

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING

PART FOUR

Timothy Keller: One of the most urgently needed things today is a careful treatment of how the gospel, biblically and richly understood, ought to shape everything we do in the local church, all of our ethics, all of our priorities.

6) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO BUILD A GODLY FAMILY.

A) TO HUSBANDS:

- ❖ **Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Gospel).”**

The Gospel teaches husbands to be SACRIFICIAL:

- **Who is the role model for husbands?** Not earthy fathers, not other men, but Christ.
- **What work of Christ is an example for husbands?** Work on the Cross (He loved the church and gave Himself up for her)

Steve Cole: Biblical love means sacrificing yourself for your wife. It means dying to yourself and living for her highest good, even as Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we may have eternal life. Probably, you’ll never literally need to lay down your life for your wife. But almost daily you have opportunities to die to yourself by putting aside something that you want to do at the moment and serving your wife.

Brittany about her husband Gautam: I want to praise God for Gautam and his steadfast patience and care through this time. Worldly women are often very quick to criticize men over childbearing and childrearing, as it can feel to a flesh driven heart like carrying and raising babies are only a women's job and privilege. I must admit with humility and regret that these thoughts and words came to my mind and mouth during my sickest days this year. Though Gautam did not physically carry our baby he nourished us both by teaching himself to American food and encouraging me to read the Word and pray for the baby regularly. He sacrificed all his spare time

between his job, internship, and the church to clean, run errands, and do everything around the house that I couldn't do. Without complaining he waited on me hand and foot showing a true spirit of Christlike servanthood when many would have resented having to do so much for someone else. Even during my hospital stay, he was so devoted to caring for and protecting me and Millie that he didn't eat anything for two days.

Preach the Gospel to yourself when you are tempted to be selfish with your wife!

The Gospel teaches husbands to be GRACIOUS:

- ❖ **Colossians 3:19**, “Husbands, love your wives (LIKE CHRIST), and do not be harsh with them.”

Wonder: I don't understand how the word “Gentlemen” came into existence when men are not known for gentleness but for harshness.

Steven Cole: Harsh authority is wrong for Christian husbands. You lead in the home by loving your wife and being gentle and considerate with her. Being the leader does not give you the right to be harsh and authoritarian and to trample on her feelings.

Note: No matters what their failures are or how many times our wives fail, husbands have no excuse to be harsh with their wives. No matter how right our words and intentions are, we fail to represent Christ to our wives every time we are harsh with them.

Aleykhya about Krishna: Krishna has been strong support in terms of handling my in-laws, he was always there supporting me and defending me, our in-laws being unbelievers always bring up some or the other issue to the table. He asks my suggestion when taking a decision and gives value to my opinions. Even when he is upset with me he gently conveys his disappointment but not at all shouts or bursts with anger. Once, before guests, I was complaining about Krishna's flaws to them and I was defending my self-righteousness, I haven't realized that I was putting my husband's honour at stake and was deeply hurting his feelings. In that blame game, Krishna was silent without even trying to defend himself or exposing my mistakes as a part of retaliation. After a few days, Krishna explained how vulnerable he felt and I

realized how wickedly I behaved and was happy of Krishna's forgiveness in spite of my grave mistake.

Preach the Gospel to yourself when you are tempted to be harsh with your wife!

The Gospel teaches husbands to be **SANCTIFYING AGENTS:**

- ❖ **Ephesians 5:25-27**, 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.

Note: A carnal husband can be caring towards his wife but he doesn't take up the spiritual leadership to lead his wife to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Steve Cole: Husbands we must be committed to the total well-being of our wives, but especially to their spiritual growth in holiness. Set the example and encourage her to spend time daily in God's Word. Pray with her and for her, that she might grow in godliness. Talk often with her about the things of God. Share with her the struggles and the joys of your walk with God. Listen to praise music and biblical sermons when you take a trip together. Protect your wife from the world's moral filth as much as you are able.

ALSO, **GENTLY** ENCOURAGING HER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH FOR HER SANCTIFICATION.

- Church gathering
- Women's gathering
- Corporate prayers
- Hospitality
- Building love relationship

Tabea about her husband Allan: "When I think about how my husband helps me to grow in the Lord, the first thing that comes to my mind is that he himself has a great knowledge of the Bible and he loves to study the Word with great excitement and interest. Because of that he is able to teach me and I'm confident to ask him any question about the Bible. Even though he doesn't know the answer for every

question, he study's about it and gets back to me. His love for the Bible and excitement to study it on the other hand also inspires me to read and know the Word more myself. So he is leading by example. I want to appreciate my husband also for initiating family devotions and prayer, for leading them and putting his time and effort in preparing them. Apart from a set family devotion time he leads me throughout the day by remembering the gospel in various situations. He reminds me of the Gospel when I am afraid, low, hurt or upset, and also when we are joyful or thankful. He uses the particular situation we are in to comfort me, teach me, rejoice with me, sanctify me and wash me by the cleansing of the Word. He helps me to think, react and be more like Jesus by being an example, and to put God First. Another thing that I appreciate is that he does not pressurize me to act or be a certain way. He shows me patience, grace and love while trusting God that in his mercy he will do a deep work within me. Last but not least, the most important way my husband sanctifies me: he prays for me regularly. I believe that this is the most precious and powerful way he helps me to grow in holiness.”

B) TO WIVES:

1 Peter 3:1-6, Likewise , wives, be subject to your own husbands...

LIKEWISE: Just as all Christians must submit to the governing authorities (1Pe 2:13), as slaves must submit to their masters (1Pe 2:18-), even when you are mistreated, as Christ exemplified on the Cross (1Pe 2:21-23), in the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands.

❖ **1 Peter 2:21-23**, “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

3:1-2, Likewise , wives, be subject [PLACE YOURSELF UNDER THE AUTHORITY] to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **when they see your respectful and pure conduct.**

○ The Holy Bible doesn't teach, “Get love from your husband and give

respect to your husband in return.” It says, “Even if your husband does not obey the word, they may be won by your unconditional respect and good conduct.”

- The Gospel of Grace is something no one deserve and earns. You reflect grace when you submit to your husband if he cannot earn and don't deserve your submission.
- **Pandit Dharam Prakash Sharma's testimony about his wife.**
- How much more should a Christian wife must respect and submit to her Christian husband!

3:3-4, Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but **let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.**

- MANY WOMEN GIVE PREFERENCE TO THEIR EXTERNAL APPEARANCE THAN TO INNER BEAUTY BECAUSE THEY SEEK THE APPROVAL OF PEOPLE RATHER THAN GOD'S.

Opposite of Gentle and quiet spirit—Proverbs 21:19, It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.

3:5-6, For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, **by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.** And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Example of Clarice aunty encouraging wives not to call their husbands by name. Much worse, “ra” in Telugu “re” in Hindi.

Anil's testimony of Davana: I thank God for Davana for her life in this world. The most important thing I have noticed in Davana is her wholehearted love and care for me, and her quality of submission to me which I don't deserve as an imperfect and disobedient husband. When I was violent and used harsh speech, she never provoked

me, either by her words or behavior. But she remained silent and often left the place to avoid unnecessary arguments or discussions. But when I was calm and silent then she gently addresses my sinful behavior, and for this I love her a lot.

I still remember on the next day of my marriage Davana said to me that she want to call me by name. I don't know why she had this thought, but I said casually I don't like it. That's it from that moment till today she never called me by name but uses "Andi" publicly and personally as far as I know. I never heard in my life, Davana calling me "Anil" before me.

Davana always yields to my authority and always ahead to help me in all my responsibilities and helps me to lead my family under God Authority. I thank God for such a beautiful, submissive wife, which helped me become a better husband and father.

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