

# Are We There Yet?

## Part 3

### “God’s Design For Marriage”

#### Review:

- We are hardwired, designed to connect
- God’s laws are set to protect relationship with Himself and others

#### The most important relationships on earth

- A relationship with God is the most important.
- A relationship in the family, our first small group, is the most important earthly relationship.
- A relationship with others is important as well, such as church and small group.

#### Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup>As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. <sup>27</sup>He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup>No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. <sup>30</sup>And we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. <sup>33</sup>So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

#### Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT)

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: <sup>3</sup>If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.” <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

#### Notice: A fulfilling family starts with reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)

- We do what we do for Christ.
- We do what we do out of reverence for or fear of God.
- We submit to God’s design, God’s authority, God’s design for family - husband, wife, children.
- It shows that we love God when we obey. It glorifies Him.

#### Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

#### John 14:15 (NLT)

“If you love me, obey my commandments.

#### Notice: Everyone submits. It takes different forms for every person.

- We submit to God’s way of dealing with others with humility and submission.
- A relationship killer is the refusal to be humble before God and towards others.
- For those who do not have a family, the Lord and His work and church fulfill us.
- Women submit - respect
- Men submit - love
- Children submit - obey

## Why does God give us these commands?

- To do the opposite of these commands is to do what is natural to our sinful nature and destructive to our families.
- To do the opposite is to not give what the other needs.
- To fail in these areas is to give the devil an open door.
- To reject God's commands is to kill our relationships.

### It won't be easy, but it is possible

#### The goal is to love

- Agape - Charity; benevolent love is to give what others need not what they deserve.
- Other centered - An effect of the Spirit and a choice; act of the will.
- Galatians 5:22 – “The fruit of the Spirit is love...”
- Love is a choice when you are in relationship with broken people. We can be unlovable and so can they. Forgiveness is the key.
- When we know what God commands, what love looks like, and we understand what the other needs, then we know where we are on the map and must make adjustments.

#### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NLT)

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.<sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.<sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.<sup>8</sup> Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

### Our sinful natures will cause us to struggle to do what we should

#### Galatians 5:16-17 (NLT)

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

#### Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

## God's Warning

- To disobey God affects our relationship with God and affects those we love. It affects our whole life.

#### Malachi 2:13-16 (NLT)

Here is another thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure.<sup>14</sup> You cry out, “Why doesn't the LORD accept my worship?” I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.<sup>15</sup> Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.<sup>16</sup> “For I hate divorce!” says the LORD, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

#### 1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

#### Ephesians 6:3 (NLT)

If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

## What Now?

#### 1 John 1:8-10 (NLT)

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

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