

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”

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Session Twenty-Two: Bonus Coverage (Due to high demand and comment)

What Marriage of God’s Beloved Looks Like:

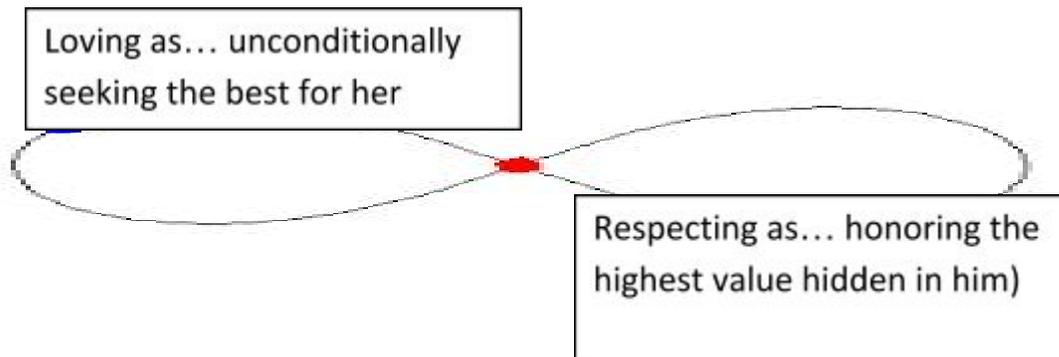
a. **Ephesians 5:21-33**. *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* ²² *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.* ²³ *For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.* ²⁴ *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.* ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* ²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing^[a] her by the washing with water through the word,* ²⁷ *and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* ²⁸ *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—* ³⁰ *for we are members of his body.* ³¹ *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”^[b]* ³² *This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.* ³³ *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

- a. **“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”** – “Submit” is a military term meaning to align yourself in deference to the formation (phalanx), including shifting your shield to help protect the person next to you or in front of you. Aligning means:
- i. Reminding yourselves that there is an external & internal enemy threatening you:
 - 1. **External enemy**: satanic spiritual forces of sin; societal norms which do not reflect conservative Biblical values; etc.
 - 2. **Internal enemy**: personal selfishness and prideful ambition; “*what’s in it for me?*”; self-preservation at other’s expense.
 - ii. Sacrificing your insistence that your needs are more important than the relationship’s needs. (For the sake of the relationship)
 - iii. Being motivated by God’s unconditional love for you.

- iv. Training yourself to overcome your fears and stand with Jesus courageously, compassionately, and with deep humility.
- b. **“as you do to the Lord.”** – Paul reveals a deeper meaning to marriage, than simply ‘mutual consent between adults.’ Christian marriage gives you a picture of the relationship between Jesus and the Body of Christ (the Church).
- c. **“For the husband is the head...as Christ is the Head...”** – In keeping with the theme of “submit” as a military term, the “head” means *the “point man”* of the formation leading into battle:
 - i. Setting the marriage tone of courage, compassion, and humility
 - ii. Providing, protecting, loving, and leading spiritually
 - iii. Putting himself between the enemy and the formation
 - iv. Setting the example for the others in the family
 - v. Calming the formation by his own faith & confidence in Jesus and His Word.
 - vi. Eating and resting after his army has eaten and rested.
- d. **“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.”** – Jesus is the model of unconditional loving and self-sacrifice. Husbands are to die to self (ego).
 - i. ***1 Corinthians 13:4-7.*** *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*
- e. **“to make her holy (set apart).** – as Jesus views you as precious, of highest worth, and the one for whom He died... so husbands are to treat their wives
- f. **“cleansing her by the washing with the Word”** – as Jesus cleanses your sinfulness through Baptism, husbands remind their family that, through Baptism, they are God’s Beloved – and treat them as God’s Beloved!
- g. **“and to present her to Himself...without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”** – When Jesus looks at you, He sees a forgiven and beloved child of God. His focus is not on the flaws and

shortcomings. Husbands are to take the lead in being the first to forgive, setting the tone of forgiveness and seeing the best in his wife.

- h. **“feed and care”** – providing and protecting are chief responsibilities of the point man, just as Jesus does for His Church.
 - i. **“for we are members of His Body.”** – The oneness of marriage reflects the oneness between Jesus and believers.
 - j. **“love his wife as himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”** – Paul suggests that the wife’s “respecting” is a response to her husband’s “loving.”
- b. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7.** *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*



Threats & Challenges to Unconditional Loving & Respecting

- a. When one spouse disagrees with the other on how to discipline children...
- b. When grandparents disagree with how their adult children are parenting “MY GRANDCHILD,” i.e. rules, discipline, etc.
- c. When either spouse triggers the other’s reactions
 - a. Triggering shame by a critical spirit (you’ll never be good enough), or
 - b. Triggering the fear of abandonment by not talking things out (you are alone).

- d. Any situation in which you go into fight/flight/fix mode.

What Relationships Among the Beloved Look Like

a. Ephesians 4:1-5, 25-32. *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin"^[d]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- a. **“live a life worthy of the calling you have received”** – (klayseos – vocation, calling) – Paul asserts that your “calling/vocation” holds a higher status in your life, than whatever is your role or career.
 - a. **“Calling/vocation” as a Christian informs your behavior, attitudes, and decision-making** regardless of the role you fulfill in the contexts you serve, i.e. home, work, church, society, etc.,
 - b. **“humble and gentle...patient, bearing with one another”** – humility breeds gentleness; patience/bearing with one another’s quirks, irritating habits, personalities, character flaws, etc.
 - c. **“Make every effort”** – don’t procrastinate or avoid
 - d. **“each of you must put off”** – the intentional work of not giving in to the temptation of deception; instead to “speak truthfully.”
 - e. **“do not give the devil a foothold”** – your contribution, when you fall into temptation, is by feeding resentments by:
 - a. Replaying and reliving old hurts caused by others.

- b. Rehearsing the old grievances by telling other people about them.
- c. Refusing to forgive and move on.
- f. **“but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs”** – packaging your criticisms in a way, that people will listen.
 - a. **Question: How will you know if your “talk” is helpful “to their needs?”**
- g. **“Get rid of all...be kind and...”** – replace the evil with good
- h. **“just as in Christ God forgave you.”** – your reason/motivation for forgiving and living the beloved life, is that is what God in Christ has given you first!