

(D2: The Home) Marriage

Imperative # 1 _____ your wife - Ephesians 5:25

- A. By loving her in the same way Christ loves the church.
- B. By making Christ's example of love your standard of love. John 15:12
- C. By following Christ as your role model.
 - 1. Set aside the focus of giving primarily to yourself. You are to turn away from your selfishness, your control & manipulation, self gratification & self absorption.
Other verses to consider: 1 John 4:7-21, 1 Peter 1:22, Romans 12:9-10, Titus 3:14
- D. By loving and accepting her unconditionally in the same way Christ loves and accepts the believer without condition.
- E. By giving selflessly regardless of her response.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

*You must be patient, You must be kind, You must not be jealous or envious, Do not be boastful, Do not be rude, Do not be self-seeking,
Do not be easily angered, You must not keep a record of wrongs, Do not delight in evil, You are to bear all things, You must believe all things,
Love hopes all things, Love endures all things.*

Other verses to consider:

Romans 5:3; 12:10, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 3:13; 12, Ephesians 4:29, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Proverbs 15:1

Imperative # 2 _____ your wife - Romans 15:7

A. You should die to self-interest and self-protection.

By dying daily to self-will and seeking God's will in the same way Christ did as a demonstration of His love and servant's heart.

B. You must love her and accept her as she is rather than demanding that she change to please you.

Imperative # 3 _____ your life for your wife - 2 Corinthians 5:15

A. You are to be willing to lay down your life for her, if called to do so, which is the way Christ demonstrated love for the believers.

Imperative # 4 _____ your wife as you love yourself - Matthew 22:39

A. You are to focus on her welfare, desires and well-being as much as you focus on your own.
Ephesians 5:28-30

Imperative # 5 _____ your wife as more important than yourself - Philippians 2:4

A. You are to protect her from hurt and harm more than you try to protect yourself.

B. You are to treat your wife as you desire to be treated. Matthew 7:12

Imperative # 6 _____ Christ in your love for your wife - Philippians 2:5-8

A. Your service to your wife is an outflow and an evidence of your love.

B. Biblical leadership is evidenced in service to your wife, family and others.

C. Your attitude is commanded to be the same as Christ's, who humbled Himself, by assuming the role of a slave.

D. True humility is evidenced in putting the interests and welfare of your wife and family before your own and by giving of yourself regardless of inconvenience or of difficulties involved.

Imperative # 7 _____ your wife - I Corinthians 11:3

- A. You are to lead your wife because this is the position already given to you by God.
- B. You lead your wife as Christ leads His Church by being a decision maker to whom she submits.
- C. You lead by seeking wisdom in decision making through the Scriptures, prayer, and wise counsel. And must consider all other biblical imperatives in your decision making.

REALIZE THAT NO DECISION IS A DECISION

You should not put your wife in a position to be tempted to take over your God-given responsibilities!

Consider: Proverbs 24:30-34

Imperative # 8 _____ and _____ your family - I Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13

- A. Making sure all basic needs for physical sustenance, shelter, health, spiritual growth are given to them.
- B. Be a diligent, responsible worker.
- C. Adjusting your lifestyle to your income, learning to be content.
- D. Not pursuing materialistic goals or lusting for what others have.
- E. Protect your family by not being involved in excessive behaviors, work, hobbies.
- F. Protect and teach by exhibiting and being a good role model.
- G. Protect your family by being alert to what is viewed on TV and computers. What you hear on radio, reading materials that enter your home.
- H. Being alert to friends and companions.
- I. Protect your family by not enabling or supporting the sin of a family member by ignoring evil influences.
- J. Protecting your family from wrong teaching and doctrines.

Imperative # 9 _____ God's design for intimacy in marriage - Genesis 2:24; I Corinthians 7:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

- A. Understand God's design for intimacy is an act of giving to your wife rather than receiving.
- B. Understand that God's goal is not performance but rather an expression of love is God's goal.
- C. Guard your mind: make purity of thought, attitude and behavior your goal; develop a biblical view of sexuality.
- D. Do not be controlled by sexual lust, which can lead to unreasonable demands on your wife.
- E. Do not be dependent on sex to build your ego.
- F. Do not seek to satisfy your sexual lust through pornography or other people.
- G. Understand that your body belongs to your wife for sexual purposes.
- H. Understand that God does not want you to selfishly deprive your wife.

Imperative # 10 _____ your burdens on the Lord - Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7

- A. To sustain you as the leader in your home.

The husband is to be the source of strength and dependability in times of trial.

- B. That you can comfort others in your home. (2 Corinthians 1:4)
- C. Remaining calm trusting God's sufficient grace. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- D. Role-modeling a thankfulness and contentment. (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:11)
- E. Continually pointing your wife to a dependency on God.
- F. Bearing her burdens. (Galatians 6:2)

Imperative #11 _____ with your wife in an understanding way - 1 Peter 3:7-9

- A. Be sensitive to her—show interest in her opinions and what is important to her.
- B. Be compassionate, kind and considerate. (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14)
- C. Do not be threatened by her gifts, holiness or service, but encourage them.
- D. Seek her help and encouragement in areas where you need to grow and/or change.
- E. Be willing to accept admonishment from your wife without being threatened or defensive.
- F. Confess your sins to her and be willing to confess your sins to God with her as a witness. Lead by example! (James 5:16, Philippians 4:9)
- G. Make a habit of seeking forgiveness.
- H. Be understanding by being a good listener.
- I. Be understanding by encouraging her daily. (Hebrews 3:13)
- J. Look for ways to compliment your wife, identifying evidences of God's grace in her.
- K. Frequently tell your wife that you love her and tell her why you love her.

(D4: The Qualifications)

Deacons

- The progression from Acts 6 (prototype deacons and elders) to Phil 1:1-5. . . .

1. The greater context in which deacons sit.

- The entire body of Christ is advancing the gospel mission of Jesus Christ.
 - Let's analyze the body into 3 groups (Phil 1:1, 5!):
 - **All disciples** are committed to this (personally, corporately); elders and deacons included.
 - **Elders (subgroup)** – personally committed to this, but also to leading the body into this so that all disciples can fulfill Christ's gospel mission.
 - **Deacons (subgroup)** – servant leadership appointed by the elders to specific ministry needs so that the church increases its effectiveness in Christ's mission of making disciples.
 - The church's effectiveness in the mission is adversely impacted if any of the 3 is missing. .
 - Would you commit to a local church which wasn't made up of "saints" participating in the gospel? Which didn't have "elders" participating in the gospel? Why does it seem more acceptable to commit to a church which does not have deacons? Why is the absence of deacons more tolerable? Perhaps we're in a day where it is as acceptable to overlook biblical elder leadership as deacon leadership.

2. Deacons – the importance of tested and approved character, 1 Tm 3:8-12.

- Read 1 Tm 3:8-12. Is this spiritual character grid a new idea created by Paul under the HS? Yes, and NO! No in the sense that Ac 6:3 reveals the first proto-type elders (Peter and other apostles) had a spiritual character grid in mind from the beginning (the HS' intent). Yes, in the sense that 1 Tm 3:10 shows us how the early church's thinking, conviction of the spiritual character/ evaluation of these servants grew/was refined; developed; progressed through the apostles' teaching.
- Interestingly enough, Paul didn't start the list with this character sandwich. He also didn't summarize the list at the end with this character sandwich. Rather he buried it, embedded it in the heart of the character grid. Why? Makes it much more difficult to separate the testing, above reproach aspect from the character qualifications.
- The tested and approved character sandwich of 3:10.

"These men must also first be tested"

"(then) let them serve as deacons"

"if they are beyond reproach."

- **'Tested'** = tested like metal to show genuineness. . . having passed, approval given to take office. . . **'beyond reproach'** = not arraigned (as in a court), unblamable. 'Serving' in the middle = the leadership of Ephesian church (Timothy) were to have some kind of observation relationship w/these men that would allow them to see that time and experience has tested them and revealed them to be above reproach men. NOT: Trying the office of a deacon (probationary) stage, testing comes before. We're trying to provide ministry opportunities for men where elders can be close enough to observe leadership and shepherding.
- **'Beyond reproach'** = But what does that mean? It is an umbrella, summary qualification concept. The same idea exists here as with the elder list (although different words are used for the same idea, 3:2, 10) – the qualifications here show what it is to be above reproach. These are spiritual qualities ("beyond reproach") that all Christians are called to – NOT a higher, different spiritual standard for these compared to rest of body.
- All Christians are called to be "blameless, or above reproach": Phil 2:15 (*amemptos*), 1 Thes 3:13 (*amemptos*), Col 1:21-22 (*amomos* and *anegkletos*), 1 Cor 1:8 (*anegkletos*), 1 Tm 5:7 (*anepilemptos* – widows! And elders!)
- Deacons are called to be "blameless, or above reproach": 1 Tm 3:10 (*anegkletos*), Ti 1:6 (*anegkletos* – elders!)
- Elders are called to be "blameless or above reproach": 1 Tm 3:2 (*anepilemptos*)
- NOTE: *anegkletos* = All Christians (1 Cor 1:8); deacons (1 Tm 3:10); elders (Ti 1:6)! All Christians are to have what the deacons and elders are to have. Nothing unique exists at one level between the three. On another level, deacons and elders should be leaders in the qualities that all other believers are to have. The body is to be able to look to those in offices as moral examples for themselves.

*"Those chosen should not be unknown.
Their integrity should be ascertained by all. . .
This means this choice is not to fall at random,
and without selection, on any that come to hand or mind;
but those men are to be chosen who are approved
by their past life in such a manner that,
after what may be called full inquiry,
they are ascertained to be well qualified."
John Calvin (electronic ed.)*

3. Deacons – the blessed results of faithfulness, 1 Tm 3:13.

Deacons: highly respected, emboldened servants in the mission, 1 Tm 3:13.

- "Highly respected" = "their good standing." "Obtain for themselves" (NAS); "Gain for themselves" (ESV) = present tense; 2 things: good standing and great confidence in the faith
- "High standing" (NAS); "Good standing" (ESV) = *bathmos* = step, base, foundation (pedestal); used figuratively here -> he gains a standing in the sight of God (a fine reputation). He appears to other to be able to stand with integrity before God
- "Great confidence" = assurance, boldness; *parresian*. Eph 6:19

*"Those who serve God well and see His power and grace operative in their lives
will be emboldened for even greater service."
John MacArthur, 131*

- From what we saw in Acts 6, especially from 2/7 of them (Stephen, Philip), how can we not respect them highly, 3:13a 'high standing'. And serving the widows as they did – can we not see that they were emboldened for even greater service in Christ's gospel mission? By God's grace, Stephen served food faithfully and was emboldened further by God's Spirit in his service to lay down his life for the sake of the gospel's expansion! By God's grace, Philip served food faithfully and was emboldened by God's Spirit in his service to run with the gospel into those 'despicable' Samaritans!