

THE MATURING OF MARRIAGE

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:18-33 (NIV)

❖ Consumer or Covenant Relationship

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

1. There is a difference between a CONSUMER relationships and a COVENANT relationship.

“Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)

2. Understanding this HORIZONTAL and VERTICAL covenant relationship.
(Why is God not answering my prayers?) ...the wife of your youth, you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the Lord made you one? In flesh and spirit you are his...So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. Malachi 2:14-15 (NIV)

3. The unique covenant of God's LAW and our LOVE.
For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. Romans 7:2 (NIV)

May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

❖ **The Power of Promise**

However, each (husband) also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1. We are what we PROMISE.
2. The FREEDOM that comes from living out our PROMISE.
3. How PROMISE fuels our PASSION.

❖ **Choosing Emotion or Choosing Action**

Husbands ought to love their wives as Christ loved the church...

1. Love is not a FEELING, love is an ACTION.
2. The more you ACT OUT LOVE, the more you DISCOVER LOVE.
3. When I DECIDE to LOVE, I discover through time REAL LOVE.