



Role of the Husband in the Marriage
February 22, 2018

Verses Covered

1 Timothy 3:12

1 Peter 3:7

Colossians 3:19

2 Samuel 1:25 - 26

This is the Greek word for man:

ἄνθρωπος

We're going to spend the next three weeks looking at marriage. We're going to spend a week looking at men in the marriage and what their role is. We're going to spend a week looking at your role in a marriage. Biblically, you're not going to like today, but it may help gain some insight for you why your husband is so stupid. I want you to remember always, this is not in the Bible, but it's as true as anything in the scripture.

Men are stupid. Women are emotional.

So it's a bad, bad combination. We'll look at parenting on another week. There are some dates I'm out. As a matter of fact, I've got to go get a yellow fever vaccine this morning. I'm going to Uganda with a couple guys and we're training pastors for a week. And my doctor, Dr. Singh, pulled out this massive book and was telling me all this junk I've got to get. If I'd know that, I'd still be here in the states.

Now we're going to look at what the Bible says and then I'm going to explain why the Bible says it. Now there are always some exceptions. In some relationships the man is the woman and the woman is the man. There really are some like that. But there is always a man and a woman. The man may be, and I don't mean by that he's homosexual or even feminine. The best example I can give, and they've agreed with this, if you know the Bosts in the church, Ken is the woman in the home and Alice is the man in the home. He's incessant. She doesn't talk. He's the one that cries at the movies. She doesn't. So sometimes there's a reversal. It's not true in my home. So here's where we're going. Number 1; go to 1 Timothy 3:12. That's the first place we're going. Again,

you're not going to like some of this today, but let me walk you through as best I can so that we get where we are. Now this is Paul's letter to Timothy. He's a pastor at Ephesus. He's telling him how to build his church and what the proper roles are. Now here's what he says about deacons and really it's the same principle. I use the ones for deacons instead of overseers so we understand this is probably for everybody because the deacon should come out of the church body. It says:

¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their children and their own households well.

So the responsibility of a man is to manage his children and his household. Now if it's his household, who else is in the household besides the children? His wife. So his job, ladies, is to manage his wife. Now I know you're about ready there to stone me, just remember I am packing. So his job is to manage the home. He is the head of the home. His responsibility is to manage that. Now that doesn't mean, for example, that his children won't sin, but his job is to make sure they are managed in that sin. Same principle with his wife and then even with his wife, as his helpmeet points out his failure, he's to manage his own failure inside that household. But the man's in charge of the management of the household; and that includes the wife. Now it is the most difficult job he has. Go to 1 Peter 3:7. Here's what it says.

⁷Likewise, husbands, you live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Now there are two ways in which you are weaker. Now before you hate me, let me get through the whole lesson today before you want to kill me. You're obviously weaker physically. I don't care what they have on TV in all the shows now. There's always some lady that can beat the guys up and I get that. But at the end of the day you don't have women NFL football players. Because some woman may be able to beat up some men, she's not going to be able to play in the NFL; I don't care who she is. So there's a physical weakness, but that's not what he's really referencing. He's referencing an emotional weakness. Now, again, let me walk through this. This is what makes this extremely difficult and it's why it's going to be a struggle. There is a difference between you and the man. And his responsibility, he very clearly says, is, now look at this carefully. He talks about the fact that he has to live with you in an understanding way. In other words, he's got to accept that you're weaker than he is emotionally. That's his responsibility. He cannot ask you to be what he is. Now I'm going to explain this in a minute. He has to show honor to you as a result of that. Don't ever date or marry a man that doesn't honor the difference between you and him. Since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, this is going to be key. When we look at the biblical idea of love from him to you, it's going to be based on his understanding that you have the grace of life. That's going to be the basis of his love for you. So hold that there. And then it never says this to you, it says it to the men; so that your prayers may not be hindered. If you fail as a wife, it doesn't say that your prayers will be hindered. If I fail as a husband, my prayers are hindered. It's never a consequence to the wife; it is a consequence to the husband. Because he's the one that's the head of the home. It doesn't say she manages the household. It says he does. So the heavier responsibility is on the husband and therefore he takes the heavier consequence. His prayers are damaged if he does not do it correctly. So the scripture puts enormous difficulty on us.

Now look at Colossians 3:19. It's the next command.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

There's going to be a temptation of the husband to be harsh with the wife because of the difficulty in the differences. There's going to be a tendency for the husband to be unkind and to be harsh. He can't do that. And then look at 2 Samuel 1:26. This is going to be a difficult verse for you. But, again, you've got to deal with the scripture. David had one friend in his life, King David. That was Jonathan, Saul's son. They were best friends. He was the only friend he ever really has. He has a lot of loyal constituents, but it's his best friend. Their friendship is so deep that Jonathan, before he dies, gives the throne to David. Which he was the crowned prince, it should have gone to him, but he actually gives it to David. His father tries to kill him at one point over David. And so Jonathan and Saul die on Mt. Gilboa during a battle with the Philistines, which was forecast by Samuel. When he hears the word, he writes this little song. Here's one line in it. As a matter of fact, go to verse 25.

²⁵How the mighty have fallen in the midst of battle! Jonathan lies slain on your high places. ²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me. Your love to me was extraordinary surpassing the love of women.

Now there are only two possibilities with this verse, right. He's homosexual, which obviously we know is not true from the scripture. How do we know that? Because God outlined his major failure with Bathsheba. Had he been homosexual, God would have addressed it in the scripture. One of the ways you know the Bible's true, by the way, is it never hides the warts of its heroes. But what he is saying is that his relationship with Jonathan was easier than his relationship with his wives. Now that's hard for women. You want your husband to be your best friend, but what you will discover is, it's easier relating to other men, than it is to you because of the significant difference between men and women. I would encourage you to get a book called Men are Like Waffles – Women Are Like Spaghetti, we had that couple here, and read the book. It's the best book I know for examining the differences. It's not like Mars and Venus. This is written by a couple who have worked through those differences. Now the differences are pronounced. You don't see them when you're dating generally. I have two questions I ask guys when I have the first pre-marital with them. I have two questions I ask the guys. They're sitting there in my office with their little girl, right. And they're just ooey-goey over each other. He's wonderful. She's wonderful. It's disgusting. I always ask two questions. I say, "Alright, son, I've got two questions for you. You're surrounded by Bibles; I want some honest answers here. Number one: are there days that you get tired of hearing her talk?" And you can see, if he's been dating a while, the fear begin to erupt. And she's immediately shocked when he's hesitant because now she knows, there are days he's tired of me talking; which is always just an erupting shock to her. And then I'll say, "Are there days you get tired of her asking you questions?" And then she's really stunned and then I walk them through the fact that this is not a love statement. It is he's a man and you're a woman and there are days he doesn't want to hear you talk any more. There are massive differences between us. Women have more words than men do. You talk more than we do. I'm sorry, but that's the deal. And we have a limit to how much we want to talk. Sometimes you can share that with your wife. I remember one night, it was about midnight, my wife had been going

on and finally I said, “You’ve got to shut up. I have got to get some sleep.” And she actually laughed and I was saved there.

You’re different in your stress relief. Men live in boxes. Women are spaghetti. When the metaphor of spaghetti is used in the book, the idea is y’all are connected to everything. Everything bothers you. You think about something all day long. Everything wears on you. We live in boxes. If I’m in my ESPN box, I don’t want to talk to you about our marriage. If I’m in my golf box, if I’m in my working on my dissertation box; we stress relief by going in a box. If we’ve got stress in this box, we just go to another box where there is no stress. You, on the other hand, there is nowhere for you to go. So what you do is you talk and release the spaghetti and your venting is your stress relief. Which is why, as husbands, we’re constantly in trouble, because when you start doing that, our first reaction is, “She wants me to fix this.” That’s not your heart. Your heart is, “I just want you to shut up and listen to me while I get it off my chest so I can feel better.” You’ve got to help us, ladies, now listen, we don’t know when there is, because sometimes I don’t say anything and my wife goes, “You don’t have anything to say?” And I’m like, “I don’t know.” So you’re going to have some code word, like Geronimo or dog face or something, that you say before you start the venting so he knows, “OK tonight she just wants me to shut up or she wants me to say something when this is over.” We don’t know. And I don’t care how long you’re married. He’s never going to know! OK. How long is he going to be stupid? Until he dies. So we’re different in our stress relief.

We’re different in our movies. I hate my wife’s movies. I don’t ever want to ever see another Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan movie as long as I live. She made me watch the end of Sleepless in Seattle the other night. The most asinine movie ever made. They don’t even know each other. They meet in this tower in a city in the middle of nowhere and they walk off like it’s OK. I’m sorry, there are some problems there. Steel Magnolias. She took me to that movie. Let me just explain something here. I could have sat in a beauty salon for four hours and gotten the same junk I got out of Steel Magnolias. The only good moment in Steel Magnolias was when Julia Roberts died because it was the only moment of actual action in the whole movie. The last time we were going with a bunch of couples to some chick flick thing, this is exactly what my wife said to me. She said, “OK, here are the rules. Tonight you may not role your eyes. You may not look at your watch. You may not sigh heavily. And you may not make out loud comments in the movie theatre.” So I looked at her and I said, “Then I guess there’s no point in me going.” I have been known to make out loud comments. I know, it’s horrible.

We are not detailed like you. I remember I was walking to Mike and Christy Walker, obviously before she died. We were talking about something and they were telling me, Christy had been, this is such a vintage man/woman moment. Christy had been on a trip and she came home and, of course, what’s she going to do? She can’t wait to get home to her best friend and unload everything on Mike. Her son, Ryan, who’s like 12 at that point is in the room. And she starts going through the story and so what does she do? She’s walking through all the details. “We were in the motel, and oh, it was so wonderful, they had these tablecloths...” And she starts in and Ryan, at twelve, looks at his dad and he goes, “Dad she’s even going to talk about the tablecloths.” So even at a young age, he’s beginning to understand. He’s not detail-oriented. We don’t care anything about the details. You do because that’s how you connect with us. We hate them.

We're different in clothes. I have never been to the deer lease ever when a guy looked at me and said, "Do I look fat in this?" I have never, ever been to the deer lease where a guy said that to me. Ever! Because we don't care. You people are freaky over how you look.

Some of our boxes, ladies, are empty. There's nothing in the box. And we don't want you to join us in there and clutter it up. I remember, you know what the most frightening question you can ask a man? The most frightening question he gets from his wife is, "What are you thinking about?" I remember we're driving, I'm thinking, "Man it's a great day. I've got my woman, I've got my tunes, I've got my truck." We're driving down and she goes, "What are you thinking about?" "Nothing." Did she believe that? No. Why? Because she thinks about something all day long. So now she thinks I'm lying. So now the day's gone. My son's been married about two weeks, we're at Bass Pro and we're walking around. He's been married about two weeks and he goes, "Dad I got a question. I'm working on the TV the other day." They'd just gotten home from the honeymoon, right. He said, "I'm working on the TV. I'm trying to get the stereo set up and Court comes in and goes, 'Hey are you OK?' So I look at her around the TV and go, 'Yeah.' 'Well you just haven't been talking much. I was just wondering.'" He said, "Dad, I'm just working on the TV. Was mom like that?" I said, "Oh yeah, son." He said, "What did you do?" I said, "Well what I did you can't do." He said, "What are you talking about?" I said, "Well I'm going to tell you what I did. I got so tired of that asinine question of 'What are you thinking about?' I lied to your mother. But it was really effective. Finally, I looked at her and I said, 'Look what I'm doing is I'm working on a sermon in my head.'" And I said, "It did two things. It made your mother shut up and pray for me." It was the perfect answer. I said, "It won't work for you, but it worked for me." So we have some empty boxes. I mean we really have moments in the day where we are literally thinking about nothing. And you're going to have to accept that. Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd, had a great difficulty with that. Abraham Lincoln used to go into these kind of catatonic boxes where he would just do nothing; just focus. And one day, Mary Todd got so hacked at him, she took a piece of wood out of the fireplace and whacked him in the face with it and just, that's why Abraham Lincoln for six months wouldn't let her come to DC. So you need to just accept the fact that we're going to be a little different.

We are different sexually. You're going to be turned on emotionally by how your husband treats you. We're turned on visually. For you, the definition of marriage is can you love me without sex? For a man, his definition of whether or not he's loved by you, will depend on whether or not you have sex with him and whether or not you enjoy that time. So you're different, which is why that becomes a huge issue inside the marriage.

We're different in the way we talk. You want eye contact. You want us to focus on you. That is the most terrifying thing for a man is to look in someone's eyes. Let me tell you something that will happen. You take four guys to the deer lease. As a matter of fact, you put four women at a table, they'll know everything about each other's families in an hour and a half. You put four guys at a table, you know what we'll know? Who the greatest quarterback was in Super Bowl history. That's what we'll talk about. We don't go deep and we don't do eye contact until we actually somewhat trust you and even then, we don't do eye contact. You take four guys and you go to the deer lease, I guarantee every night this is what's going to happen. We all come back in from the hunt. We sit down and you've got the fire going. We're cooking and when we finish supper, first thing we do is say, "OK what'd you see today?" "Oh, saw a couple doe, saw this, saw that." We

talk about all that stuff. Then you start poking the fire because that's what we do. We kick the fire; we poke the fire. We'll discuss maybe some political deal. And then at some point, really about two hours later, somebody will say something that actually has some meaning. At which point, the other guys will join in. Now we don't ever look at each other and go, "Tell me what you were thinking." And we don't care how they feel about anything. We don't do eyeball to eyeball well. We'll ask a question. We'll look at a guy, go back to the fire. Because we don't do eye contact well. So when you put all these things together, it's a massive difference. Which is why every one of the verses that I've read to you talks about how the man is to treat you. That he has to treat you well even though you frustrate him. And you do frustrate him because he doesn't want to hear the details. He doesn't want to talk all day. He doesn't want to do eye-to-eye contact. He doesn't care how he dresses. The things that bother you, don't bother him. And over time it's exhausting him, but what the Bible says is that it doesn't matter. His responsibility is to honor you as an heir of the grace of life. And that's his calling whether he likes that or not. It is a difficult thing for him, but that is the calling that he possesses.

Now, how does he do that? He has to be careful. Now there are four Greek words for love. Now, interestingly enough, the Greeks were very careful about their meaning of the word love. I say "I love my wife. I love my children. I love my deer rifle." My family hopes they're up there with the deer rifle. So we use the word love, you have to take it in context, not with the Greeks.

<i>Storgē</i>	<i>Eros</i>	<i>Philía</i>	<i>Agapé</i>
στοργή	Epos	φιλία	Ἀγάπη
Everything in the family is good	Sexual, sensual love	Feelings we have toward one another	Love based on value of object I'm in love with

The Greek word *storgē* is actually in compound form in the New Testament. It was basically when everything in the family is good. You're on a vacation and you're driving down the road, the kids are not going, "He's looking out my window." Or "He's smelling my air." You don't have those kinds of horrible moments where you just want to kill them. I remember one day, my son was passing gas so badly that I'd had it and I said, "Get out of the car." We're on the interstate. He said, "Awe you're kidding, dad." I said, "Get out of the car!" And I made him get out of the car and I drove about a hundred yards up and made him walk to me. I said, "Now, boy, it's going to be 200 yards the next time." So it did cure him. So *storgē* doesn't happen often. When it does, you need to thank God for it and pray that it continues.

Eros. We get the English word erotic. *Eros* is the Greek word for sexual, sensual love. You don't find it anywhere in the New Testament. Why? Because the Bible's very clear that the erotic desires inside your heart and a man's heart, God put in there. But you don't find *eros* in the New Testament because the biblical writers felt they had debauched it. Pompeii was the city slaughtered by the volcano, so it's frozen in time. Pompeii was just an average Roman city. It wasn't like Corinth which the Greek word was coined *corinthiazō*, κορινθιανάζω, to commit sexual immorality; they were so bad in Corinth. Pompeii was just a normal Roman city and the things you read about sensually, publicly in view in Pompeii were vile. So you don't find this in the New Testament because they had debauched it.

Philía
 φιλία
 Feelings we have
 toward one another
 “in love”

Agapé
 ἀγάπη
 Love based on value
 of object I’m in love with

But you find these two words. Now these two words are critical in your understanding, particularly as a man, in understanding how he treats his wife. *Philía* is a Greek word that is basically for emotional feelings toward one another. That’s the meaning of the Greek word *philía*. *Agapé* is a Greek word that means I choose to love based on the value of the object that I’m in love with. Remember he says, your wife is a fellow heir of the grace of life. In other words, I will *agapé* my wife. I will get up every morning and choose to love her because of the value I see in her in Christ. So I’m going to look at what she is in Christ and I’m going to get up and choose to value her because of who she is in Christ. Now I’m going to add to that the value she brings in my life, but I don’t want to start there. I want to start with the value she has in Christ. That He died for her. He put His Holy Spirit in her. She’s the apple of His eye. Psalm 139: He thinks about her every day. He knit her in her mother’s womb. He prepared her for my life. So I want to value who she is in Christ and if I do that, that can never be taken away. There can’t be a day when He doesn’t love her. There’s not a day when His Holy Spirit’s not in her. There’s not a day when the blood didn’t redeem her. So I will always get up in the morning and be able to choose to value my wife in Christ. This will never leave my heart. It can’t if I put my value of my wife in who she is in Christ.

Philía is what I think we would term “in love”. I don’t know how many times I’ve had people come into my office and say, “I’m not in love with my wife any more.” Now here’s the difficulty. What my wife feels about me is based on how I treat her. If I don’t treat her well, her *philía* for me isn’t going to be good. So her *philía* for me is based on me. My *agapé* for her is based on me. How I feel about my wife is based on her and how she treats me. If she doesn’t treat me well, my emotional feelings are not going to be good. So if you want a healthy marriage, you’ve got to have the three of these. *Storgē* is going to be a consequence of these three:

Eros
 Ἔρως
 Everything in the
 family is good

Philía
 φιλία
 Sexual, sensual
 love

Agapé
 Ἀγάπη
 Feelings we have
 toward one another

If these three work well, you’re going to wind up with *storgē*. *Eros* has to be there, but again, this is extremely difficult because we are different. You’re not going to desire in the same way he does because your desire is relational. Which is why if he doesn’t treat you well and you don’t feel good about him, you’re not going to desire him. We don’t care how you feel about us. We still have this driving us. So this is why this becomes a huge issue and it is a violent issue. There was a marriage counselor in Dallas who discovered what I’ve discovered. Most of the time, by the time couples get into my office, they’re done. They’re just coming in my office to be able to say, “We tried counseling. It didn’t work. We’re out of here.” So he got tired of it and he became a sex therapist and discovered that three out of five in his office were divorcing once they got in. But when he became a sex therapist, 92% of the people he fixed sexually stayed together. This is

a huge incorporation. Most women don't view it that way because they see, "I feel loved when you don't have to have me." Whereas for a man, he only feels loved when you do have him. Now that's hard for you, but that is the reality of the difference. Which is why when you don't need him and don't desire him, it frustrates him. And what you see is pouting, which is correct, it is because he doesn't feel loved.

So you have these differences that we have to treat you well whether this is legit or not. But understand, I have to get up in the morning, there is no man that can't love his wife every single day because he has *agapé*. That is on me toward Peggy. But what I feel about Peggy is on her. So it's critical how you treat your husband. It's critical how he treats you. But both of you are going to base your marriage on *agapé*. You're going to move it into *philia*, hopefully *eros* will come correctly, and then you're going to have a family that works well.

So you've got to make sure your love is proper and that it works. And this is the only key. So I don't allow men to come in my office and say, "I'm not in love with my wife." My response is, "I don't care." When we were in seminary, I didn't know any of this. Because I was always taught *agapé*, you always know a first-year Greek student because he'll throw out the word *agapé* because it's the only word he knows. He'll say it means, God's love. Which is not true. If you ever hear that, that is not correct. Josephus has a phrase where he says, "The Pharisees *agapé* the Pharisees." They certainly did not possess God's love. But they did value each other over everybody else. So a man and a woman have to base their love, when I was in seminary, my wife and I had a really, really bad first two years. She came out of a very close-knit home. And I'm going to go over some of this next Thursday morning when we meet when we discuss your role inside the marriage from the Bible. But she came out of a very close-knit home. She sat on dad's lap. I came out of a home that was very dysfunctional. My dad was the smartest, nicest man I ever knew and my mom was the meanest, most unforgiving witch that I've ever known. So I came out of a very odd home. I was used to being completely alone. When we lived in Colorado I lived downstairs, they lived upstairs. I would come in and they'd say, "Goodnight." And kind of yell it down the stairs and I'd say, "Goodnight." I had my shower and everything downstairs so I basically lived by myself while we were in Colorado. So I grew up in a different home than she grew up in and so when we married, she assumed we'd sit together each night. Well that was not my agenda. My agenda is we weren't going to do that. We were a man and a woman, had no idea about any of this, didn't know anything about love correctly. And so we had a first two years of just pure hell. I mean we fought like dogs. It was really, really bad. So I'm over in the guy's dorm at seminary, I was probably at the end of my second year of seminary. And I'm praying, and I don't have these moments often, but it was kind of one of my epiphanous moments. And I'm praying and I heard the Holy Spirit just basically say to me, as a matter of fact, I looked up, He said, "I want you to love your wife." And I said, "I don't like her." And the Holy Spirit basically said, "It doesn't matter." So I went home and began to love her, or at least make the choice to do that. So He basically sent me home and instilled *agapé* in me. It took two years after I treated her better because of my *agapé* before she trusted my *agapé* and then the *philia* returned.

So I want you to understand something. These usher into each other. If I began to think of my wife's value correctly, I will feel good about her and then how she treats me will enhance that and you have a nice, little, good catch-22. If I don't value her well, and she doesn't treat me well, now I have a bad catch-22 and pretty soon the marriage is going from good to bad. There are only two

kinds of marriages. It's good or it's bad. If you're just living together, it's not a marriage. It's a really good marriage or it's a really crappy marriage. There isn't anything in between. And the man's responsibility is to understand you're the weaker vessel because a lot of things bother you that don't bother us. I will tell you this. If I have a real urgent prayer need in my life, I don't go to a man. I find a woman because, and I'm not being funny here, because a woman will actually pray and be serious in details about my request. You ask a guy, he's just going to chunk it up and go. But a woman, because of her details and because of the connectiveness, she will pray far harder and far better for what I need than a man will. So you've got to live with this distinction. This is the only way to heal it. You're never going to change men and women. We're distinct. You're going to have to live with that. He has to live with it in an understanding way and treat his wife well which means, he's got to get up and choose *agapé* which then creates *philia* which then should make this better and then ultimately you have a home where His favor rests.

Questions

- Q. So the *agapé* cannot be there the way it's supposed to be if you're married to an unbeliever, I'm assuming.
- A. No, you can still have *agapé* toward an unbeliever in the understanding that God wants them saved. He still loves them. He has value for them. They simply haven't accepted His value. Now you can't have probably the additional value, I have the additional value with my wife that she believes what I believe what I believe about scripture, she stood beside me all these years, she gave birth to my children, she taught them to respect me. I'm going to have additional value to add to this. But I can still have *agapé* even if I'm married to an unbeliever. But it's going to be limited.
- Q. I was thinking maybe that's why you're not supposed to marry an unbeliever, because you can't value them in Christ.
- A. Yeah, there is some of that, but the real reason you don't marry an unbeliever is you can't have a combined ministry. Whatever He's called you to, your wife can't help you in. And you're his helpmeet. We'll look at that next Thursday. But you're his helpmeet in his calling.