



The Role of the Wife
March 1, 2018

Verses Covered

Genesis 2:18, 21 - 23

Ephesians 5:21 - 26

Proverbs 17:1

Proverbs 19:13

Proverbs 21:9, 19

Proverbs 25:24

1 Peter 3:1

Genesis 20:1 - 8

Proverbs 31:10 - 12, 20, 25, 26, 28, 30

Jeremiah 1:5

1 Timothy 4:8

We're going to Genesis 2:18. This is the application if you marry. It's not the application, obviously, if you're single, but if you marry, this is what the scripture says is your purpose. Now remember Genesis 2 is before Adam and Eve sin. Everything's broken after they sin. There's isn't anything broken in chapter 2.

¹⁸Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

So then it says in verse 21:

²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took on of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

So your responsibility as a wife is a helpmeet. We know two things Adam was responsible for. What are the two things we find him doing in Genesis? Working the field and naming the animals. Now if she's going to help him in those things, does that mean she just stands around and whatever he says she goes, "Yeah, baby." Is that a helpmeet? No. Is he going to pick the wrong place to

plow? Probably. Because even before the fall, Adam was stupid. So I think the fall exacerbated that, but I think that's the normal gift that a man has. So she's got to help him. She's got to look at him and go, "Baby I think we ought to plant this instead of this. I think we ought to plant over here." If she's going to help him, she's got to do that. She's got to look at him and say, "Baby, I don't think we should call this a cat because there are no cats. That's a dog. God's not going to make cats. He told us that would be evil." Cats come in after the fall in Genesis 3. So her job is to help him. If she doesn't help him, she doesn't speak and that's really the issue. If she does not speak to him, she's not helping him.

Here's where the problem comes now that we're passed Genesis 3. In a marriage we have two issues we have to deal with. We have to deal with connection, we talked about that Sunday morning. We have to deal with submission in Ephesians 5. Those two issues become paramount for you as a woman. You have the connection point which again is extremely difficult. You have personality issues. You have choleric, you have melancholy, you have phlegmatic, you have sanguine. Hypocrites actually discovered these, Father of Medicine:

- Choleric – (people like me) it's my way or the highway.
- Melancholy – those of you women who are detailed, you keep lists, you fold your towels a certain way, your cans face a certain way in the kitchen cabinet, and when your husband tells you he thinks you're beautiful, you don't believe that about yourself.
- Phlegmatic – people pleasers, I don't want anybody mad at me, I hate conflict, I want everything to be OK in my life
- Sanguine – that's my wife, just perky (which is horrible in the morning)

And everybody's a combination of two out of the four. Now there are not perfect eight things that make a choleric, eight things that make a melancholy, that's not true. But the difficulty in marriage is you generally marry the opposite of what you are. So if you are not detailed, you'll marry somebody that is detailed. I'm not perky which is why I married Peggy. So that when we went out with people that were boring to eat, I could work on my golf game in my head and she would talk. You're going to fall in love with what you don't possess.

You have the waffles and spaghetti thing. Again, we talked about that last week. Men live in boxes; you're connected to everything. Which is why you're the weaker vessel. Because you don't handle stress as well as we do. We can jump boxes to handle stress. Stress exhausts you. It's also the reason why I'd rather have a woman pray for me than a man. Because if I ask a guy to pray for me, he'll go, "God protect Chris today in Jesus name. Amen." If I ask a woman to pray for me, she'll spend time. Her passion in the prayer will be far deeper than a man's. You also have the issue of love languages. You have:

- Gifts
- Time
- Affirmation
- Acts of Service
- Touch

Everybody has probably a couple of these. But if you differ in these love languages, then it becomes really difficult in a marriage because you will love in the language you want to be loved in which may have no bearing on your spouse. If you love in a way they don't feel it, you can pour your life out on them and they will at the end go, "I never felt loved by you. And you're sitting there going, "I don't understand that. I poured my life out on you." Because you love in a way they don't have. So you've got to figure this out. As a matter of fact, I lost my best friend in the ministry, Dennis Stefano, to exactly this. He married a lady that looked like Queen Elizabeth and left a lady that looked like she came out of Vogue Magazine because he was driven by affirmation; his wife was probably driven by service. She never could affirm him and so ultimately he left, and out of his leaving, his walk with Jesus. But his kids; the last week of his ministry I was preaching a revival for him, and his teenagers sat on the bed with me and said, "Please beg dad not to leave mom." But he left in a crazy decision because they could not get the love language together. So you've got to do that.

You also have the issue of Ephesians 5. It never says to the wives to love their husbands. It never says, husband respect your wife. It never says that. It's always a reverse. Because a woman needs to be loved and a man needs to be respected. So you have a distinct difference in what you desire from the marriage. It's not the same.

After Genesis 3 what happens? The man's a sinner, he's going to fail in all these areas. He's not going to connect with you well. Ephesians 5, submission, will be an issue. The Bible says you're to submit and this is the difficulty in Ephesians 5 – as the church to Christ. Can the church ever do what Christ doesn't want it to do? Now you'd better think that through. So you submit to your husband, as a matter of fact, slide over to Ephesians 5:21.

²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ²²Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is also the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

So the husband has to submit to you and yet still be head of the home. How does he do that? I'll show you in a minute. Christ is head of the church; I'm the head of the wife. Your submission is absolute to your husband. You may not like that, but that's what the scripture says. You don't have an option here. You don't get to unsubmit. You don't get to do what you want to. That is not an option for you inside the marriage.

Now his responsibility is two-fold. Look in verse 25:

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her,

So there are two responsibilities for the man. The man puts her above himself because it says he does it as Christ gave Himself up for the church. So he puts himself below her. And then he is to deepen her spiritually. In some way, his existence in her life is to deepen spiritually.

Woman
Ephesians 5:21, 22, 23

Man
25, 26

Here's the first problem we have and the second problem. When you don't connect and he's not putting you first and he's not doing anything to deepen you spiritually, what happens? This is the issue in Proverbs. I'm going to read you several verses. I'm just reading the Bible so get off my back. Look at Proverbs. We're going to start in Proverbs 17:1. Now remember, the book of Proverbs tells the man, it addresses without detail, it addresses where the man's probably going to fail. He's going to turn away from his wife with his eyes. He's going to turn away from his wife with his heart. So it will address that failure. Now Proverbs will address what will probably be your failure if these two are not done well by your husband. Here it is.

¹Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.

Look at 19:13.

¹³A foolish son is destruction to his father, and the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

Look at 21:9.

⁹It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Look at verse 19.

¹⁹It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and vexing woman.

Look at 25:24

²⁴It is better to live on a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

1 Peter 3 he will say that you win your husband, if you have a husband who is disobedient to the word, which would mean one of two things; either he's not a believer or he is a believer but he's not walking correctly. He uses this little phrase: *aneu logou*, *ἀνευ λόγου*. You win him without a word. Now here's what happens. When over time he won't connect with you because it is difficult for him. When over time he doesn't put you first and it's obvious he's not walking well with Jesus, your reaction will be to try to control him with your mouth. And so Peter says, you married a guy that's not a believer, you win him without a word. Now that doesn't mean you don't, again we go back to Genesis 2, if he's not walking according to the word, you have to tell him that. You have to say that. But when you look at Proverbs, it's not a matter of speaking, it's a matter of speaking with rancor and anger to try to control his lack of response to what you believe he ought to be. Hence all these passages in Proverbs and 1 Peter back it up. If he doesn't do these things well, you're not allowed to control him with your tongue. Which is what most women wind up doing. They begin to attack: you don't do this; you don't do that. And pretty soon what happens? You have a horrible catch-22 relationship. You've got a guy that according to Proverbs

is going to be tempted away from his wife with his eyes and with his heart. He's got a woman at work that says, "Man you're wonderful." And he comes home and his wife's just beating the snot out of him verbally. What happens? He's gone. You say, "You're putting that on me?" No. I put that on him. But let me tell you something. You've got to help matters. He has to come home and love you in the way Jesus values you. That's his responsibility. Your responsibility when he doesn't, you speak to it. If he doesn't tithe, you tell him. "Honey we ought to be tithing." If he's into pornography, then you tell him. "You're into pornography." But you do not, when he does not respond to your statement, based on Genesis 2, you're trying to help him, you do not then try to change him and control him by your tongue. And that is exactly where women go.

So you've got to speak and you've got to trust in Christ; not your husband. Now when Peter says, "Ladies win your husband without a word." He uses the illustration of Sarah and says she called him Lord. I want you to go to Genesis 20 and let me show you what a crappy man Abraham was. As a matter of fact, he did this twice to his wife. She was good looking. In those days there weren't really countries; there were cities; kind of city-states. So as you travelled, you went by this big giant place. The king could come out; you couldn't control what he wanted to do. So you were caught. And Abraham was always terrified about how good looking his wife was. And because she was good looking they would kill him. Now look at this.

¹Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. ²Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." ⁴Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless?" ⁵Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore, I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." ⁸So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

Now, why has Abimelech taken Sarah? Not to pray with. He's taking her to have sex with her because she is gorgeous. And Abraham doesn't care. She is the illustration in Peter of submission. She does not tell the king who she really is. She doesn't say, "He is my husband." She submits to a pretty vile guy. What does God do? He bails her out. She obeys her husband, she submits, and God honors her submission. Even when that command is as vile as it gets.

When your husband doesn't live these out, you have two options. You can argue him into it with your mouth which will fail and will violate the directive of the scripture. Or you can do what the scripture says. Go with me and let me show you what the Bible says when it doesn't work. Proverbs 31. Now, ladies, he's never going to do these perfectly. There are going to be days he doesn't connect with you. There are going to be days he doesn't walk well with Jesus. There are going to be days he doesn't put you first. He's never going to be perfect because he is a man and

he is a sinner just like you are. I know sometimes you don't think that you are, but you are. You are a sinner. Perfection is not the issue here, right. If he directs and tries to connect with you as best he can, you submit to him as best you can, he directly tries to put himself below you, and tries to deepen you spiritually. If these things are true in a direction in his life, then you submit. No matter what. He's not going to be perfect, but that is the direction he's supposed to go.

Now when he doesn't or when he does, either way, here's Proverbs 31 and here's your role. Starting in verse 10.

¹⁰An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good and not evil all the days of his life.

Now when this does not work for you, any of this, you've got to options. You can run your mouth or you can trust your Jesus. Those are your options. You trust Jesus, first thing you do, Proverbs 31, you seek good for your husband. "Well he doesn't..." I don't care! It doesn't say anything in Proverbs 31 that you do this if your husband's a good guy. It doesn't say that. First thing you do:

- You seek good for your husband.

Look in verse 20.

²⁰She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy.

Secondly, you minister outside your home. Now that's an interesting concept. Why? Because if you stay in your home and your husband is Abraham and he's not good, it will exhaust you over time. So you're going to step outside your home to do ministry beyond your family.

- Minister outside your home.

Look at verse 25.

²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at her future.

You exhibit character because you trust God with the future. There's the third thing you do. You make sure you have character based on your trust in God with the future, not because of what your husband is or what he isn't. You exhibit Godly character regardless. And you're going to trust him for the future.

- Exhibit character because you trust God.

Now you don't do this, He will not honor you. You stay where you are. Hardest verse for me, right after I was called to preach, terrified in front of people. God gave me this:

⁵Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.

I am pumped. It's the first verse I ever underlined in my Bible. Ever! I'm terrified of being in front of people. I'm still scared. So I made a mistake and read the rest of the verse. He talks about the fact that if I don't, listen to this.

¹⁷Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, or I will dismay you before them.

He says, "If you trust Me, then I'm going to back what you say because you're saying what I say. If you don't trust Me, I won't back you, as a matter of fact, I will make you fail." So if you don't trust God with the future in your home, then He will not honor what you're doing. Now verse 26.

²⁶She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

You seek two things. You seek from God: wisdom and kindness. Why? Wisdom so you know what to say. Kindness so you know how to say. And so you can live out Genesis 2 in the life of your husband. If he's not doing what he ought to do, or even if he is, you need to know what to say to him and you need to know how to say it. You may be wrong in what you think you're saying. You're not perfect either. So you need His wisdom and if you have His kindness, it's not likely you're going to fall into the other aspects of the book of Proverbs. Verse 28.

²⁸Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her,

So you are, even though you do minister outside the home, you have a family focus. You focus on your children; you focus on your husband. You do ministry outside the home, but this is your focus so that when you die, your children say, "Man I was blessed by my mom." Your husband says, "I am what I am because of my wife." You focus on that family. And then verse 30:

³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

You focus on your spirituality, not how you look. You say, "Well does that mean I can't wear makeup? I can't look good?" No. We want you to look good. OK. Because we are shallow and visual. So we want you to look good. No question about that. But if this is your focus, I see a lot of women in the gym, I'm not sure I always see them in their scripture. 1 Timothy 4:8. It says:

⁸for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things,

So this is what you do. This is your goal as a wife. No matter what your husband is or isn't, you seek his good, you minister beyond just your home, you have a character because you're going to trust God with the future even if your husband right now is awful. You're going to seek wisdom so you know what to say. You're going to have kindness so you know how to say it. You're going to focus on your family. And it doesn't mean, by the way, you can't have a career because it talks about her buying fields and making money. And you do everything you can, there's nothing wrong

with you looking as good as you can physically, but you make sure you seek a spiritual life more than you do that.

Proverbs 31 Woman

- You seek good for your husband.
- Minister outside your home.
- Exhibit character because you trust God.

Now that's your responsibility. It's interesting to me when you do read Ephesians 5, it basically says the man's responsible for his role and the wife's responsible for her role. Don't come into my office and tell me how sorry your husband is. I don't care. It's about you and not your husband. When a man comes in and says, "My wife is sorry." I don't care. It's not about his wife. It's about him. So the woman has a responsibility and the man has a responsibility and you're to focus on your calling before Christ and this is it. This is a Proverbs 31 woman which is what God has designed for you to be in spite of whether or not your husband's good or bad.

Questions

Q. The couple in the New Testament, I believe it's in Acts, where they stole the money and they held back a portion and she followed the leading of her husband and yet was essentially taken because of it.

A. Ananias and Sapphira. Yeah, absolutely. But I think it's because she enjoyed the leadership of her husband. I don't think Sarah enjoyed what Abraham was doing. If your husband's leading you down a path and you like where he's leading you and it's against God, then absolutely you're going to deal with God's judgement. If your husband is leading you down a path and you don't like it and you don't want to submit to it, but you do and it's ungodly, then God will honor you. She liked having the extra money. Sarah did not like what Abraham had done to her.

Q. If you do have a husband who is not walking in Christ, minister outside the home, lead by example?

A. Yeah, I think pretty much, but I think you lead by example and words. You just don't speak words with rancor and anger and control. If your husband, for example, is not a believer, at some point you've got to tell him about Jesus. I mean you have to do that. It's not osmosis, but you've got to do it not in a way that you're trying to control him or direct him. You're trying to say, "Here's the issue for you. This is where I am, this is where you are. You need to know the distinction." You have to speak to your husband. Absolutely. That's the difficulty. But based on Proverbs what a woman struggles with is she comes to a place where, I mean I'm just telling you ladies, where you seek to control and that's not your domain.

Q. I just want to say, though, if you have a man who does fear the Lord and understands her and he knows his wife is walking with the Lord, my husband has personally told me, "If you feel led by the Lord to do something, I'm not getting in your way." Like he has that, so he wants

to support that. And so a man who understands this and understands his role, it's going to be fun to follow. A man that doesn't, I've been married twice, so I've seen both and I'm telling you what, when you do step out of the way and let the Lord lead, His wrath is evident, I submit, and then His grace is evident when the man loves the Lord and leads, but steps out of the way.

A. I think absolutely that's the case. There's no middle ground marriage. It's either really good or really crappy. There's nothing in between. If you're married to a guy who's doing his best to live out Ephesians 5 and you're living out Proverbs 31, then you have this mutual attraction to each other. If he's struggling and you're beating him up, then you've got a catch-22 of he's going, "I don't want to come home. I'm going to stop at the bar with my buddies and have some margaritas because I don't want to go home." And sometimes a husband doesn't want to go home because it has nothing to do with you. It has to do with the fact that he's just vile. Sometimes you marry badly. So you've got to live this out regardless, but absolutely it's going to be better if you walk with a guy that, I mean Peg and I have had two kinds of marriage. We've always known Christ and we've always tried to follow Him in my calling, but we obviously, emotionally with each other, had a bad first two years until God made me change and come home and love her correctly. So I agree. It's both ways, but the bottom line for you is, it doesn't matter. You have a responsibility regardless of what your husband does or doesn't do. And that's a hard thing biblically on you because you do have to submit sometimes to a man who isn't walking well and that is exceptionally difficult. I deal with, in my office, and I hate to see it, and it is painful, and the next time we meet we're going to discuss divorce and remarriage. We're going to address that as best I can next Thursday which is the most difficult thing to address in the scripture.

Q. I have a friend who is abusive verbally over and over to a wife.

A. Yeah I have struggled with that statement. PMS! You people are not nice. Women can be verbally, listen, if you look at Proverbs that's verbal abuse. That's what it is. So I don't buy the thing, there are men that are abusive. But Proverbs, the definition of Proverbs and the woman's temptation is verbal abuse. I've had a lot of women in my office that say my husband's verbally abusive. And when I get him in there, it wasn't even close. Now we will address that, particularly, next week when we address what I think are principles, not rules, in divorce and remarriage. And I'll let you ask anything you want. We will address that then. But I struggle with the phrase verbally abusive because it's so subjective.

Q. Chris, when you address that will you address the physical as well?

A. I will address the physical, absolutely. We're going to address everything because that's the difficulty with the Bible. It never gives details; it never gives rules. You have Matthew 5, you have 1 Corinthians that seem to be the only two outs in a marriage. But neither one of them address a woman being beaten.

Q. How do people have a tendency to choose their opposite?

A. Because you choose what you don't have. You like what they have because you don't. My wife's perky. I'm not. She is good with people. I'm not. So I liked those things. And she could play the piano which I needed as a pastor. So it's a perfect combo. Perky and piano: the Double P.

Q. Would you clarify if a husband is wanting to lead a wife down a sinful path like pornography or that kind of thing. Because it's real confusing. Abraham was giving Sarah away for a sexual purpose.

A. Yeah, I think that's a fair question. She didn't have a choice at that point. I don't think you step with your husband into pornography, for example, because that violates scriptural directives. I can only look at you. I'm not allowed to look at other women. So it violates a scriptural directive and I think the wife has to say, "No.." if she can. If he says, "I'm not going to tithe." And he's in control of the money, she can't do anything about that. So she has to submit to that even though it violates, for her, a biblical directive in the sense of Abraham and Sarah. So there are going to be times when there are biblical directives you can't change, you have to live under. And then there are times you have to look at your husband and say, "I'm not going to do that."

Q. So what do you tell someone when, you know in a class like this, you tell them "It doesn't matter what he's doing. You do your part." Someone that's been dealing with it for years and years and they feel like nothing's changed even though maybe their husband is a Christian and they're telling them they want to change; it has to be something in them that snaps. I know you keep saying keep doing what you're supposed to do, but do you pray for a certain thing like conviction?

A. You had the perfect statement. This is nowhere inside this. You don't do this to change your husband. You don't try to change your husband. Nothing you do is to change your husband. The Holy Spirit has to change him. You live out what you have. And it's easy to say, for me. I'm in a good marriage. But when you're not, it's hell. Especially if you're a woman and you desperately want to connect with this man that you've given your life to and he won't do it. It's horrible. I'm not minimizing the horror. And I don't mean to minimize it. When I look at ladies and say, "You've got to go back home." I hate it. To be honest there are times I'd love to look at a woman and say, "You go home and you kick his fanny out and you do whatever you want to do." I want to say that sometimes because of what I've had women in my office going through. But the scripture doesn't give me that agenda. And that's the hard thing. I totally hear what you're saying, but I think your question is exactly what women think. "OK. I'll do this and it will fix him."

Q. So you keep doing what you're supposed to be doing and then just pray that that's going to change him?

A. I wouldn't even pray that because if you pray for his change, your focus is on him, not on you. I wouldn't even pray that. I would say, "God I'm in a mess, I'm going to leave him with You and I want You to take me and make me what You want me to be in the middle of this mess. You deal with him." I would yield him. Let me give you an illustration of that. It doesn't always happen this way. As a matter of fact, it rarely happens this way. I had a lady in Midland come into my office. She sat down and she said, "My husband's a believer, but he's an alcoholic. I've prayed and I've done everything I can to make him quit." I looked at her and I said, "Stop it. You give him to Jesus and you let God deal with him." She went home. That Sunday morning, he came down, surrendered his alcoholism, and never drank again. Now that is a real rarity that it happens like that. But I think that's what you have to do. I think even in a good marriage you speak to your husband, but you give him to Christ. I think you have to do that. I think it's part of submission.

Q. So in circumstances like that, is that where the wife seeks the ministry outside of the home?

A. I think the ministry outside the home is key when the home doesn't respond to your ministry. Then you don't feel like your whole life's wasted. If you center yourself around your husband who does not appreciate what you're doing, then you step, you do this anyway, but I think the ministry outside the home can give you some value that your husband has taken away from you.

Q. When you have children involved and your husband's doing things that aren't biblical, how do you address that without being controlling over him in front of your children, but you don't want your children to see that.

A. If he's impacting my children with what he's doing, let's say pornography, then I think if it's something like that, egregious, then I think you separate. I think you go home and say, "What you're doing is affecting the kids. I'm taking them out until you can fix this." I think particularly when you have children, now to me it's got to be egregious. It's not because he yelled at you or because of something. It's got to be egregious. But I think when it is, there is the place in 1 Corinthians about a separation and I think you have to do that.

Q. I have a friend whose husband has Parkinson's and he is pretty much homebound and I know that, she was at the New Member Workshop, and you know how you sign up to serve in a ministry and she said to me, "Debbie I feel so guilty that I can't serve in the church right now." And I said, "But your husband is your ministry and that's where you need to focus your attention." Now after hearing what you said about ministry outside the home, did I tell her incorrectly?

A. No, no, no. I think this is inside a normal situation. If your husband has 24/7 then you're home. Oh, absolutely. That's a great point. And yeah, there may be a point, if we live

long enough, one of us is either burying the other one or taking care of the other one. So once you get to that place. My mom was 24/7 with dad. He went from bed to the chair, bed to the chair for 7 years after a stroke. And so she was caught in the situation of she had to take care of dad. So I think absolutely that's the case. If circumstances remove this from you, then I think you stay. It's really hard if that man's not loved you well to take care of him at that point.

- Q.** But that could be a good ministry for others outside the home ministering to her.
- A.** Absolutely. That's when the church steps into the home with her and they're ministering outside their home inside the body. That's a great point.
- Q.** So expanding on her question about having children involved. What if it's not something really extreme? What if it's just setting a bad example for your kids? Do you just try to pray that your kids aren't affected by that?
- A.** That's a good question. I think you do two things. You speak to your husband and you say to him, "Look this is not good how you're treating me and it's impacting our son." And then you say to him, "And I need you to know I'm going to tell our son that." Now you tell him before he hears you blasting him in front of your son. But I think you have to sit down with your son and say, "I've talked to your dad and told him the way he treats me isn't right. And I don't want you to grow up treating women like your dad's treating me right now." I would also then say, "But your dad's got some other good areas, but he's failing here." So I'd be as positive about him as I can to my child, but I would definitely, and I would tell my husband first, "I love you, but I don't my son growing up doing what you're doing."
- Q.** When you have a husband you have to give to the Lord and just trust that God's going to take care of it, that doesn't remove your calling as his helpmate, to focus on your family, to still try to connect with him. I've seen where the tendency is to just separate yourself.
- A.** I think that's a great point. No, it doesn't mean you get to quit. This is the whole point. You've got to seek good for your husband no matter what kind of crap-head he is. Absolutely, you're right. This is never removed. It's the first thing in Proverbs 31. First thing. Seek your husband's good. It doesn't say he's a good guy. As a matter of fact, Song of Solomon, great story about a man in love with one woman, by the time you get to Proverbs 31 he's got how many wives, how many concubines? So he's left the Song of Solomon. You can't violate your wife any more than Solomon violated whoever he was married to in the Song of Solomon.
- Q.** So that brings another question up. How could he have so many wives and concubines when God's law for a man and a woman is so..... Why did they have all of these?
- A.** Why did they have so many in the Old Testament? I'll give you two answers. Number one: Solomon did it for political gain. He was terrified he wasn't a man like his dad. He was terrified he couldn't handle the nations around him. They were scared of David. They

weren't scared of Solomon so he intermarried daughters of all these little city kings to protect Israel. They violated His holiness. The other thing is, men in that day do not possess the Holy Spirit. He can come on them, but not in them. And therefore, their sexual, fleshly desires were a lot of times totally uncontrollable. If you look in the Old Testament at what you're talking about, you see exactly that. You see a lot of sexual failure. You see a lot of different wives and concubines. How many times do you read about Paul violating his marriage? Peter? James? John? Zero. You don't see the immorality in the New Testament that you do in the Old Testament because they possess the Holy Spirit and the Bible says in Romans 8:13.

¹³By the Spirit he put to death the deeds of the body

It's one of the things I will address in the pornography session Friday night with the men.

Q. What was that scripture reference?

A. Romans 8:13. I would read the entire chapter of Romans 8.

Q. If you're going to go to your kids, you've got to make sure you're right.

A. Yes! If you're going to go to your kids, it better be an egregious failure. Not just that dad didn't kiss me before he went to work.

Q. Do you think our culture of dating sets us up for failure in the sense that typically a dating situation is this emotional, it starts a little more emotional and then it goes a little more and a little more and it's a lot based on feeling and it grows and you have these, when it gets bad you get out, and there's all of this...

A. Let me say this. I think we've always dated in feelings. Men and women have always done that. I do think it's better today among Christian dating. I see a lot of our young people, for example, like when we were coming up, if you took a woman out and you bought supper at Dairy Queen, you were on a date. That's not the college kids today. They have to go a little way, then they have a DTR (Define the Relationship), then they do this, then they have this crazy engagement thing that's off the chart. But I think they work better at processing.

The only thing that bothers me is I see far more sex before marriage than I ever did. That bothers me because once you engage in that, because you enjoy each other sexually, you think you enjoy each other emotionally. That doesn't mean you like them because you're good in bed. Now I don't know how to put this any more crassly than that, but almost anybody's good in bed. There's no bad sex. I mean probably for y'all, but not for us. For us, there is no bad sex for us. We're like WOOHOO!!! Just telling the truth man! But once a man, particularly, engages in that she thinks she's connecting with him because he wants her physically. And then she finds out, the sex thing kind of backs up, and now he doesn't enjoy her and he doesn't want to connect with her, now we've got a major problem.

The other thing I hate is people living together. We have a ton of people in the church living together. And actually they view it as a high moral standard. Because their argument is, we're living together and we're going to check to see if we could last. Well that's not the deal. You put a ring on and you establish a covenant and you base it on Jesus Christ and you go home and you don't leave. As a matter of fact, you won't work out your problems if you think you can pack out. You're only going to work out your problems if you think you're stuck. Those things I don't like. I think we've always dated out of feelings, but the sexual increase.... I rarely have two virgins in pre-marital today. And I have a ton that will come in and basically say to me, "Yeah, we're active and sleeping together." It doesn't even faze them. That concerns me because once that agenda comes in, you really don't know if you like the person or not once the flesh steps up. Particularly for the man and he's the one who's going to struggle with the connection. So if he comes out of the fleshly thing and he doesn't like the connecting point particularly, you really have a problem. But I'm going to say this kindly, you brought it on yourself when you violate the holiness of God that is clear in the scripture. The Bible says, in the marriage, the bed is undefiled. It doesn't define marriage because it doesn't matter how the culture defines it. You base the spiritual covenant out of the cultures definition of marriage and that is the only place the bed's viable. And once you get in that bed, you're not allowed in another bed. Scripture's really pretty simple. I violate it, I pay the price.