind of sin and evil.

5.2. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE WIFE OF AN UNGODLY HUSBAND

What does God say to you who are married to an unbelieving husband?

5.2.1 OBEY YOUR HUSBAND IN ALL THINGS.

Here is what the scripture says.

1 Peter 3:1-5

³Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; ²While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. ³Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. ⁵For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

The holy women do face challenging situations, but they trust in God. Your husband may not be a believer or he is of another religion. He is a 100% sinner, doing the unthinkable evil; you still have the responsibility to obey him.

Practice righteousness and holiness as you live with your husband. Respect him even in his sin or evil. Live righteously so that as he watches your life, even though not appreciating you, God who is with you will convict him by your life. The Lord must pass through you to convert him. Do not think that if you dress the way he wants, as

an unbeliever, or if you do your hair the way women do in the world, you will win him over. If you do that, you will displease God, the only person who can convert your husband and deliver him from Satan.

If you go the way of sin, you will miss it. That is why the above scripture says you cannot win him by plaiting your hair with ungodly hairstyles. The holy women of old, who suffered the same condition as you, never overcame their situation that way. They did not overcome their predicaments by wearing gold or jewelry before their husbands.

Putting on fancy apparel or exposing your body through the way you dress will not help either. You might say, "Is he not looking for naked women? So, I will dress to win him over. Doing so will mean you are living for your husband, not God.

Unfortunately, he is too familiar with your soup and now wants soup cooked by another woman. So whichever way you garnish your soup is not the answer. It is the grace of God only that will save him. Maintain the way of truth, righteousness and holiness in your relationship with him so that God Himself will intervene in your case.

That is why your adornment should be the hidden man of the heart. That is the righteousness that pleases God.

Your husband may disdain it, but it pleases God. You must beautify your heart with that which is not corruptible

Do not adorn your body with ornaments thinking that you will make yourself more beautiful before your husband, to be accepted and cherished by him. Satan is fighting you through your husband, and you cannot overcome him by following the way of the flesh. Your adornment should be the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. What a beautiful thing to have a quiet, gentle and humble woman! It will break the man; it will humble him. When you are down, to come down to you, your husband must bend down. Therefore, you pull him down to yourself with your humility. You must have a meek and quiet spirit; this spirit does not speak back, it does not answer harshly. Be as quiet as Jesus before the judgment tribunal. They marveled at his quietness to his honour.

Present godly character, and God will use it on your husband for his salvation because the holy women of old lived this way. They dressed modestly, not flamboyantly, not with jewelry, not in nakedness. They did not depend on the styles or hairdos according to the world's fashion. Is that what your husband wants when you put on fake Chinese and Indian hair? This is not the way of scripture. Follow God's way as stated in scripture, and God

will come your way for your salvation, protection and comfort.

5.2.2. DO NOT DIVORCE, EXCEPT FOR SEPARATION, DUE TO UNBEARABLE SITUATIONS.

1 Corinthians 7:10-13

¹⁰And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: ¹¹But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. ¹²But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. ¹³And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

Note the difference between Apostle Paul's advice and the commandment of the Lord. He gave the commandment of the Lord first in verses 10 and 11. But to the rest, he gave advice, not a commandment from the Lord.

If any man has an unbeliever as a wife, he should not divorce her because she is a drunkard, witch, adulterer, or whatever sin she willfully commits. Because she is an unbeliever, she can commit any sin, including adultery. Those who say if your wife commits adultery, you should put her away do not understand the scripture. The

same applies if the man is the adulterer. If the man still desires to live with you as your husband, the Bible is clear: do not divorce him.

If your wife dresses worldly, wearing pants (trousers), wearing the hair of demons, but she is still willing to remain in the marriage, cook for you, give herself to you, or take care of your children, do not send her away.

What if you have a husband who does not know God and does not want to know God but chooses to stay married to you? Do not think you have to leave him to serve God. Has the man asked you to leave? You do not have to go. According to his unbelief, he may even take in more wives, a second, third, or fourth, making you share him with other women; you may have to wait two weeks for him to make his rounds before getting to you. If he is still willing to be your husband, you do not have to manifest anger and pride and leave the marriage.

That is Paul's counsel to you, and it is scriptural counsel. Next, he gives reasons why the spouse should not leave.

1 Corinthians 7:14-15

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. ¹⁵ But

if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

God is in you; Jesus is in you. As a result, the people in that house find themselves in the presence of the Lord. He can touch them at any time. God is also labouring with you. When your fellow brethren visit your home and share the Word, your husband benefits, though he may not seem to be paying attention. He is better off than a sinner who does not hear the Word. The presence of God, therefore, covers him too. If it is raining, the shelter God provides for you will protect him too. Witches and wizards cannot harm him because you are there. He is protected.

Similarly, your presence is a blessing to your unbelieving wife because the presence of the Lord covers her. She is in the presence of the Lord because of you. When your brethren visit you and her, they will greet her, share with her, bless her, and pray for her. So, please do not send her away. She will respect you and be willing to stay in the marriage when she observes your righteous and holy life and sees that you do not respond harshly to her sins.

What happens to the children if she leaves? She may take them with her, and the children will go into utter darkness. If she is a Muslim, you will lose the children entirely. If she leaves, she takes them to the bondage of Islam. But if she stays with you, they get to hear

the Word, pray with you and copy many other godly attitudes, and may be converted to Jesus.

Why do you want to send the woman away? Why do you want to leave the man? It will affect the children. The man may go with the children or take you to court for the children. The courts may grant him custody of the children, and you lose them. Therefore, stay with the man since he is willing, or for the sake of the children that may be saved in Christ because of your presence.

Verse 15 advises that if the unbelieving partner wants to leave, let them leave for the sake of peace. Allow the prodigal son to go. Why must he disturb you to the detriment of your peace when God has called you to peace? If your husband regularly abuses you, hits you, terrifies you, and then asks you to leave, please, go and have your peace; otherwise, you will not be able to practice the Christian life because you will be constantly harassed and tempted. One day you will get to the point of fighting back, exchanging blows, and may even succeed in overcoming him physically. But your Christianity will be gone. Leave, and God will take care of you.

1 Corinthians 7:16

¹⁶ For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? Or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Why continue to subject yourself to torture, pain or suffering? Leave: but you say “I want him to get converted.” Who told you that you would eventually succeed in converting your partner? Is it everyone that gets converted? Not everyone will be converted. You have relations you have been preaching to and labouring for their salvation. Many of your parents died in their sins, despite your efforts. Have they been converted? Allow your spouse to go so you can save yourself.

She can return if she leaves and gets converted tomorrow like the prodigal son. Allow her to go and learn the experiences of life that may lead to her repentance. It is wise to allow the prodigal son to go. If you leave the man and he gets converted tomorrow, he can come back for you. You may have him again.

A woman who separates from her husband cannot marry again while he is still alive. He may get converted and desire you back. Therefore, you are not allowed to marry someone else. If you marry another man, you will be considered an adulterer before God.

Romans 7:2-3

²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the

husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

The meaning of this is that the moment a married woman gets converted, she must leave the second marriage and return to her husband so that she is no more an adulteress. So, she may come back as the prodigal son did. He said I will return to my father and confess that I have sinned against God and him. As a result, the husband must not remarry again if his wife leaves him.

Likewise, like the prodigal son in a far country, the husband might meet with God and return to the wife. She is not to marry but to stay separate according to God's Word. The reconciliation may or not be possible. The believer should remain single to serve the Lord according to His will and grace.

These are God's commands for husbands and wives in cases where one is a believer and the other is not. Husband, love your wife, and wife, obey your husband in all things.

CHAPTER 6

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF WIFE AS SERVANT AND HUSBAND AS MASTER

Sarah called Abraham lord and master. There is servant to master relationship between the wife and the husband. Christ took the form of a servant to do the will of His Father, the head of the Trinity

Philippians 2:7

⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

The wife must also take the form of a servant to enable her to serve her husband and do his will joyfully. Similarly, Christ is the head of the man, but to serve and save them from sin and satan, He made Himself a servant to men.

John 13: 12-15

¹² So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? ¹³Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Similarly, the husband is the master over his wife but must demonstrate Christ-like life of humility and servanthood before his wife to save her from sinful habits and disobedience.

6.1. THE SERVANT LEADERSHIP OF THE HUSBAND

The husband is a servant to Christ and a Master to his wife. As a servant to Christ, he must obey Christ's command toward his wife.

There are attributes of righteousness for a servant master who lives in peace and harmony with his wife and makes it to heaven.

6.1.1. SELF-SACRIFICE

Matthew 20:28

²⁸ Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Christ came to minister, to give His life as a ransom, paying the ultimate sacrifice of our sins. To be the Saviour of the world, He willingly gave Himself up, enduring the cross unto death. For the man to be the saviour of the family, he must be willing to give himself entirely to his wife and family.

It is your responsibility as the man to supply the needs of the home. Failure to do this makes you disobedient to Christ, your Master.

1 Timothy 5:8

⁸ But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Joyfully give yourself to your wife and children by supplying their needs whether you are assisted or not, even though good wives willingly support their husbands in family affairs. You are to do this whether your wife appreciates you or not, whether she is a believer or not. Though she may not be available for you when you want her to be, due to the sin

in her life, if you don't give yourself entirely to her and the family, it will affect your standing before the Lord.

6.1.2. BE SECURE IN YOUR POSITION

You are the head of the woman, as Christ is your head. Do you think Christ doubts His position?

John 13:3

³ Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he was come from God, and went to God;

Jesus knew who He was and was secure enough to wash His disciples' feet. He did not see the action as reducing Him in their sight. Instead, it was a glorious action worthy of their praise. The man is the head as ordained by God. No one can take this away, and no one can change it. Even if your wife provokes you verbally or by her actions, do not go carnally to prove that you are the head. You are the head; be secure and confident in that.

6.1.3. KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING

Jesus knew where He was going and communicated that to the church.

He set a direction before the church, which was heaven. He promised them eternal life if they would serve Him to the end.

Be visionary. Lead by knowing where you are going and expecting your wife and family to follow without missing steps. Ask God to help you.

Proverbs 29:14

¹⁴ The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

What vision do you have for yourself, your wife, and your family? What vision do you have for the future that can give your family hope? Do you have one? Do you communicate the vision? Christ preached the gospel and promised eternal life.

1 John 2:25

²⁵ And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

The promises, hope and confidence of eternal life inspire us to follow Christ, seek Him more, and abide in Him. What reasons do you give your wife and family to follow you, to obey you like the Word of God demands? Set heaven before them. Promise them your commitment to their good.

6.1.4. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

John 13:15-17

¹⁵For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. ¹⁷If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Jesus led by example. He demonstrated servant leadership to His disciples by washing their feet. Are you the man that says, “Do what I say, not what I do?” If you want her to respect you, show her respect. If you want your children to respect you, respect them. If you do not want them to be rude to you or one another, do not be rude to them. It is as simple as that!

6.1.5. LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY, TILL THE END

Are you one of those who only love when times are good? When life is good, you love your wife; when life is terrible, you do not. Jesus loved unconditionally till the end.

John 13:1-2

¹³Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Jesus had been betrayed and was about to be crucified. Yet, He loved to the end. That includes Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. When your wife does something wrong or makes a mistake, do you still love her? Verbalizing your anger by saying, “I hate you, I do not love you anymore, or I should never have married you,” is not a reflection of love. Christ loved till the end! You must do the same.

6.2. WHAT IS THE LORD’S COMMAND TO SERVANTS?

Colossians 3:18-25

¹⁸*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.* ¹⁹*Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them.* ²*Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.* ²¹*Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.* ²²*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;* ²³*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;* ²⁴*Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.* ²⁵*But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.*

Husband, love your wife even though your wife is a sinner. Do not be bitter towards her. You must work on your heart concerning this.

6.3. THE WIFE AS A SERVANT TO HER HUSBAND

Sarah called her husband lord. You are a daughter of Sarah, with all humility if you act like her. How do you rate yourself now?

Servants, obey in all things, your master according to the flesh. You do not have to discriminate. Your master may not yet know Christ. You must obey God's command to obey your master as a servant. Your husband may not be in Christ, but he is your husband; he is your master (Sarah called Abraham master). Obey as God commands. It is the right thing to do. And God will be glorified.

6.3.1. LIVE WITH HIM, NOT WITH EYESERVICE.

Let God also know you love your husband. A story was told of a wicked man who died in a community, and a man in that community would not speak evil of any man; he would speak only good. But all the people in the community knew that this man who passed away was wicked. When the good man came to the bereaved home, he was challenged to speak about the dead man. "You who speak ill of no man,

what do you say about this man?” He came and examined the dead man; his mouth was open. The man then said, “This man has nice teeth.”

There are many things good that your husband has done and does to you. Tell people those good things about him. Thank God for those good things in him.

6.3.2. LOVE WITH SINGLENESS OF HEART

As a wife, there must be something you can love, no matter how wicked your husband is. Fix your eyes on that which is good, and comfort yourself. Pray that God gives you the heart to love for your husband. Overcome his ills, hate and evils with love, which covers a multitude of sins. You can achieve this by prayer and practice.

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Your husband may spend nights outside. Yes, this is not right, but if he feeds and clothes you, fix your eyes on the good he does in supplying food and clothes. His wickedness is not a hundred per cent, by the way! Love with singleness of heart.

6.3.3. DO UNTO HIM AS UNTO THE LORD

Do whatever you must do for your husband as unto the Lord. Though he may not deserve it, God deserves it. Do it to him, for God's sake. Let God know you are righteous, and He will reward you.

I know of a woman, a government worker, whose husband abandoned her. He deserted the marriage to marry another woman, leaving the woman and their children for about twelve years. Then the husband encountered Jesus, repented, sent away the second woman and returned to his wife. He knelt before his wife and pleaded for forgiveness. Thank God the husband returned after twelve years and found the wife still faithful to God and him.

6.3.4. KNOW THAT GOD WILL REWARD YOU.

God will reward, restore, and redeem you when you do good.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

As hard as the unbeliever may be, though a child of Satan, God will make you overcome in that house. Why? You are with God, and His promises must be fulfilled in your life. He knows how to part the waters of the Red Sea for you to cross. But give Him righteousness, truth, holiness, commitment, servitude and love, and you will see what He will do. Your case will be different. You will be inside the fire but will feel relaxed. The Son of God will be with you in the fire. You will be in the lions' den, but the Lord will seal their mouths against you to His praise and glory and your promotion in the sight of men.

6.4. THE UNGODLY MARRIAGE PARTNER

Do unto your husband, the sinner, as God says you should do unto him. Do unto your wife, the sinner, as God says you should do unto her. You will see God with you and make it to heaven when you do.

Acts 4:18-20

¹⁸And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Here is a wife before an authoritative lion-like unbeliever, a husband whose voice releases the fear of Satan. "I told you

not to go to that church anymore. If you do, I will deal with you. Any time I see you go there, you will see what I will do!” Forget that voice and speak the way Peter and John did. “God created me and brought me to you. If you do not want me, I go to Him. Your wickedness will not send me to hell. I will attend church in this house because I serve God, who created me. You are not my creator!”

Do not fear, and God will take care of your relationship. You are not a slave to your husband. You do not have to walk naked in the street because your husband says so. You do not have to put on pants because your husband says so. You will go to hell! You will stand before God and tell Him who is greater: your husband or Him? Who has charge of your eternal life? Your husband married you in the flesh; he did not marry your soul.

Ezekiel 18:4

⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Should you sin and disobey God because of your husband? Then you have lost heaven. You, too, have become an unbeliever! You disqualify yourself from heaven by disobeying God in making your husband your god. Christian wives must not mind their husband’s threats lest he

becomes an idol to them to provoke God into jealousy, anger and judgement.

The three Hebrew children said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “Oh king, we will not speak carefully or honourably to you in this matter. If you say you are throwing us into the fire, our God shall deliver us. We are ready to die if He does not, but we shall not worship your image.” Woman, tell your husband that.

If your husband wants you to perform sinful sexual acts like anal sex, tell your husband the purpose of your anus. Tell him that it is an exit port only to pass out excrement, and he is not permitted to insert his manhood in it. That is not what God sent you to his home for. If you are not ready, I will close myself; that is all there is to it. He may say, “I will leave you for someone else.” “Go to others who are willing to perish with you. But not me.” Speak boldly as the child of God that you are. The righteous are bold like the lion.

And you man, do not be a slave to a woman. “My wife said before she gives herself to me, I must not go to church. My wife said before this and that.” Have you not learned from Adam, who ate the fruit from his wife, and both became naked? Are you listening to an unbelieving woman, obeying her commands? She decides when you should read the bible and when not to; when to go to church and when not to; when to serve God and when not to; when to travel for a

conference and when not to. You have left the way! That is what it means. Answer her boldly; answer your unbelieving spouse boldly. You are the head, not her. You are the one in control, not her. You will not respect her in such matters.

6.5. LEARN FROM ABIGAIL, THE WIFE OF NABAL

1 Samuel 25:14-23, 32-35, 37, 38

¹⁴But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

¹⁵But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: ¹⁶They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him. ¹⁸Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. ¹⁹And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband, Nabal. ²⁰And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert on the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down

against her; and she met them. ²¹Now David had said, surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good. ²²So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. ²³And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,... ³²And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: ³³And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. ³⁴For in very deed, as the Lord God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. ³⁵So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person... ³⁷But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. ³⁸And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord smote Nabal, that he died.

What was the story? In the wilderness, David protected the sheep of Nabal; he instructed his men not to touch Nabal's sheep. Generally, in the wilderness, people raid sheepfolds. But because of David and his men around them, thieves were afraid to raid Nabal's sheep. A time came when Nabal celebrated at the end of the year, giving presents and thanks to people he loved. He called all his shepherds to eat and rejoice. David sent men to Nabal to ask for something to eat too.

Nabal refused and spoke evil of David. When David heard about it, he was furious and decided to destroy Nabal and all he had. David's decision reached Abigail. She did not know that David had made any demands from her husband to help them in the wilderness. What did she do? Did she wait for permission? Did she go to the husband to say I want to appease David? It would have been nonsense to the Nabal. He would not have listened, let alone responded kindly to that. It would have been a problem, yet doing this was required for righteousness and peace. Abigail did what was right to save herself, her husband and her household.

This is a lesson for women who may be in similar situations. You must not tell your husband everything, especially when you know he is a wicked, foolish, and ungodly man. Why must you tell your husband before you give your tithes or before you support the cause of Christ? Does it mean you

cannot practice righteousness unless your husband permits? Abigail practised righteousness, and that righteousness saved her life and household. When she came later to explain what happened to lead her husband to repentance, it tended instead to his death, the reward of his wickedness.

What does the bible say about not doing what you know you must do? To refuse to do good or save a life when you can is a sin.

James 4:17

¹⁷Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Do not hide behind your husband and become unproductive. Because your man will not serve God, fear God, nor be charitable to Him, is no excuse for you to do the same. You must use wisdom to serve God in righteousness. Abigail was a righteous woman who obeyed her husband despite his wickedness.

When the Lord leads you to practice righteousness, and you know that you are not doing it out of pride, and you are not wasting the family resources, go ahead and do it and give glory to God. When you do, you will save yourself, your children and all those in your household. It is not sin to do good directed by God.

6.6. LEARN FROM OBADIAH

1 Kings 18:1-13

¹And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. ²And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. ³And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly: ⁴For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) ⁵And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts. ⁶So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. ⁷And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah? ⁸And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. ⁹And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? ¹⁰As the Lord thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

¹¹And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. ¹²And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth. ¹³Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

Obadiah was a righteous man, serving in the government of Ahab and Jezebel. As a wife is a servant to her husband, so was Obadiah to his master Ahab. But Ahab was wicked. He began killing the Lord's prophets. Did Obadiah take permission from him to hide some prophets? He, too, might have been killed had he dared to. He hid one hundred prophets and fed them with food and water daily.

Where was he getting the food from? It could have been from the government because he was under the government of Ahab. It could have been from his resources. But he was doing this under the government of Ahab, an unrighteous, polluted and ungodly government. Nonetheless, Obadiah practised holiness, righteousness, and charity.

You can serve in an ungodly environment and still be godly. Even when the conditions are contrary, you can do right.

6.7. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR PARTNER IS UNGODLY

6.7.1. ASK FOR HELP

If you are married to an ungodly partner, that should not stop you from being a blessing to people, the church, and your community. Being married to an ungodly partner should not make you barren regarding good works. If you have a spouse who will not allow you, please, ask God for help, and He will give you favour, wisdom and counsel.

Your righteousness will always make you overcome. Even when it is risky, the power of righteousness in you shall overcome; you will serve the Lord successfully in wisdom and boldness even with an ungodly spouse.

6.7.2. ASK FOR GRACE

Who is that person who has married an unbeliever and succeeded? It is not by might or power, only by God. Ask for grace from God to help you if you have an unbelieving spouse.

2 Corinthians 12:8, 9

⁸For this thing, I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in

weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Many wish their spouses were gone or dead: “I am waiting for you to die; I will marry another woman.” The woman also says, “I want you to die so I can marry another man.” Wishing someone dead is evil, so do not do it. Do not wish evil on someone.

What should you do? His grace is sufficient for you. The grace of the Lord is what you need. If you have an unbelieving spouse, ask for grace.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Go to God and ask for grace if your spouse is an unbeliever so that you will not go to hell. If your strength is failing, the grace of God is the only solution. Pray and ask God for help. His grace is sufficient.

6.7.3. LIVE A PRAYERFUL LIFE

You must live a prayerful life. Take prayer as the person with diabetes takes drugs to survive. Take prayer as the

hypertensive take drugs to control their blood pressure. Pray day and night to be able to overcome those demons, to subdue them, to be able to get angels to come and help you in that hostile environment.

6.7.4. ASK FOR WISDOM

Ask for wisdom from God to enable you to live with an unbelieving marriage partner. The Bible tells us the vital parts of wisdom.

2 Chronicles 1:10

¹⁰ Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

Give me wisdom that I may know how to go out and come in with this woman or man. How can you live with such an evil person, except by wisdom? Ask for wisdom.

Proverbs 4:5-13

⁵Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. ⁸Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. ⁹She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall

she deliver to thee. ¹⁰Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. ¹¹I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. ¹²When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straightened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. ¹³Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

Get wisdom; ask for it. Solomon prayed for administrative wisdom to help him know how to lead people. You, too, need the wisdom to live with your spouse. The God of heaven will help you; God will give you grace and wisdom.

PART III
OBEDIENCE AND
WISDOM FOR
HOLINESS IN
MARRIAGE AND
THE FAMILY LIFE

CHAPTER 7

GOD DEMANDS OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD

The scripture below tells us that God expects perfection in the lives of His children. Do all things well, do not allow defilement into your life, your walk with God, and your speech. Do not allow lies or abusive or corrupt words to come out of your mouth. Walk in the way of God. Walk in the Word of God. You will be blessed when you keep the testimonies of God, when you keep the commandments of God and when you become a testimony to others to promote the name of the Lord.

Psalm 119:1-6

¹Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. ²Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. ³They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. ⁴Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. ⁵O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! ⁶Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

God wants you to seek Him with your whole heart. Do not give in to temptation. Be perfect in your marital relationship, even if you are married to an unbeliever. Even if you are married to a carnal Christian, be perfect so there may be no fault in you. Put iniquity far away from you. Do not tell lies or be abusive. Let your words be righteous. Walk in the ways of God. Keep anger and malice far away from you.

Ask for God's help in prayer to reflect Christ before your spouse. Also, pray that you will obey God's Word and not be ashamed before those you profess your faith.

Obey the word, the commandments of God concerning marriage. Wisdom is needed when things do not flow freely because of contrary circumstances.

You may face obstacles which may compel you to want to compromise your holiness and righteousness in your marriage. Apply wisdom from God to enable you to leap over or manoeuvre around these obstacles. Obedience and wisdom will make you live the holy and righteous life in your marriage that God expects from you. He expects you to be perfect and holy in marriage and family life.

7.1. WHO WAS APOSTLE PAUL WRITING TO?

Ephesians 5:22-27

²²Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Who was Paul writing to in this book? He tells us in Ephesians 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

This epistle was written to the saints (both male and female) and the faithful believers in Christ Jesus. Paul was giving them an instruction. If you are a believer, this is what God expects of you as a married woman or man: faithfulness.

Paul is not writing to ordinary saints but to faithful saints who have accepted to follow God's Word diligently. He said, "Brother, I expect this in your home, in your family. Sister, by your confession and testimony that you are a Christian, I expect this in your marriage and home."

7.2. INSTRUCTIONS TO WIVES

7.2.1. WIVES, SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBANDS.

Ephesians 5:22

²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands. Some wives respect people and treat other men with honour and humility. The Bible says to do the same to your husband. Why do you love people outside more than your husband? Why are you obeying people outside more than your husband? Why do you submit to leadership: your boss, even your pastor, more than you do to your husband? Why do you deal cheerfully, lovingly, with neighbours more than your husband? Make sure you submit to him, too and much more.

7.2.2. DO NOT DELAY IN OBEDIENCE TO YOUR HUSBAND

The scripture further says you should submit to your husband as unto the Lord as if your husband were the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. How would you have treated Jesus if you saw Him physically? You would have been excited; you would laugh and want to kneel before Him, thank Him, bless Him, obey every word He speaks, and make promises and commitments. Therefore, do so to your husband. Holy wives should not break the commandments of their husbands just as they will not break those of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 119:59-61

⁵⁹I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. ⁶⁰I made haste and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

Please do not delay in all matters about your husband: to obey and submit to him.

7.2.3. LET YOUR HUSBAND BE YOUR HEAD

Ephesians 5:23

²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Let your husband be your head. Allow him. God gave it to him because he is a man. Headship is not given to you because you are a woman. There is no other qualification. It is not because he is born-again, educated, or intelligent. But because he is a man, he is automatically the head of the marriage and family. God divinely decided that.

Letting your husband be your head means you should allow him to lead, command, reproof you and be the final authority in all decisions in your marriage. Apostle Paul writes to the faithful saints in Christ Jesus, giving them these rules. If you are a married Christian woman, this also applies to you.

God wants you to be perfect. Please do not allow the desire of the flesh to make you disobey God's instruction. This will reflect unrighteousness, uncleanness, and ungodliness. If you allow money, the comfort of yourself, and the pride of life to affect this, you are not faithful in Christ Jesus.

If money, the flesh, and the love of the world are why you are unfaithful in your calling as a wife, you are not faithful in Christ Jesus. Obey your husband in all things and all legitimate ways.

7.2.4. SEE YOUR HUSBAND AS THE CHURCH SEES CHRIST IN SUBMISSION, OBEDIENCE, AND LOVE

The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church. Nobody will compete with Christ in authority. None will ever lift their head as though they are Christ in the Church. None will ever take the position of Christ.

1 Peter 5:1-3

¹The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ²Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

As ministers of the gospel, we give Christ His place. He dictates our ways. We seek primarily to please Jesus. Our mind is on Jesus. We sing His praise and appreciate Him. If He says go, we go, and if He says we stay back, we stay back.

Woman, let your husband lead. Do not speak ill of your husband to your children. Always speak well of your husband, their father, to them. Love covers a multitude of sins.

Do not succumb to temptation because your life is more than marriage. Humble yourself in the marriage so that marriage will not affect your soul and stop you from going to heaven. Be careful with your marriage; otherwise, you shall be disqualified from entering heaven.

Mark 8:36

³⁶For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

What shall it profit a woman if she gains her convenience, is great in the marriage, thinks the way she wants, is feared by the man and the children, and takes the seat of lordship but eventually goes to hell? What is the benefit?

See your husband as the Church sees Christ in submission and obedience. Respect, submit to, honour, and do not speak back at him. Please do not be rude to him.

Remember, the Bible addresses you as a saint, as faithful in Christ Jesus. So the Bible does not expect sin in your life or marriage.

**7.2.5. SEE YOUR HUSBAND AS A SAVIOUR,
SUSTAINER, AND PROVIDER OF THE FAMILY**

See what the scripture says in verses 23 and 24. Do we not call on the name of the Lord every time we are in need? See your husband in the same light. Do not live a life of

independence. See your husband as the Church sees Christ. Christ is the saviour of the body. Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Do not belittle your husband by not seeking his counsel or instruction. It is unrighteous not to listen to his contributions but do whatever you desire.

When you despise your husband, it is proof you do not submit to him. When you submit to your husband and ask for help when you need it, even financial assistance, he will willingly give you. Be happy you trust and honour him and expect him to do his role as your husband, even if he does not have to give.

Your husband is the provider. All you do should be under his instruction. Let your conduct prove that you recognize him as the head of the house. For example, would you not tell your boss your whereabouts as a worker? Would you not take permission from your boss to be absent from work if a need arose? Would you not report to him when you are sick? Your husband is the boss of your home. Why do you do things without his permission? Why do you go out as you want, come in as you want, stay out as you wish, and say I have no account to give to anybody? That is ungodly. If you live that way, you are not faithful in Christ Jesus; you are not the saint this scripture is written to.

Submit in all things. A man was dying. He called his only son and said, "I have achieved all these things in life:

buildings, businesses, cars, a manager, and many servants. But you are only going to take one thing. The rest will not be yours. What will you take?" Knowing that the manager is conversant with all the father has and that the father owns even the manager, he said, "I take your manager." That is a wise man. If the manager is the one who manages all the resources, and the manager is under me, he will oversee the resources for me as if it were for you." This is wisdom!

You own much personal wealth, financial and material resources, but the Lord has put you under a man. Therefore, all your wealth belongs to him, your husband.

7.3. INSTRUCTIONS TO HUSBANDS

Remember, this instruction is to the saints, who are faithful in Christ Jesus. The apostle is speaking, knowing you are a saint, not just a saint by name, but one faithful in Christ Jesus. The apostle considers you to be born-again, a man preserving his faith and does not want to be ashamed before his wife, lest she says, "I thought I married a Christian." The Lord expects you to be a man who strives to preserve his faith before his children, lest they say, "I thought our father was a true minister of the gospel." He wants you not to be ashamed before your neighbour if they hear you screaming, shouting, and barking like a dog at night. Minister, your house should be as the scripture says; your marriage should be as the scripture says.

The verses that carry the instruction for men who are faithful in Christ are:

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

7.3.1. LOVE YOUR WIFE

Open your heart to your wife. Learn to smile and laugh joyfully with your wife. Learn to be joyful in her presence. Cherish your wife. Always enjoy the companionship of your wife.

It goes beyond that – Love your wife as Christ also loves the Church. Do not love in the realm of the natural man. Go to the realm of Christ.

Christ loved the Church. How did He love the Church?

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

⁴Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily

provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7.3.2. BE PATIENT WITH YOUR WIFE

Charity here means love. Love is patient. Be patient with your wife. Do not be quickly provoked. Do not speak harshly to her. Why do you want to make your wife know that you are a pretender? If you say harsh words or abusive words at her every mistake, it shows your profession of Christianity has all been fake. When you smile at her later, she will call it the smile of a hypocrite. Learn to be patient with your wife.

7.3.3. BE KIND TO YOUR WIFE

Love is kind. Be kind. Give good gifts to your wife. Speak kindly to her. Be soft and tender. Even when she does wrong, please, respond softly and gently to turn away evil.

7.3.4. DO NOT ENVY OR COMPETE WITH YOUR WIFE

Charity does not envy. Do not envy the position of your wife in case God blesses her more financially. The money is coming to the entire family. All windows in a room are open to let in air. So, she is a window by which air comes into the house. It should be a blessing. If your wife is in a better position or qualification that will bless the family, that means more income and honour for the family. Why should

you be envious? If your wife has a talent that is a blessing to the home, why do you envy her? Love your wife, do not envy her.

7.3.5. DO NOT BOAST OR BE PROUD TO YOUR WIFE

The above verse continues, saying that charity does not vaunt itself, is not proud and not boastful. Why do you say, "I have to show this woman I am greater than her; I am this or that?" Did Jesus show us that we are nothing? Do we not know that He is all things? Why should your wife be under bondage because of you? You say I am great; I am the man; I am the head. So what? Should your wife see you as a terrorist in the house? Should that subject her to bondage? Should that make her a second class in your home?

Do not be boastful. Do not boast of your talents. Does the Lord boast to the Church? Instead, He says, "What I have is yours, all my Father has is yours, all I have acquired is yours. There are yet more riches you have not seen. There are yet more riches waiting for you." So, make your wife understand that all you shall have in life is hers.

7.3.6. DO NOT BE CARELESS AND FOOLISH

Charity does not behave unseemly. Why do you misbehave as a fool? Why did you pour water on your wife because she made a mistake? Why did you beat your wife or throw her to the ground? That is foolishness. You lose your respect by

doing that. Your behaviour shows how irreverent you are. She thought you to be a man of wisdom but is seeing folly in you. A little folly in a man esteemed to be a man of wisdom turns him into a fool. So, do not behave foolishly.

7.3.7. DO NOT BE SELFISH TO YOUR WIFE

Love seeks not its own. You went out, bought some roasted meat, and sat in the living room, eating it alone. You did not give your wife or children. If what you eat is good, it is also good for your wife. Do that which gives joy and satisfaction to your wife as Christ would do for the Church.

There are some things natural people cannot do because of the law of sin, the power of sin in the world, and the nature of sin in them. They cannot overcome it. But you can overcome because you are an overcomer through Christ Jesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus. Do more than your neighbours are doing. Do more than your biological brothers are doing. Go beyond what your father, who was not born again, did. Your father was not a faithful saint, so do not copy what your father did; go beyond that.

7.3.8. DO NOT BE QUICK TO ANGER AT YOUR WIFE

Love is not easily provoked. Anger destroys a marriage. A man that is in bondage to anger should not be a pastor. A

bishop must not be quick to get angry. The Bible says, make no friendship with an angry man.

Proverbs 22:24

²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Woe is the life of she who has married an angry man. Her life will be tough. Her laughter and smile will be hypocritical: done only to please the angry man. She will always cover herself to hide the pain, fear, and sorrow.

Do you know the type of fear anger communicates? Do you see the chain an angry man holds? Can you perceive the degree of fear a chained, mad dog can still communicate? Even though you know the dog is chained, you still pass by it with great fear. You may decide not to go by the chained dog's but go through another way or retreat altogether. This is how an angry man has made his family live with him. We must note that women can also be angry.

The Word says if you are an angry man, you are not fit to have a wife. It would be best to be alone because you would disturb and inconvenience your wife. You will not permit her to make mistakes as everyone does; you will not accept a simple error like adding too much salt to food. Put that anger away from your life. Take it to God in prayer. Cry against it.

Love is not easily provoked. When your wife does or says something wrong, make room for learning. No one is perfect. Your home will be fantastic when you make room for people to learn from their mistakes instead of quickly getting provoked each time.

Naturally, when your wife makes a mistake, she will be troubled, wondering, "What will I tell this man? I do not know what happened. The wind came in and blew this down. But if I tell him, he will not agree and say I did it." Now imagine when you come home, and she tells you what happened, and you simply say, "It is okay," and even check if she is okay, she will rejoice in her heart, giving God thanks for a wonderful husband. So do not be so quick to be provoked into anger.

7.3.9. DO NOT BE EVIL TO YOUR WIFE

Love thinketh not evil. Work it out in your heart. Actions come from thoughts. As a man thinketh, so is he. Evil starts with a thought. The thought produces the force of action. Therefore, remove the evil thoughts from your mind if you do not want to act ungodly. Reject those evil thoughts you have towards your wife immediately after they come. Keep sweeping your mind, so those evil thoughts will not settle against her. If your wife has a blemish or infirmity in her physical body, set not your mind on it.

Love does not rejoice in iniquity. Do not rejoice when your wife is sick, saying, "You think you can do everything. Now you are helpless and sick; good for you!" When such thoughts invade your mind, kick them out. Do not allow your wife to notice that you delight in her fall. Do not let her see you amused or glad by a mishap in her family. That is the heart of a devil. Love your wife as Christ also loves the Church.

7.3.10. BEAR WITH YOUR WIFE AND BELIEVE HER

Learn to bear all things. Learn to believe what your wife says. Be hopeful to see her grow and improve in many things. Endure all things. Endure even though she may be rebellious. This is love. And you are to love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

7.3.11. GIVE YOURSELF TO YOUR WIFE AS CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF TO THE CHURCH

Give yourself to the care of your wife as Christ gave Himself to the care of the Church. Give yourself; do not be nonchalant. Make time for your wife as Christ also spent on the Church; it cost Him. He gave Himself for the world to make them part of the Church when they believe in Him. When He gave Himself for the Church that has now become His bride, it was so that He might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the Word.

Husbands, love yourself by giving yourself to perfect her. Learn to teach your wife essential knowledge. Teach your wife to make her what you want. You may invite a professional to teach her how to cook. If your wife does not speak good English or your language, you can employ someone to teach her at home to improve her literacy. You can send her to school to improve her. Such actions improve and increase her worthiness to your joy and satisfaction.

Cleanse her with the right words as Christ cleanses the Church. This water is the Word of God. Use the Word of God on your wife.

2 Timothy 3: 15-17

¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto

salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Learn to use the scriptures on your wife. Reproof her with scriptures in the areas of her fault. Open her eyes to the scriptures to let her know she is wrong. Correct her with the Word of God. Let her know what the Bible says about her actions. According to the scriptures, instruct her in all matters of righteousness to make her a perfect person. Use words to perfect your wife. Speak: do not be quiet. Why are you silent about her many mistakes? Explain to her what wrong she is doing, backed by scriptures.

This also applies to a Christian, born-again woman, a saint, and faithful in Christ Jesus. To such, the Bible says, give counsel to a wise man, and he will be wiser.

Proverbs 1:5

⁵A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

This is not for a woman in the flesh, a carnal woman, or a woman who is a sinner. Reproof not a fool lest he hates you. A woman that does not love the Lord Jesus and is not ready to submit to God's Word will despise correction.

Proverbs 9:8

⁸Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

A woman looking for perfection for heaven will not want to live in sin as an unbeliever in the marriage. Are you not looking for perfection? Do you want to miss heaven?

The Lord has told your husband to do as Christ has done to the Church by using the scripture of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to perfect you by giving you scriptural reproof, correction, and instruction. But you say, "I do not need your correction; I do not need your instruction; stop shouting at me." How, then, can you be perfect?

The man is doing this to present you to himself, the woman of his vision, as Christ did to the Church, to present her to Himself holy and without blemish. This man is training you to live in a way that would make him happy with you, how he can play with you joyfully, how he will reward you joyfully, and how he will boast of you as his wife before others. You say no?

King Ahasuerus wanted Vashti to come before the people, to make them know how much he had invested in her for his glory. If a man wants to boast about his wife to others, he must perfect her according to scriptural truth. Your

husband is doing everything to perfect you, boast of you, and give testimony about you. Why, then, are you resisting instruction, reproof and correction?

As a wise man knows that he does not know enough, become a wise woman and understand that you have not learned enough to receive more. Your husband is instructing you just as Christ is teaching the Church. How? By the washing of water to cleanse her by the Word, to present her to Himself, a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy, and without blemish.

This means that you are not perfect. Though married for many years, you are not yet perfect. You need to know the man more; you need to know his likes and dislikes. And these you cannot know in one day. Even if you read them from a book, you will forget and need to be reminded repeatedly. Therefore, be humble to receive instructions.

Jesus said if I do not wash your feet, you do not belong to me. Permit your husband to do what he is responsible for doing to present you to himself, the wife he loves to live with. Do not frustrate him. Instead of living with him with dust on your feet, permit him to wash your feet. Do not sleep next to him with dust on your feet. Do not behave like Peter, who refused that his feet be washed.

“If I do not wash you, if I do not correct you, if I do not reproof you, you will not be the man of my vision; you have nothing to do with my life,” a paraphrase of Jesus' words to Peter.

These are the instructions God gives man (husband): to obey, to present a glorious woman to himself.

CHAPTER 8

REASONS FOR DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD IN MARRIAGE

Obedience is required for Christian wives and husbands to keep their marriage and family righteous. Do you think it is difficult for a husband to miss heaven because of his wife? Do you think it is difficult for a wife to miss heaven because of her husband? Is your marriage a marketplace where Satan comes to market his goods? With his power, he can keep the couple grudging each other all week, yet come Sunday morning, they go to church. Is that what Satan is doing in your home? Then you are not saints; you are not faithful in Christ Jesus. You are not on your way to heaven, and your marriage is miserable. It is better you were never married than married, and you are going to hell.

The Lord is looking for perfection. When Adam said, “The woman you gave me served the fruit as food for me to eat,” did God keep him in the Garden? That excuse was true, but

it did not stop God from banishing Adam from the Garden. Make no excuses because of your wife. It will not give you heaven. When the woman said, “it was the serpent that gave me to eat,” did it excuse her from the judgment? Your excuses, however genuine, will not exclude you from hell. They will take you to hell. So, please make up your mind to make it to heaven since you are already in the marriage. Sit down, count the cost, and stand for it so you can make heaven. You do not need to be comforted in your sin. God will not pity a sinner or backslider and give him heaven.

8.1. REASONS FOR DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD

8.1.1. SIN AND CARNALITY IN ONE OF THE PARTNERS

Ephesians 1:1, 2

¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are people this Epistle is not written to. Who are the people? Those who are not saints, those who are not faithful in Christ Jesus.

Grace is given to those who already are in Christ Jesus. Grace is not given to those who are not in Christ to help

them practice the Word of God until they become born again. You fan the flames under a pot where a fire is already burning to increase its intensity, but what do you fan when there is no fire under the pot?

Marrying outside the will of God is the beginning of sorrow because your spouse will not be able to receive nor keep God's divine instructions on marriage. It will be like driving a car with deflated tyres. You will have to struggle to move the vehicle. The Lord commands His children not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

What about Christians who marry some who claim to be born again but are not? Using the fire and pot analogy, they have no fire under their pot and, therefore, no grace for a successful marriage. Child of God, if you are thinking of heaven and want to make heaven, make sure you marry a faithful Christian. Ask God for help. Do not allow anything or anyone to rush you into marriage.

What about those who are already married and married in Christ? It's a good thing. But if one backslides, it becomes

terrible. Once they backslide, they lose the fear of God and possibly the love for their spouse. Their thoughts may become vengeful and wicked. They could embarrass their spouse or lead them to sin. Therefore, be careful not to cause your spouse to backslide. If you do, you will reap terrible results as a consequence.

Where one person in the marriage is an unbeliever, and you are the believer, life may be challenging, but remember God's Word: you must be perfect and holy. The standard does not change whether you are married to an unbeliever. Satan is in the world, but some live righteously and in holiness by God's grace. He expects that you seek His help if you have such a case. If one spouse is not fully committed to God, the other will suffer many things. 'Not committed' means the flesh has come in, and carnality has taken over, even though the home is considered a Christian home. There will be problems because the carnal partner cannot flow in righteousness.

Be careful not to make your partner backslide. Your punishment will be too great for you, as Cain said. Likewise, the reward will be too great above whatever you enjoy in your backslidden state. Promote righteousness in the marriage. Encourage your spouse to remain righteous for your good. Spend time praying for your spouse to remain faithful in Christ Jesus.

8.1.2. LACK OF PRAYER

Lack of prayer means a lack of fuel for your spiritual engine to drive your Christian life. Jesus' instruction as part of the Lord's Prayer says, "When ye pray, say, give us this day our daily bread." Among many benefits, prayer empowers us to live above sin successfully. But when we stop praying, we become vulnerable to the devil and our former sinful habits. Our boasting over sin and Satan will cease as prayer ceases.

John 14:30

³⁰Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

Satan will surely come and will never stop coming. Grace received through prayer keeps Satan from seeing fault in you. You will lose your ability to resist the temptation Satan will bring through your spouse if you are no longer prayerful.

The carnal mind does not understand the things of God because they are spiritually discerned. Prayers will give you the grace to understand and overcome the temptations of Satan through your spouse.

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

When you misinterpret things because your spirituality is down, every little word spoken by your partner will anger you. This is because your prayer life is no longer vibrant. Watch and pray that you do not fall into temptation.

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Because you do not pray anymore, lust will show up. Other women will become more attractive than your wife. You will desire them. Lustful thoughts that were never there will take over your mind. The maid that has worked for your household for a long time without you thinking or desiring her will suddenly become attractive. You will no longer have the grace to overcome those thoughts because your prayer life is down.

Prayerlessness can also make the wife quick-tempered and easily irritable; all kinds of sins she lived in will start shooting up. Your spouse's weaknesses, which you had learned to overlook, may soon become an issue again. Encourage one another to pray and learn to pray together. If your prayer life is dwindling, arrest it quickly. Cry to the

Lord; do not allow the devil who used to come and find nothing to accuse you of, to now come and see something in your life to hold on to, to ruin your marriage.

8.1.3. FOLLOWING WRONG COUNSEL.

Wrong counsel is like a foreign object in one's body. Think of a speck or mote entering your eye. If that happens, the eye will naturally blink, losing its ability to see things comfortably or clearly for a moment. Wrong counsel immediately affects righteousness in the home. You begin to behave like a blinking eye; one moment, you are righteous, the other, you are down. Take every counsel you receive to God in prayer for His confirmation or rejection.

8.1.4. FOLLOWING THE WRONG COMPANY.

Naturally, evil communication corrupts good manners.

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Following or learning from the wrong company will corrupt you. Amnon was a friend of Jonadab. Jonadab gave a wicked counsel. Amnon committed incest with his sister Tamar. He was eventually killed by the bad counsel he received.

2 Samuel 13:3-14

³But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. ⁴And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? Wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. ⁵ And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand. ⁶So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. ⁷Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. ⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. ⁹And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. ¹⁰And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon, her brother. ¹¹ And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. ¹²And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in

Israel: do not thou this folly. ¹³And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now, therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. ¹⁴Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

Avoid the company of those who can lead you into sin; be they your friends or relations.

So how can a Christian couple remain obedient to God and enjoy marriage? The Lord Jesus says,

Matthew 5:48

⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Therefore, the couple should aim for perfection. Their commitment should be first to God and His Word. In a Christian marriage, when the parties involved commit themselves to the Word of God as individuals, their marriage will succeed. Make your marriage succeed through a life of obedience, righteousness and holiness.

CHAPTER 9

WISDOM AND PRUDENCE TO MAINTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS IN MARRIAGE

Wisdom asks the question: what should I do, given that my partner is not righteous, is not born-again, is carnal, is in the flesh, does not fear God and will not keep His commandments? How do I play my role in righteousness? Here are a few things you should do:

9.1. ASK GOD ALWAYS

Seek God's face in all matters. Men ought always to pray and not faint.

Luke 18:1

¹⁸ And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Be prayerful in your marriage to always know what to do.

James 1:4-5

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

To be perfect, entire and in want of nothing, you must be patient with the other person, no matter what they do. Control yourself and your emotions. Refuse to set your mind, eyes and heart on evil.

Ask God if you lack wisdom in responding to your husband or how to treat your wife. Always ask God what to do and how to do it when dealing with an unbelieving or backslidden partner. Ask God for help. If you must correct your spouse, receive grace from God to do it correctly. Remember, God is always a ready help in times of trouble. He understands what you are going through and will not fail to help you as you go to Him in prayer

9.2. FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURES ALWAYS IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Make sure all you do is scriptural. That is where your comfort is. It is also where your wisdom and victory are.

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Determine to act only according to the scriptures, for you will find comfort, strength, peace and support in the scriptures. As you obey the scriptures, whatever abuse comes, as a result will be considered persecution, and your conscience will not be guilty before God. It is better for your spouse to be offended than God; God should be at peace with you than one on earth because He is the owner of your life and the judge of all.

Avoid engaging in activities that are clearly against the scriptures. Remember, for heaven's sake, you are to be perfect in your dealings with your spouse, seeing that the rapture will not give anyone time to make things right before they are taken. The rapture will happen suddenly and according to God's time, not yours or your family's. Not when your spouse can now let you do some or all the godly things they had stopped you from doing in the past. You must remain perfect.

If the believing spouse is eventually kicked out of their marital home, they should not be surprised; it is scriptural. The Bible says you will be persecuted and cast away from the synagogue. The rejected spouse should be comforted by being sent out from their home because of persecution, not because of their sin. God will take care of them.

David expresses his dependence on God in words below:

Psalm 27:10

¹⁰ When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

He knew that God would help and sustain him without any doubt if all other help failed.

9.3. SEEK COUNSEL FROM THE RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY

God gives righteous preachers wisdom to counsel you for holy living. Ask for advice from the righteous and holy so that you will know precisely what the mind of God is. Solomon, the teacher, said:

Proverbs 15:22

²² Without counsel, purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

It is necessary to seek counsel from the experienced in important matters. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

Colossians 3:16

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Always apply wisdom to the Word of God. Counselling will help you deal wisely with the practical situations of life. Do not be independent; learn to go for counselling since, typically, there is more insight from many people than from one person.

The wise man Solomon tells us, “*Two are better than one, they have a better reward for their labor*” (Eccl. 4:9). Therefore, getting some godly eyes to see with you or godly brains to reason with you will definitely lead you to make the right decision that will go a long way to help your marriage.

9.4. CURTAIL INFORMATION

Because your spouse is not born again, learn to control what information you share with them.

Micah 7:5, 6

⁵ Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. ⁶ For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

There is truth, and there is wisdom. Truth is eternal, and wisdom greases truth so that truth can be acted upon without causing injury. It would help if you acted on the

truth, but you need the wisdom to lubricate that truth to make it move peacefully and smoothly. Like Abigail (1 Sam. 25), know when it is appropriate or not to talk, to share sensitive information with your spouse. When she saw that Nabal, her husband was drunk, she waited until morning when he would be sober to talk to him. So learn to curtail and control what you say to your unbelieving or backslidden spouse.

9.5. BE LOVING AND CARING

Be loving and caring because it is healing. Love your enemies. You might, by love, convert your enemies.

1 Peter 3:1-2

¹Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; ²While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

This is an unbelieving husband. Your character towards him can convert him. He might not bother to appreciate your character, but you have given God something to work upon and draw him to Himself. Man, love your wife, care for her though she may be stubborn. God is your witness. He will favour you, comfort you, fight for you, justify and rapture you because He knows you are keeping His Word.

9.6. MAKE SURE GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE

Psalm 118:6-7

⁶The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? ⁷The Lord taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

Clearly, in the scripture above, the psalmist was in trouble but chose not to walk in fear or discouragement but to acknowledge the presence of God. Confidently, trust that God will handle your enemies. God is always on the side of the righteous to help them. To the psalmist above, his enemies were his opponents that he desired God to judge. But as for you whose enemy is your spouse now, you do not wish that God will do evil to your spouse. However, your desire should be that God will handle him in way whether it be judgment or any other means that will make him come back to his senses and get repented so that you can enjoy eternal life together.

9.7. EXERCISE WISDOM AND PRUDENCE.

Prudence is wisdom in action.

Proverbs 12:23

²³A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Wisdom and prudence will let you know when to withhold or let out information to your unbelieving spouse. For example, you are a wife, and there's a Christian conference you wish to attend. It so happens that your unbelieving husband, who would typically not want you to attend such a conference, is away. Wisdom demands that you quietly go to your meeting and enjoy yourself rather than tempt him to seek his approval when you already know the outcome.

Likewise, a prudent man will not share information that may stir up problems with an unbelieving partner.

Esther in the Bible is a clear example of one who exercised lots of prudence in her dealings with her husband, the king.

Proverbs 13:16

¹⁶Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

As a prudent person, always make sure you act with knowledge, accurate knowledge, about a matter, not suspicions. Get all your facts straight before you confront your spouse about any matter. Accusing them falsely might provoke them to rebel or become more rebellious.

Proverbs 14:15

¹⁵The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

The prudent man judges. He considers and examines everything to know the truth.

Proverbs 18:15

¹⁵The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Get more knowledge. There is safety with more information or knowledge. Commit yourself to listen to sound biblical teachings. Read more and more books. Knowledge will enable you to be more confident and help you handle matters better in your marriage and life.

Proverbs 19:14

¹⁴House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.

Wives, God wants you to be prudent, to know how to always deal with your husband and in every matter.

Proverbs 22:3

³A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

A prudent man thinks ahead. He considers before taking steps. He will say, "If I follow this course, this might be the

result. I want to avoid that, so I will not go that way.”
Meanwhile, a thoughtless person passes on and suffers the consequences.

Deal prudently in your marriage, especially when your partner is not righteous. Abigail had an unrighteous husband and dealt very wisely with him. So make sure you deal well in your home to allow righteousness to reign.

May God use this book to bless your marriage and the marriages of many others through your efforts.

Pastor Paul Rika

**HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLDWIDE (a.k.a)
HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE
(HOREMOW)
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

HOREMOW is a non-denominational Ministry having the following aims and objectives:

1. To hold Crusades, Conferences and Revival meetings in churches and nations of the world to bring sinners to Christ's salvation and believers to His holiness. (Acts 26:16-18).
2. To produce Christian literature that promotes the salvation of souls, sound Bible teachings and holiness of believers in churches and nations worldwide. (Luke 1:1-4).
3. To produce audio and visual messages to spread the gospel truth in churches and nations worldwide.
4. To bring denominational churches into Christian unity through the belief and practice of the faith once delivered unto the Saints. (Ephesians 4: 12-15).
5. To support believers, ministers, ministries and churches with free Christian materials for their spiritual development in holiness. (Isaiah 65:1).
6. To raise members and supporters of the Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide from churches and Christian ministries worldwide who will submit their lives to Biblical holiness and be spiritually, materially and

evangelically equipped to make others righteous and holy in their churches and the society around them. (2 Timothy 2:2)

7. To establish Christian bookshops in many places within and outside the nation, equipped with holiness materials to promote holiness in the churches of Christ in the world (Romans 17:17).
8. To establish a body of believers called Holiness Revival Movement in every nation who will sponsor the production of the holiness materials of the ministry and other recommended holiness materials (Acts 4:36; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7).
9. Translate ministry materials into as many local, national and international languages as possible (1 Corinthians 14:9-13).
10. To place the ministry book: Divine Revelation of God's Holiness and Judgement by Micheal Thomas Sambo in hotels, hospitals, prisons, and places that can attract public reading for sinners' salvation and believers' holiness (1 Corinthians 9:18-22).
11. To own a Satellite Channel to publish the messages and programs of the Holiness Revival Movement to the world.
12. Establish Bible colleges where believers and ministers can receive biblical and ministerial training for sound Christian ministry (2 Timothy 2:2).

13. To have a ministry campground in various quarters and nations where holiness camp meetings can be held regularly (Hebrews 10:25).
14. To hold zonal, national and international holiness conferences regularly to promote and spread holiness in the lives of believers and Christ's Church (Colossians 1:28-29).
15. To mentor Churches registered under the ministry on sound doctrine, holy living and ministerial establishment (Titus 1:5-14).
16. To support believers, ministers and ministries financially where required, for their spiritual encouragement and establishment in holiness.
17. To have chapters of HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT in local Governments, states and nations, holding regular meetings with clear goals and uniform operation, which are submissive to central administration (Philippians 4:8, 9; Hebrews 13:17).

Pastor Paul Rika

International Director of HOREMOW

HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLDWIDE, a.k.a HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE, is a non-denominational ministry that promotes biblical Righteousness and Holiness in Churches and Nations of the world through Crusades, Conferences, Revival meetings, production and spread of Holiness literature and materials. The membership of the Movement is open to all who love to live Righteous and Holy and spread the same in their churches, communities and nations.

For video messages (live and recorded), visit
<http://www.horemowtv.com>

For Audio and Video messages, Christian literature and other materials of the Ministry/Movement, or for enquiries, Call 08136356813; 08056834323;

Email:holinessrevivalmovement@gmail.com

Headquarters: Holiness Campground, Behind Federal Government College, Kwali, F.C.T. Abuja, Nigeria.

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