

# A Christlike Home (1) Christlike Husbands and Wives

by Zac Poonen

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*Building a Christ-like home requires faith, the Holy Spirit, and a good example to others.*

**Duration:** 1:04:20

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:24, Psalm 45:10, Ecclesiastes 10:8, Isaiah 45:15, John 14:16, 1 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Peter 3:1

**Topics:** "Christian Marriage", "Family Values"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of building a Christ-like home, focusing on the roles of a Christ-like husband, wife, father, and mother to raise Christ-like children. It highlights the need for humility, acknowledging when the home is not fulfilling God's purpose, and seeking Jesus for restoration. The sermon also addresses the significance of leaving and cleaving in marriage, avoiding debt, and living within one's means to maintain a godly home.

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## Transcript

Okay, in these two sessions we're going to talk about a Christ-like home, and for a Christ-like home we need a Christ-like husband, Christ-like wife, Christ-like father, and Christ-like mother, who will raise up Christ-like children. I believe that is God's desire. We read that God predestined us to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, so everything he plans and works is with that goal.

So you can say that your home is fulfilling God's purpose, not if you're earning a salary, or you were able to build your own house, or any of those things, but only if your home is becoming more Christ-like, and if it is not, I mean, if you're serious about your Christian life, you should humble yourself and say, Lord, my home is not fulfilling your purpose, and God really blesses those who are honest in acknowledging their need. Many people do not experience God meeting with them, because they don't honestly acknowledge their need. The very first marriage in Cana, they came to Jesus and said, there's no wine, the wine is finished.

We had some when we started, but it's all run out. Maybe you had the wine of happiness and joy and love when you started your married life, or when your children were babies and small, there's a lot of joy, but it's gone, and if it's gone, the solution is to go to Jesus and say, Lord, it's gone. Acknowledge it.

Don't keep pretending that you have plenty of wine. Don't try to call something which is not wine, wine. Be honest, that's the first thing, and remember this always, that God is on your side against the devil.

Right at the beginning of the Bible, we read that it was God who brought Adam and Eve together and established a home. That teaches us how interested God is in a home. He's the one who established it.

The very next chapter, you see how the devil came and divided that home, separated Adam and Eve. He started blaming his wife, and from that moment, this business of blaming started, and you find today homes are full of husbands and wives who blame each other, ultimately end in divorce. The Bible says God hates divorce.

Malachi chapter, in the last book of the Bible in Malachi, God hates it, and he's never, ever changed his mind on that, and Jesus spoke very strongly against divorce, and yet divorce is something which has become so accepted among even Christians and believers. That shows how Christianity is a million miles away from God. To call that Christianity is ridiculous.

That is not Christianity. That's Babylon, and the easy way in which a lot of people just go around divorcing, I don't like somebody, so I divorce. It's absolute, the world is drifted to the place where there's no fear of God, and the very next chapter in Genesis, that's Genesis 3, how Satan brought a separation between husband and wife.

In the very next chapter, you see wayward children with Cain. Also, the devil got into Cain as soon as he was, soon after he was born. Maybe he was a sweet little baby when he was born, like every baby is, but obviously not brought up properly by Adam and Eve.

Grew up proud, arrogant, like a lot of Christian parents' children today, and we can blame the children, but the Bible says, train up a child the way you should go, and when he's old, he will not depart from it. So we see that we are living in a time of tremendous need. The world has always been like that, but among Christians, and in the midst of all this, Jesus says, you are to be a light, the light of the world.

Your home must be like a light in the midst of darkness. Sometimes when you're flying in a plane, you look down, you see all dark at night, and here there's a light in one home, and there there's a light in another home. When you pop, move over some deserted areas, here and there you see a light.

I think God looks at the world like that, all covered with darkness, but here and there, a light, a home that is seeking to be Christlike. So I want to say to you that if you don't have that passion in your heart, it'll never take place. You must have a passion in your heart to be a light in the world, in your relationship as husband and wife, not just the areas where other people know, but even in private.

If the devil can see that you're a light, we are very careful that other people should not see our failure. What about the devil? Are you a testimony to Satan, husband and wife, the way you live together at home? The devil and his demons who watch you all the time, are you a testimony to them, the way you bring up your children? That's, remember God is on your side, that's what I want to say. God is on your side against the devil, and he is more interested in your building a home, a godly home, than you are yourself.

You must believe that. To me faith is, faith for anything, is to believe that this thing that I'm seeking God for, God is more interested in me having it than I am interested in getting it. Whether it's forgiveness of sins, baptism in the Holy Spirit, bringing up your children in a godly way, building a Christlike home, to

have faith means I believe God is more interested in helping me to build my home in a godly way than I am.

But God will never do anything if you don't have a burning desire to have such a home and to be a light for the Lord. So there are promises in the Bible like, if God be for us, who can be against us? What a wonderful verse for husbands and wives, even if you have messed up your life so far, to believe that God is on your side. If God is for you, who can be against you? That all the demons of hell trying, they cannot be against you.

You must have that faith. Don't ever give up and say, oh it's hopeless, my wife is hopeless, my husband is hopeless. There are so many people who say that.

Well you keep saying that it's hopeless, then it will be hopeless. Because you don't have faith. Like the people went to the Canaan's land and 600,000 of them said it's hopeless.

We can never conquer these giants. So you can look at the difficulties you face, you can look at the problems, your wife is like this, your husband is this, this is hopeless. Then it will be hopeless.

But if you can be like Joshua and Caleb, no it's not hopeless. If God is on my side, things are going to change. Even if my wife is evil or my husband is evil, if God is with me, God can get a foothold in my home through me, one person.

It's amazing what he can do. But I find that so many husbands just sit back and say, yeah my wife is like that, she'll always be like that. She'll always be like that because you don't have any faith.

Or people say, my husband is irresponsible, he'll always be like that. He will always be like that because you don't have any faith for him. God is not able to get a foothold in that home because you are full of unbelief.

You keep saying it's hopeless, hopeless, hopeless. My partner is like this, he'll always be like this. Then they will be like that.

Faith is to believe that God can change things. That's what we read in the very first chapter of Genesis. He took that rotten world and changed it into something beautiful.

This is the God we worship. And if that's the God you worship, I believe that. I don't believe there's any situation that God cannot redeem and save us from, no matter how spoiled the situation is, or a person is, or how wicked your partner is, or how bad your children have become, God can redeem it.

You must also believe a promise. God says, those who honor me, I will honor. First promise is Romans 8 31.

If God be for us, who can be against us? 1 Samuel 2 verse 30 says, those who honor me, I will honor. Think of saying, Lord, I want to honor you in my home. Never mind if nobody else is honoring you, but you got a foothold in my home through me.

One person. And if two people, imagine. Wonderful.

It's even better. We want to honor you. And as we honor you, we believe according to this promise, you will honor us.

Definitely. Those who honor me, I will honor. Take another promise.

1 Corinthians 10 and verse 13. God will never allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but will with every trial make a way to come out of it, to escape. You know that married life brings many trials.

Do you believe that every one of them is a trial you can conquer and overcome? God will make a way of escape? Or are you so full of unbelief and say, oh, it's hopeless? That's the reason why many things haven't changed so far. As long as God is not even able to get one foothold in one person in the home, there'll be no change. He's got to get at least one person on his side, and one is enough.

Let all the others in your home be against God. It doesn't matter. If God can get one person totally surrendered to him, it's amazing what he can do.

So Christ is our example. You want to look at husbands and wives in this session, and then parents and children in the next session. So a husband is called to look at Jesus and to be like him.

He's our example. You know, the Bible says in Ephesians in chapter 5, and we're going to talk about the home relationship, when he introduces the subject of home relationship with this verse. The home relationship section begins in chapter 5, verse 22, and goes all the way up to chapter 6, verse 9. Wives, husbands, children, parents, servants, masters, that also is there, can be in a home, all the way up to chapter 6, verse 9. And the whole section begins with an introduction in chapter 5, verse 18.

What is the most important requirement to build a godly home? Be filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is not to speak in tongues. It's to build a Christian home.

Remember, this is the introduction to building a Christian home. Be filled with the Holy Spirit, and when you're filled with the Spirit, words will come out of your mouth, words of singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks for everything. This is what happens.

Imagine if you in your home, there's a song in your heart giving thanks on your lips because you're filled with the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine how it'll change the whole atmosphere of your home? It's so different to the average home in the world where there's grumbling and complaining and murmuring all the time about something or the other, and then the children pick it up from the parents, and they become like that. But think if you're filled with the Holy Spirit, and instead of all that, there is singing, praise to the Lord, and thanksgiving, a spirit of thanksgiving, even if you're not always thanking with your heart.

It says not always with your lips. You know, it says in verse 19, with your heart. You may not, it doesn't mean you're saying anything.

We can always be giving thanks and singing in our heart, even if we don't vocalize it in words. And then the next thing is, verse 21, the spirit of subjection to one another. That means recognizing the boundaries God has drawn around each person.

God has drawn a boundary around the husband, a boundary around the wife, a boundary around each child, and we respect that boundary. We don't tread into that boundary. Like they say, give space to your husband, give space to your wife.

Don't tread into her territory and rob her of her dignity as an individual. Don't rob your children of that dignity as human beings. That's their boundary.

That's the meaning of being subject to one another. You know, even being subject to my children, for example. As a father, I must not humiliate my children in the presence of guests at home by punishing them publicly.

I must punish them privately. That is a way of being subject to my children. I can't say, I'm the father, I can do what I like.

I'll thrash you in public. No. Be subject to one another.

That is how the whole theme of the home begins. And learn it, and all of you are not yet married, learn it now. Be subject to one another.

God is the only one who's got no boundaries. He can do whatever he likes, whatever he likes. All the rest of us have got boundaries, and we should not tread into another person's boundary.

Your wife has got a boundary. You can't do what you like. You can't go around humiliating her publicly.

That's a boundary. She's got a dignity as a human being. Your husband has got a boundary.

You can't humiliate him publicly, etc., etc. And then goes on to say about, let me talk about husbands first. Husbands, love your wives, verse 25, as Christ loved the church.

So the example for husbands is Jesus Christ. And it goes on to say, further down in that section, that it is like Christ is the head of the church. Further down, just as Christ loves the church, we are members of his body.

Just as Christ also does the church, verse 29. So we must love your wife, verse 28, like his own body. That's the meaning of being the head.

Now there are two types. The word head can mean many things in the world in English. Head of a department in a university, head of a country, the president, head of the army, the general, or head of the body.

Which head do you feel you as a husband are in your home? Head of an army? Head of the country? It's because that understanding, head of the department? No. Head of the body. But it's because people have not seen that meaning of head, that a lot of husbands act like dictators.

Because they have misunderstood the word head. Here it says very clearly, head of the body. So also, husbands must love their wives as their own body.

Christ is the head of the church. So then there's a lot of scope there to meditate on what it means to be a head and the body. The body is, the head is useless without the body.

Some husbands think, I'm okay. I can do a lot of things, I can do, even if my wife is not there. I can cook, I can take care of myself.

You have that attitude, you'll never have a Christian home. Because a home is not just a matter of cooking food and producing children. It's a lot more than that.

So being a testimony to the devil about how two people can become one in God's eyes and how they can manifest a love and a concern and a care and a humble relationship with one another, which is a

testimony to Satan as to what the gospel can do, which was never possible before the day of Pentecost. That's why you don't read anything about homes in the Old Testament. Home is not important.

You could have a very bad home like Moses who would fight with his wife and his children who are disobedient, but he could be the leader. But not in the New Testament. The New Testament, it says if your home is not right, you cannot have a responsibility in the church.

Completely out of the question. If your children are wayward, you cannot have a responsibility in the church. That's so clear.

So the New Covenant brings us into a new possibility of relationship with one another in the home. So we must remember that, that we can now build a home where the relationship between husband and wife is like the head cares for the body. The body, the head is useless without a body.

Think if your head was cut off, you can't just float around by yourself. The first question I need to ask, that I want to ask husbands here is, do you see the necessity of your wife as much as you see the necessity of your body? Or is it only for the purposes of sex? Cooking the food? Washing the clothes? Well, if that's the case, no wonder your marriage is in such a mess. Think of how you care for your body.

How we care for it, we wash it, and there's an injury, we treat it immediately. Even if a mosquito sits on it, we drive it off. Imagine coming to that level of sensitivity towards the needs of your wife.

That is what it means to be a Christ-like husband. Sensitive to the needs of the body. What an example.

And let me also turn you to Luke, John chapter 10. Jesus said in verse 11, sorry, John chapter 10, I am the good shepherd. That's what he says in verse 11.

I'm the good shepherd. He's a shepherd of the sheep. And as a shepherd, it says in verse, he calls his sheep by name and leads them out.

When he puts forth his own, he goes ahead of them. I like that. He calls his sheep tenderly.

In Kerala, and probably is there in other parts of the country too, there's a very rude way in which even Christian husbands call their wives. They call her Eddie. Eddie means, hey you, like you call a pig or something, or a dog.

And I have, in all of our churches there, I have preached against it. Never call your wife Eddie, or even your children. Call them by tender names.

He calls his sheep by name. I remember after I said that, one man came to me and said, brother, it's out of love that I call my wife Eddie. I said, why don't you let your wife also love you and call you Eddie? Oh no, no, no.

Then he got light. We're so blind. Such rude words to say, hey you.

He calls his sheep by name. He's a shepherd. Respect your wife.

And he, when he puts forth his own, he goes ahead of them. First of all, a shepherd is one who goes ahead. He doesn't tell his sheep, hey go there.

He goes in front. He takes the risks. He's willing to face the dangers first.

Not in the way you see a lot of Indian husbands and wives walking, whether why a husband is five feet in front and in the village is either a woman carrying a load on the head. Not that type of going ahead. It's going ahead as an example.

If you find your wife is not up to the mark in some area, maybe she loses her temper frequently, or grumbles and complains, how to deliver her from it? Are you going to whip her from the back? That is a hireling. Come on, get rid of that habit. A good shepherd goes in front and shows by his example how to overcome those sins that you see in your wife.

It's a tremendous responsibility to be a husband. Don't ever take it on unless you're serious about it. I mean it's just like a tremendous responsibility to be a general of an army or the prime minister of a country.

You're not your own boss if you can't take those responsibilities lightly. I mean even to be a teacher in a school or a principal of a school is a big responsibility. Or even some of the jobs you're taking, it's a big responsibility.

It's a very big responsibility to be a husband in a home, to be an example, a hard-working person. I mean if you're a lazy person, I would suggest you don't get married. Just destroy yourself with your laziness.

But that's not a good example. Imagine if you're a lazy person and your wife is also lazy and your children are lazy, what's your home going to be like? You say, brother, that's my temper and what? Go and hang your head in shame before God and say, Lord, I got to be changed. Some of you have been in the church for so many years.

When are you going to get rid of your laziness? When are you going to be a hard-working person? To be an example, don't you see Jesus working hard? How hard he works. There's no laziness in God's kingdom. So a good shepherd is one who works hard for his sheep.

If a sheep goes astray, he looks for that sheep to bring it back. He goes ahead. He never goes from behind to push saying, you must be like this and you must be like that.

It's a pathetic thing I see today in many Indian men who want to go abroad to make money. They don't have qualifications. So they marry a nurse because they know that nurses can get jobs in the Gulf and in America and then go care of their wives and sit at home looking after the children and cooking the food while the wife is earning the money.

Are these Christians? They have no understanding of God's Word. They should hang their heads in shame. It's not necessary to go to America and the Gulf.

It's not necessary to earn so much money. It's necessary to build a godly home. Very, very important.

Recognize that. And yet there are so many Christians who don't have any clue about all these things and the end result is these effeminate husbands who are more like women than men. The children suffer because of that.

You are an effeminate, irresponsible, lazy husband. I guarantee your children are going to suffer all their life because of what they see in you. You better wake up.

I'm speaking strongly because I've seen enough children messed up because the way they saw their father live at home. Irresponsible, lazy, wayward. I want to save the next generation from messing up.

So it's time to wake up in this area. Follow the example of Jesus. Go ahead and be an example in every area so that you should be able to say to your wife, follow me.

That's what... and it says here, the sheep hear his voice. I like that. Let your wife hear your voice.

Don't be one of those silent husbands. That's not God's will. God wants a husband and wife to talk together and share their heart with each other.

It's not God's will that you should just... How do you talk to your good friends? Let me ask you. How do you talk to your good friends? Don't you talk and talk and talk. You suddenly forget all about your quiet temperament when you're talking to your friends.

Why don't you talk to your wife like that? Your wife should be your best friend. If somebody asks you who's your best friend, your answer should be my wife. That is... Imagine if Jesus never spoke to you.

If Jesus treated you like the way you treat your wife, hardly ever talk to her. I'd feel miserable if the Lord never spoke to me. So I see so many areas where I can see Jesus as my example.

Jesus protects me from danger and that's a responsibility for a husband to see possible dangers in the home. That's what it means to be Christ-like. To recognize I want to protect my home from these dangers.

Music and movies and other things that can ruin my home and ruin my children. It's the husband who must take that responsibility even before the children come to keep the home from danger. The husband is the one who... The shepherd is the one who leads the sheep to green pastures to provide food.

The husband is the one who's got to take the responsibility. I've got to earn food for my family. Do you take that responsibility seriously? Do you work hard? Do you say, Lord help me? Do you think God won't help you? He will help you if you take it seriously.

But if you just play the fool in that area, then God sees that you're not serious about your life. There's a tremendous need for repentance on the part of husbands. I find so many of them take things so casually as if this is not such a serious thing at all.

So remember, take the example of a shepherd and not only provides good pastures for the sheep, it says in verse 11, I lay down my life for the sheep. Imagine working so hard that you're willing to lay down your life. This is what it means to be Christ-like, a Christ-like leader.

Jesus gave a demonstration of it by washing the feet of the disciples, willing to do any dirty job for your wife or for the home. I pray that God will raise up many husbands like this in our church. This is God's will.

So those are just a few things. You can think about it further. And then I want to move on to the wife.

The wife also has to be Christ-like because the Bible says to the wife or to the woman in 1 Corinthians 11, in Ephesians 5, we are told that wife is to be like the church subject to Christ. But sometimes the church, you look around, is not a very good example of submitting to Christ. You know that.

So I want to give you a better example, Christ himself. And that's in 1 Corinthians 11 and verse 3. I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man and the man is the head of the woman. In other words, again the same picture, the husband is the head of the wife and God is the head of Christ.

So now get this picture. In the same way that Christ is subject to God the Father, the wife is to be subject to man, her husband. Like Christ accepted God the Father as his head, the woman has to accept her husband as her head.

So who is their example? In this passage? Not the church. Jesus Christ. And that's a perfect example.

So just like Christ is the example for husbands, we find Christ is the example for wives too. In the way Jesus submitted, because the Father told him to do it. You know, this word submission, unfortunately in the eyes of many people, is a dirty word.

And with the women's liberation movement, which has affected so many people around the world and has affected a lot of people in Western countries, and has gradually affected westernized parts of India. You know, this removing of the veil from all the women's heads started with the women's liberation movement. A hundred years ago, even in America, in all churches, women covered their heads.

But with the women's liberation movement 50 years ago, women took off their veils. They were honest when they took off their veils, saying, I'm not in subjection to any man or to my husband. But remember that it's a sign of a rebellious spirit when a woman takes off that veiling, which God has said in the same chapter in 1 Corinthians 11.

It says further down, a woman ought to have, verse 10, a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels. It's in the context of a woman being subject to a man. So I'm just telling you how you got to be careful of that spirit that there is in the world, that's come over to India from the Western world.

You see it in all these charismatic churches where no woman ever believes in veiling her head. It's that spirit that's come over from the Western world, and it's the spirit of Satan, a satanic, rebellious, I will not accept God's order that the man has to be the head of the woman. Who said that? I'm equal to the man.

Okay, let me see what type of home you build, sister, and let me see, give me 20 years, and I'd like to see what your children are going to be like. I prophesy they'll bring dishonor to you and be a headache to you because you can't violate God's Word and expect godliness, God to bless your home. Completely out of the question.

So what I'm saying is, the important thing is not the veiling of the head. You can veil your head and not be subject to your husband at home. That's worse.

It's that spirit behind it which says, who said he's my head? Imagine if Jesus lived on earth and said, who said the father is my head? I'm equal to him. Was Jesus equal to the father or not? Yes or no? Yes, all of you say yes, and that's right. Jesus was equal to the father, and do you know in God's eyes a man and woman are equal? Absolutely equal.

The woman, man is not superior before God over the woman. The man is not some special favorite of God. No, men and women are equal before God, but yet the woman has to be in subject.

Why? Jesus Christ was equal to the father, and yet for the purpose of redemption, he subjected himself to the father and demonstrated in a world which believed that submission was a dirty word, he demonstrated that submission can be a glorious thing. A man can demonstrate that by his total submission to Christ, and a wife can demonstrate that by her total submission to her husband. So both have the privilege.

I have the privilege of demonstrating the glory of submission by my total submission to Christ. That means as soon as the Lord tells me something, go and apologize to your wife. I'll do it immediately.

That's the glory of submission. You think a man doesn't have to submit? Of course he has to Christ, and the woman has the opportunity to demonstrate that spirit of submission in her home. Now a woman may say, but my husband doesn't know the Lord like I do.

Maybe you're right. There are many cases where a husband is thoroughly disobedient to the Word, maybe unconverted. What should a Christian woman do in such a case? There is an answer because this is not new to the 21st century, even in the first century.

1 Peter chapter 3 and verse 1. 1 Peter 3 verse 1. In the same way you wives be submissive to your own husbands, even to those who are disobedient to the Word of God, unconverted, so that you can win them without speaking one word by your behavior. What does it mean in the same way? Why does the sentence start with in the same way? Because it's referring to the previous paragraph. Christ is your example.

1 Peter 2 21. In the same way wives. In which way? In the way your great example Jesus.

Again here you see that Jesus is the example for wives, where you have been called. 1 Peter 2 21. Christ suffered.

Are you suffering sister? Because your husband is disobedient to God's Word. You have an example. Christ suffered, leaving you an example to follow in his steps.

In the same way wives be submissive. Even though he committed no sin. Maybe your life is godly sister.

He was reviled. Verse 23. Are you being reviled by your husband? He did not revile in return.

In the same way wives submit to your husbands. While he was suffering he did not utter any threat. He could have said, wait till God judges you, you fellows.

Did he say that? You're a godly sister and your wife. You're suffering under your husband. Do you say, wait till God judges you.

You're not following Jesus. He kept entrusting himself to him who judges righteously. In the same way wives entrust yourself to one who has promised he will never allow you to be tested beyond your ability.

Never. When he finds it's getting too much for you he'll do something. Either soften your husband's heart or convert him or kill him.

But he'll never allow you to be tested beyond your ability. That you can be sure of. You have God on your side.

Your husband's unconverted. He's with the devil. So what? You got God on your side.

Who is stronger? Behave like Jesus Christ. Behave like Jesus Christ. In the same way.

And you can win them. Isn't it your aim to win this unconverted husband? Win him without speaking one word. Don't preach to him.

I'm sorry to say I have met some sisters who are converted and whose husbands are not converted. We had some of them in CFC. They're not here now.

And when I saw the spirit in these women, in those wives, I understood why husbands are not converted. They are preachers. They must be going home and preaching to their husbands and the husbands are sick and tired of their preaching.

Have they understood how to win their husbands without a word? No. And I said your husbands will never get converted. Not if they see your life.

And then I've seen other examples of husbands who would not allow their wives to come to the church. And the wives by spirit of submission won their husbands over. Even non-christian husbands by spirit of submission.

So we have had good examples and bad examples that we have seen. But it's winning them without a word. What a wonderful example to be.

You know like Jesus again. You can say but my husband doesn't know as much as I do of the word. Well Jesus could have lived in Nazareth and said Joseph and Mary don't know as much as I know about God and I know about his word.

And he was absolutely right. And he saw Joseph and Mary sinning and he had never sinned. And yet the Bible says till the age of 30 he submitted.

Jesus is your example. Can you submit to somebody who is unconverted? Somebody who doesn't know the word. Well look at Jesus.

He submitted to Joseph and Mary. You say I'm getting tired of it. Well he didn't get tired after 30 years.

And after 30 years of submitting to imperfect Joseph and Mary. You know what God said about Jesus at his baptism? This is my beloved son in whom I'm well pleased. Do you want to hear those words? This is my beloved daughter in whom I'm well pleased.

Do you think Jesus never suffered anything in those 30 years? How many times in those 30 years he had to deny himself to do what Joseph and Mary told him to do when he as a little boy probably didn't want to do that. But he said no I will please my father. So the reason you submit to your husband is because God has said it.

When you see it like that it takes on a different color. Not because your husband says you submit to me. No God has said it.

Be like Jesus Christ. I've said this that if the Bible had said husband submit to your wives I would be the first person to do it. I'd go to my wife and say well darling what do you want me to do now? I'll do it tell me I'm your servant.

Because God has said husband submit to your wives. It's not because she says it. Not because your husband says it.

Because God says it. Submit to your husbands. When you see it as God's command it takes on a different color.

So the other thing I want to say is you know when God made Eve isn't it interesting that he took a bone out of Adam's body so that Adam would always remember hey she came out of me. She's part of my body. You know even a child born to a mother was not is not born like that.

It's not from the bone of a mother. The child is born in a separate sack inside the mother's womb with just a little cord connecting it to the mother. That's all.

Even though the child is born out of a mother's womb it's not connected in the way that Adam's rib. That's why a wife is supposed to be closer even than a child. That's why a husband should love his wife even more than his children.

Always. Always. It's an unfortunately a bad habit that we have in our Indian culture which many Christians in India also followed that they love their children more than they love their wives.

I never want to love my children more than I love my wife. I never want to love my wife more than I love Jesus Christ. There's an order in my life.

Jesus Christ, my wife, my children. And is it like that in your life? Can you honestly say all of you husbands and wives that you love each other more than you love your children? I hope you can say that before God because if you can't say that you love your children more than you love each other you're not going to have a Christian home. You might as well forget it.

Just build one of those worldly homes like there are thousands and millions of them in the world. You just make another one. But if you really want to build a godly home you better follow godly principles.

That your wife is part of your body. It doesn't say anywhere that your children are part of your body. So there is an order.

The Lord first and your partner next and then the children. All your life. Don't follow the Indian culture where children mean more than marriage partner.

You examine your heart and your attitude even when the children are small. See whether you love your partner more than you love your children. You may find, you may discover that you don't love your partner.

You love your children more and that's what leads to divorce so often. And so that's something we got to keep in mind. But further and the way the Lord did it was he said it's not good for man to be alone.

You know Genesis chapter 2 verse 18. And that's something you must remember. It is not God's will for a man or a woman to be alone.

To be lonely. And yet in many homes where husband and wife live together they are lonely. Two lonely individuals who hardly speak to each other except when they have a fight and then they talk a lot.

And is that a Christian home? That's a godless home. It's a shame to call that a Christian home. You can live together in the same home and say well we're not divorced but you're lonely.

It's not good for a man to be alone. It's not good for a woman to be alone. God wants them to have fellowship just like head and body.

Really close. And then the Lord says I will make him a helper. Genesis 2 18.

The same word that Jesus used to refer to the Holy Spirit. Jesus was there. You know he was part of the Trinity there when he made Eve.

Father Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus was the his name was not Jesus then in the second person of the Trinity. But he was there making Eve for Adam.

He said this is a helper. And the same word when Jesus came to earth and came as Jesus. He uses the same word in John 14 and says to his disciples I'll pray to the Father and he will send you a helper.

John 14 and verse 16. A helper. So all of you sisters you not only have Jesus as your example you have the Holy Spirit as your example.

You're a helper like the Holy Spirit's a helper. And the one you see the wonderful thing about the Holy Spirit is he does things in a hidden way. He doesn't come with great pomp and show.

Great pomp and show is not his way. For example when he helps me in the ministry he doesn't make it all obvious that the Holy Spirit is here. You think it is me but it's not me.

I know it's not me. It's the Holy Spirit. I wouldn't dream of trying to stand up here without the Holy Spirit.

Let me show you a verse Isaiah 45 verse 15. Isaiah 45 verse 15. You are a God who hides himself.

The Holy Spirit is a God who hides himself. He hides himself so much in ministering through me that you think it is all Brother Zach. It is not Brother Zach.

It's the Holy Spirit and if you remove the Holy Spirit I would have nothing to say here. That is how effective he is but he doesn't take any credit for it. He just quietly supports from the back inwardly does everything and it doesn't matter to him that other people think that Brother Zach is doing it.

Can you be a wife like that? From behind supporting in a hidden way even if you get no credit for it and your husband gets all the credit for it. See this is a prayer ministries like this. A lot of people pray for me.

I don't even know who they are but I believe in the day of judgment. God's gonna call them all up. If I get a reward they're gonna get a big part of it.

I know my wife prays for me. So a wife can be a tremendous helper. Hidden.

Not wanting to be prominent. The Holy Spirit doesn't want to be prominent. Are you a wife like that or are you trying to overshadow your husband and your husband looks like a dumb effeminate who's overshadowed by this mighty woman.

I want to tell you that's not Christ like. You're not a helper. You're the leader.

Well you say what to do my personality is like that. Well the Holy Spirit's come to change our personality. I'll tell you my personality was very shy.

You won't believe it but it was true. People who knew me when I was 15 years old when I was in school they saw me as very shy and timid and when I joined the Military Academy they laughed at me say you're gonna defend our country. We can't believe it.

But see what happened and the Holy Spirit filled me. Changed me completely. The Holy Spirit can change your temperament.

I tell you he can. I wanted it. I said Lord I'm not naturally bold and type of person who can stand up before people.

I'm timid and shy and afraid to stand before people but the Holy Spirit changed my temper. He can change your temperament. If you're the arrogant bold type of woman overshadowing your husband the Holy Spirit can change your temperament and make you a wonderful wife who is a support for your husband even though you know more of the scriptures.

You know when you read of Aquila and Priscilla I don't have time to show it to you in scripture but in Aquila and Priscilla very often it comes Priscilla and Aquila. What does that mean? I personally think it means Priscilla was the most spiritual woman. If you look up the number of times the this couple come in the New Testament I checked it on once many times it says Priscilla and Aquila.

That means your wife's name comes first and but she never did anything without her husband. That's a wonderful thing even when they she felt that hey this Apollos is going astray you read about it in Acts chapter 18. They called him home and sat together with her husband.

She knew more of the scriptures. That's how he taught. Now there are two practical things I want to say also in conclusion.

Two of the biggest problems in married life come through relatives and money. There are many other areas also but relatives and money are a big problem. Now the Bible the first commandment in the Bible do you know what it is? The very first commandment in the whole Bible for man not for Adam for us.

Genesis 2 24 before sin came into the world. The only commandment given in the Bible before sin came into the world. Genesis 2 24 a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife and they shall be one.

God's desire is that husband and wife should be one and if that is to happen he must emotionally leave his father and mother. That means not let them control his life anymore. He doesn't mean he doesn't care for them but now his decisions must be taken not consulting daddy and mommy but consulting his wife.

Now that's another thing which most people in India never practice and that non-christian practice has come into Christians. Where a man even after he gets married is more attached to his parents than to his wife You cannot have a Christian home because you have disobeyed the first commandment in the Bible. You can't do it.

You have to I don't mean that you don't care for the example is Jesus. He was subject to Joseph and Mary for 30 years but when he moved out after his baptism the very next thing you read in John chapter 2 is his

telling his mother Mary at the marriage that came up. Woman what have I got to do with you? What a word.

She got the shock of her life in John chapter 2 when he said that. Hey is this my boy who has obeyed me for 30 years? Yes because he's moved out of the home. It was difficult for him to say that to a mother who suffered so much for him and it's difficult for you brother to say that to your parents that now my wife comes first but Jesus said it he's your example if you want to follow Jesus and if you want to build a home and also for the woman in Psalm 45 what is the woman supposed to do? Psalm 45 is the bridal psalm a psalm of the bride and bridegroom Jesus Christ and his bride and again the example of Christ in the church.

He's talking about the bride and the bridegroom and there it says listen no daughter speaking to the wife in verse 10 Psalm 45 10 listen daughter you're getting married now give attention forget your people and your father's house now this is your new house that's why you change your name your last name is changed now to your husband's name and that's the one you're going to that's your house now forget that it doesn't mean you don't care for them and that also Jesus has proved that even though he is hanging on the cross he cared for his poor mother in the midst of all that suffering he's I've got to provide a home for my mother that is a good example you don't let your parents interfere in your life you don't let them emotionally control you with their tears or whatever it is and you

just take decisions it is you and your partner but if your parents are in need you care for them provide for them I remember husband once asking me whether my parents are in need and from my earnings I want to send them my money but my wife doesn't allow me to do it what should I do I said don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing very simple your wife is your left hand don't let her know what the right hand has done that you supported your parents obey scripture there's an answer to the scripture for everything you have to help your parents and they are in need definitely care for them do they need to be cared physically maybe you need to bring them home in your home and look after them do that but make sure it is not their home but your home there's a lot of difference

between you living in your parents home and your parents living in your home even though physically it looks the same it's not the same the other area is money the most important thing I would say to all married couples in relation to money is live within your means stay in the circle of finances God has drawn around you if you go outside that and that is by borrowing borrowing is because I don't want to stay within the circle God has drawn around me economically I look at that fellow he's got a bigger circle I want to buy what he has I want to get everything which makes my life more comfortable but if God is not giving you that much money don't borrow don't use a credit card to buy things which you cannot afford that's why I've never had a credit card in my life I've never been in debt

in 71 years not a single day it's not that we've not been poor if you knew how much my wife and I earned when we got married I can say honestly we earned much less than any of you sitting here when you were married much much less even allowing for inflation what did we do we never bought new clothes we never bought anything we couldn't afford we never went on holidays we never spent on anything because there are lots of things we couldn't buy we had a little baby we could only buy things we my wife would stitch the clothes for the child we couldn't afford to go to shops and buy because one reason we feared God who said oh no man anything our circle was small it says in Ecclesiastes chapter 10 and verse 8 Ecclesiastes 10 verse 8 the middle of that verse if you break through of that

boundary wall a serpent will bite you God has drawn a boundary of finances around you you break through it a serpent bites you and let me tell you something in the Hebrew language in which that is written the word for debt d-e-b-t is the same or very similar to serpents bite same word here the serpents bite is a debt you want it do you know the number of people who are in debt every church I go to I say are you in debt we got it cleared as soon as possible I've removed elders from being elders if they remained in debt and didn't seek to clear it people have come here with debt and I said come sit with me tell me how you're spending your money every month and I said knock off this knock off this you don't need this you don't need this you don't need this and you can live within your income

and you know I've taught them how to live with their income and they are prospered after that and become very rich so many people have come here riddled with debt and they got freed not I never gave them any money we don't give money from the church but we teach them to see God's Kingdom first and teach them to live within their income and not only when we are married after we started living here even in the days when the church started my wife and I had very little money when we couldn't afford to buy rice in the open market my wife and I would stand one hour in the ration shop queue and there were other believers who walked by and smirked and smiled at us well look at this guy servant of the Lord standing in the ration shop queue we used to stand in the ration shop queue to buy kerosene

because gas was too expensive for us and I know some people who come to our house church would laugh at us we'd go and buy the cheapest possible beef from the cheapest possible place people laughed at us but the people who laugh at us are the people who got into debt and to suffer I never got into debt it doesn't matter if you eat simple food I'll tell you that we never got sick but all these people we used to buy fish maybe once a year or twice a year because we couldn't afford it well we're healthy and strong our children are healthy and strong only for one reason not because we don't love fish it's because we refuse to get into debt we never bought new clothes for our children on their birthdays because we wouldn't get into debt we couldn't afford it when their clothes wore out then we

would get new ones even their school uniforms we pass it on from one to the other there are many ways in which we can stay out of debt if you want to but if you want to be tip-top and stand up to the latest style and buy unnecessary things then you the serpent will bite you and it'll be very difficult to get out of the serpents bite once he's got you so be careful in the area of money I say this from my experience I wondered in those days why God was taking us through all this now I see the Lord says because I want you to make you an example other people so that you can tell them that even when you had little or nothing you did not borrow dear brothers and sisters be careful in the area of money so many people there's no need to buy so many clothes you don't need a sari every year I never

did that for my wife it's a waste of money when we have enough clothes why should we keep on buying clothes live and live simply now God expands your boundary then buy other things we bought a washing machine when we could afford it not when we couldn't afford it we could live without a washing machine man has lived without a washing machine for 5,000 years how did they do that so what I say is if you follow these simple principles you can have a really godly home and now I want you to sing a song to each other husband and wife okay we're gonna sing it to each other and if you're embarrassed to look at each other you don't have to look at each other but mean it to each other mean it to each other will you let me be your servant let me be as Christ to you pray that I might have the grace

to let you be my servant to don't be so proud to say hey I'm gonna serve you I'm not gonna let you serve me let the other partners serve you too let's start with the first verse will you let me be your servant will you

let me be your servant let me be as Christ to you pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant to we are pilgrims on a journey we are travelers on the road we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load I will hold the Christ light for you the nighttime of your fear I will hold my hand out to you speak the peace you long to hear I will weep when you are weeping when you laugh I laugh with you I will share your joy and sorrow till we have seen this journey through when we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony born of all we have known

together of Christ's love and agony will you let me be your servant let me be as Christ to you pray that I may be your grace to let you be my servant to you can get a copy of that in a card if you haven't already got it let's pray heavenly father we know you have a tremendous desire that there should be godly homes all across this land of India and here in Bangalore many many lights in the darkness and Lord these wonderful families that are here who sat here eagerly listening to the word I believe with all my heart that most of them if not all of them desire to have a godly home help them to be willing to to pay the price that each of us will be will have a godly home we pray in Jesus name amen

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