

## LESSON 17: FAMILY: HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP PART 1

### DAVID AND JONATHAN

#### **Read 2 Samuel 1:25-26**

- ▶ What kind of relationship did David and Jonathan have?

***“Your love to me was more wonderful than the love of women”***

Some people try to take this passage and distort it to support homosexuality. This was NOT the relationship David and Jonathan had. David only had one true consistent friend in his life and that was Jonathan. Most Christians believe that David said those words because it was far easier to get along with another man rather than a woman. For David, Jonathan was easier to live with than Michal, Abigail, or any of the other wives he had. This is a basic principle for all people. It is generally easier to live with/ get along with someone of the same sex than someone of the opposite sex.

#### **Read 1 Samuel 31:8, and 2 Samuel 21:12**

- ▶ How did David feel after Jonathan died?

Jonathan ended up dying because he honored his father who tried to kill him. He died on Mount Gilboa with his father and brothers. David laments over the fact that he had to write about his friend's death.

### DIFFERENCES IN MEN AND WOMEN

#### **Read 1 Peter 3:7**

- ▶ What does this verse say about how men should treat women?

Peter says that women are weaker than men. Because of this, men are to treat women with honor.

#### **Read Colossians 3:19**

- ▶ What does this verse say about relationships in marriage?

Paul feels that it is likely that husbands can become embittered against their wives. He clearly warns against this by commanding husbands to love their wives instead.

Clearly, men and women are very different. This makes it difficult for a man and a woman to live together. Peter mentions that women are weaker. It is believed this means that they are weaker emotionally but also gifted emotionally unlike a man.

*Example: If you have four women at a table for lunch, by the end of lunch, they will all know everything about each other's family. When they communicate, they look each other in the eyes*

*and have no problem communicating. On the other hand, if you put four guys at a table for lunch, by the end of lunch, they will know who the greatest quarterback in super bowl history is, but will not be able to tell you about the other men at the table or their families. Men do not communicate like women.*

► What are some differences between men and women?

In general, women are more relational than men. Women want eye contact during conversation, unlike men. While women want to focus on the conversation, men usually talk better and share things that are more personal if they are distracted from looking at each other, like when sitting around a fire.

Men and women also converse differently. Men typically like to stay in their box and talk about that one thing until they are done, then they move to the next box. On the other hand women are more like spaghetti. One idea reminds them of another thing that happened that reminds them of something else. Women tend to chase rabbits in their conversation.

Women also tend to vent in this same fashion. Men want to try to fix everything, but women just want them to listen. Other times, women do want feedback from their husbands. As Chris Osborne likes to say, "Men are stupid and women are emotional." Wives, let your husbands know if you want them to just listen or if you want feedback. Make this clear at the beginning of the conversation. Men, although it can be hard to not jump in and fix everything, allow your wife to just vent sometimes and then do nothing about it except maybe give her a hug.

Women are romanced in their souls, where they feel emotionally. Men, on the other hand, are romanced physically. Women tend to be more emotional and relationship based which can cause them to be emotionally worn out by the end of the day. At the end of the day, men are not emotionally fatigued and just want to have sex because that is their intimacy. Men do not understand that women need to be emotionally recharged before getting into bed. This emotional draining is why Peter says women are the weaker vessel.

This emotion and relationship aspect is also a huge blessing in women's lives. Women are more likely to invest more time and energy in praying for someone because they are emotionally involved and do not like to see others hurting. Women pray in detail and are passionate.

*Example: In Jewish times, most Jews were farmers or fishermen. It was the man's responsibility to leave the house and work. Until the children were older, the children stayed at home with their mom. God gifted the person at home with the children so she could build in them and nurture in them a connectedness to her and their dad. When she honors the dad when he comes home, the family is connected through her connection. The basis of the family working is rooted in what God gave the woman, not what God gave the man.*

The very giftedness that blesses other is also what causes the woman to be the weaker vessel. Women need to understand that men will never be able to communicate and relate like women can. One of the reasons that men get embittered is because the woman tries to force the man into the women's camp. Men are never going to be like women. This does not mean that men are without responsibility.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEN AND WOMEN**

#### **Read Ephesians 5:21-33**

- ▶ How are the responsibilities for men and women different in the marriage relationship?

Verse 21 talks about a mutual submission. Then in verse 22, it says that the women should be subject to their husbands. This appears to contradict itself. The words 'be subject' in verse 22 are not actually in the Greek. This means that the wives submission to the husband is based off of verse 21. The husband is the head of the household, which is why the wife should submit to him.

The husband has two responsibilities...

1. Love his wife as Christ loves the church and gave Himself up for her. The husband, as head of the home, has final say on matters. If he gives himself up for his wife like Christ did, then his final say will be based on what she wants and not what he wants. It will be primarily based on his wife's desires.
2. Deepen his wife spiritually. The husband should ask his wife, "Has my being in your life made you love Jesus Christ more and understand Him better?" If the answer is no, then she has the responsibility to tell him that.

Usually, there is no problem for wives to submit to their husbands when she knows that he puts her needs before his needs and walks closely with the Lord.

### **LOVE ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE**

#### **Read Ephesians 5:21-33**

- ▶ Is there any difference in the way we love?

There are four Greek words for love: **Eros, Storge, Philia, and Agape.**

**Storge:** Is found in the New Testament and means "family love that works." It is the idea that everyone is okay.

**Eros:** This is the Greek word for sexual love. It is not found in the New Testament but only found in secular ancient Greek writings.

**Philia:** This is an emotion based word found in the New Testament. An example is saying “I am in love with my spouse.” You feel good about your spouse and enjoy being with them.

**Agape:** This is the word predominantly used in the New Testament. This word contains two main ideas: choice and value. Agape means that I choose to love something because of the value I see in the object.

► What kind of love is used in the relationship of a husband and a wife?

Both **Philia** and **Agape**.

**Philia** is both the husband and wife’s responsibility to the other. *Example: Whether or not my wife feels good about me or whether or not she is in love with me, is my responsibility.* If the husband does not treat the wife well, is embittered toward her, is sick of the details, doesn’t respond well to her, and doesn’t treat her well, then his wife will not be in love with him. The flip side to this is that it is the wife’s responsibility to make her husband be in love with her. How she treats her husband will determine how he feels and deals with her.

**Agape** on the other hand is the basis for their love in the home. In Philippians it says, “Husbands agape your wives.” Every morning, the couple must choose to agape love each other based on the value God places on each of them.

### **WHAT MEN AND WOMEN WANT IN MARRIAGE**

Men and women want different things out of marriage. Men want to be respected; while women want to be valued. A man is called to love his wife. A woman is called to respect her husband. Love goes along as part of that respect.

Happiness is not the basis of a godly marriage. Because men and women are different, happiness with each other will not be a constant in any marriage. Your happiness should come from Jesus Christ which should lead you to give to each other rather than take.

### **CONCLUSION**

Men and women are very different and have different roles in marriage. Men will never be able to fully understand women and vice-versa. This is why same sex friendships are important. Just be careful when sharing with other women that you do not share too much and disrespect your husband. Wives should respect their husbands, and husbands should love their wives. We will go into more details next week!