

A close-up photograph of red granite with a speckled texture of white and grey minerals in a reddish-brown matrix. The surface shows natural cracks and variations in color.

Red Granite

**12 Daily
Devotions**

**MARITAL
BLISS**

**brought to you by
Marshall and Jessica Jones**

**Published by
Red Thread Poets**

The contents of these Daily Devotions, are based on quotations from The Holy Bible, King James Version, and the inspired writings of Marshall Jones, and include but are not limited to his opinions expressed; permission to use previously published materials included; and any advice given or actions advocated are solely the responsibility of the author, who assumes all liability for said work and indemnifies the publisher against any claims stemming from publication of the work.

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ENDORSEMENTS

From: Jessica Reavis-Christensen,

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=forged%20by%20fire%3B%20iron%20sharpening%20iron>

I'm a former Recreational Leader of the New Lisbon Correctional Institution and I have to say that I am SO thankful for the 9 months I got to spend in prison. I would have never understood the need for prison reform if it wasn't for my experience.

When I was hired at N.L.C.I., I came in with the understanding that my position was to help rehabilitate the men to become successful citizens of society. I encouraged them to put the work in during their time, so they would have the tools to thrive in their freedom. Well, administration did not like that. The administration was threatened by the joy and empowerment that I brought to Recreation. They didn't like that the men were choosing healthy outlets, they didn't like that the countenance of the general population was lifting, they didn't like that the men were excited to be treated with humanity rather than unimportant scum. My time in prison was cut short because of the administration feeling threatened by the atmosphere I brought to the dark institution. Light is not wanted within those walls and that is something I believe needs to change.

After 40 days of unpaid administrative leave, I was terminated on Friday, December 13th 2019 for "not passing probationary standards". It didn't matter that all the programming I had added and built upon was changing the atmosphere in the institution for the better. They needed a scapegoat to get rid of me, and "not passing probationary standards" was it. Friday, December 13th was a day of sadness but also a day of resolution. As I drove away from N.L.C.I., no longer employed by the DOC, I made a pivotal decision to write Marshall Jones.

Marshall Jones was one of four inmate workers that assisted me in my Rec Leader position. He lead fitness classes, reffed all competitive events, assisted setting up Rec events, helped encourage men that came to Recreation, and counseled the men to prepare for their release. Marshall's conduct spoke for itself and I could see he was a man of his word by the actions displayed. He worked hard in Rec and Marshall worked even harder doing his time by becoming a published author of his first book, "A Raven's Meal". While working with Marshall, I learned he was serving a double life sentence, and I was shocked he would be there for the rest of his life. The reason I was shocked was because Marshall lived more freely within the walls of that prison than any other person I've met in my life. How is that possible? It was possible because of the faith he so boldly lives. Marshall was incarcerated at 21 years old and has served 17 years of his sentence. When I drove away from N.L.C.I. I decided I wanted Marshall to know that he was remembered by someone. I wanted him to know he made an impact on my life by living the way he did within the walls of prison. I wanted him to know that despite the

circumstances, I wanted to extend the olive branch of becoming his friend. Writing Marshall Jones was one of the best choices I have ever made in my life.

I believe so many men like Marshall are deserving of a second chance. This is something I wouldn't have ever understood if I didn't have my time in prison, working closely with the general population. There is a deep need for prison reform and Marshall is the perfect story of a cast away finding redemption. I know how many second chances I have had. I believe it's time for those who have proven rehabilitation exists, get their second chance. To make evident their efforts aren't for nothing.

From: Kelli

Comment from Kelli, who read the Climb, a poem by Marshall on Red Thread Poets Website
www.redthreadpoets.com/the-climb/

Re: The Climb, by Marshall Jones

This poem personally speaks to my heart because I know the struggle of many who are fighting for their freedom from incarceration. Prisons are full of people who have been given unmerciful harsh sentencing who are just wanting to be given a chance to redeem themselves in society to help others. God wants to use those who have surrendered their hearts to His Son Jesus Christ who's incarcerated to become the mentors for our youths in today's culture. God has a plan for every individual's life. Keeping people confined to incarceration who God need to be Ambassadors for His Kingdom is certainly not the answer. Treating all people how one would want to be treated should be the defining moment when passing a judgment onto others. Love and mercy covers a multitude of sins. God and the Lord Jesus are expressing love and mercy everyday towards all people and humanity must practice in doing the same. God Bless all who read this comment and take it to heart.

From: Peter W Stevens,

Friend to the Founder of Red Thread Poets (Our Triune God). www.redthreadpoets.com/category/100-poets/peter-will/

I met Marshall through Jessica. We have become very close brothers in just a few short months emailing everyday. I live north of Toronto in Canada and was building a website to glorify God and honour poets. Red Thread Poets. Marshall sent me his poems, i have his book a Raven's Meal and he is one of our honoured poets on the site. HOWEVER it is his daily devotionals under the 'banner 'RED GRANITE' that show his anointing - they are high impact for me every day. We post them in Facebook under Red Thread Poets, and recap them on the website. <https://www.redthreadpoets.com/daily-devotions/>. Marshall is DEARLY LOVED, peter

Peter's April 2025 update on Marshall and Jessica Jones:

[April 2025]

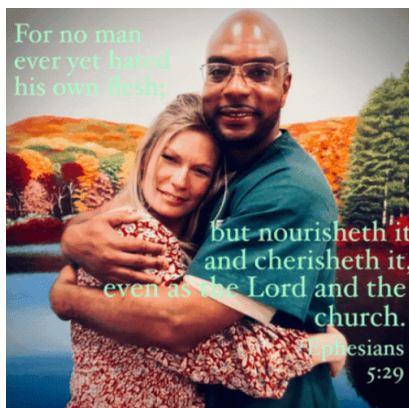
Since November 1, 2020, Marshall and later with Jessica have written over 1,100 Daily Devotions, of which there are now 17 Series, not all published yet.

On November 1, 2022, they were married. Hallelujah.

Marshall continues to study and write from within the confines he remains in for now. He commenced a bachelor's degree in biblical studies in 2024, please pray for them both, and for The Lord to arrange his release before too long. **Jessica posted this recently:**

"I can confidently say my husband is everything he's supposed to be in our marriage, and he is always wanting to love me more tomorrow than he did today. He's not smothering, nor is he one who says things but doesn't follow with action. My husband is the real deal, and I am so thankful to know what it means to truly be loved by him like Christ loves the Church. Today's message (Ephesians 5:29) is great encouragement to husbands, wives, and the whole walk of marriage. God bless each of you and the marriages you are committed to!

Much love!"



INTRODUCTION

What is the secret to a successful marriage? What are the keys to a happy marriage? In this series, Marital Bliss, we will look into God's holy institution of marriage and unpack the roles that will establish a husband and wife. The divorce rates are skyrocketing because people are entering into this union without understanding who they should be in a marriage. In identifying our roles within a marriage, we will begin to see the parallels to Christ and the Church. We will then discover why a husband's sacrificial love is mandatory, why a wife's submission is required, and why the union of marriage was purposed by God to build families, communities, and ministry. Marital Bliss is a series that is deeper than mere marriage. It is a *oneness* between husband and wife, as they are one in Christ. As oneness with the Lord builds the life of a believer into something amazing, oneness between husband and wife builds a marriage into bliss.

God Bless!

Marshall & Jessica

This Study Series was first posted on Red Thread Poets Facebook page commencing on March 13, 2021, and is also available at <https://www.redthreadpoets.com/daily-devotions-1st-quarter-2021/>

1. *Ephesians 5:21 – a Godly fear invoking a heavenly submission*

Marriage is a Godly union, one where there is give and take on both sides.

In a marriage, you get the most out of the experience when both parties give the most to each other, and that is done when we submit ourselves to each other. As we submit ourselves to the Lord, He gives us a clear picture for how we are to submit ourselves to each other.

Marriages today crumble, because there is no fear of the Lord in the marriage, and there is no submission between husband and wife. The two are supposed to become one flesh, and not remain as two, and choosing their own paths.

Submission is not about being a commander or being commanded, but submission is about entrusting yourself to your spouse, that each hold the others best interest at heart.

Our submission to God is the same way, where we entrust ourselves to His Word, His plan, and His direction, all so we can become one with Him. There is no real marital submission without submission to God.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:21, a Godly fear invoking a heavenly submission.

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

The word "submitting" means "to bring oneself under subjection, to be obedient to, to make oneself subordinate to". Submission has nothing to do with the power one person has over another, because no believer is inherently superior to any other believer. Submission is an act of humility and openness.

In Galatians 3:28-29, the Bible says, ***"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*** Submission begins with understanding who we are and whose we are. We are the bride of Christ, the Church, the body of believers that bear the image and likeness of God in the earth. Christ was equal to God in every way, but He brought Himself under subjection to God, submitting to God even to death on the cross. This template of submission given by Christ is the same thing we must give each other.

In Galatians 5:13, the Bible says, ***"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*** In the world, there is a liberty present for us to do as we will, but in a marital relationship, submission requires service to one another out of love. Submission to one another in love should be something that is desired by each person, not demanded by them. Forced submission is slavery, and that is not the design of God for the Church, or for marriage.

In Philippians 2:2-4, the Bible says, ***"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*** This passage is not saying that we are supposed to be the same people in a marriage, or be robots in the Lord. Being the "same"

expresses that we possess the same vision, the same faith, the same truth, the same foundation in the Lord. The Bible is not only the standard by which the Church is to pattern their lives, but the Bible also is the standard by which we are to pattern marriage. We should be selfless, founded in the Lord, placing our spouses' need above our own. It is desiring to help our spouses become everything God has desired them to be.

The word "fear" means "reverence, respect, honor, a deep reverential sense of accountability to God or Christ". Our submission to our spouses should be as if we are submitting to them to please God.

In Proverbs 9:10, the Bible says, ***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."*** When we have deep reverence, respect, and honor for the Lord, God will equip us with what we need to know and how we need to live in order to correctly submit to the one we are married to, who and with whom we also serve the Lord.

In Psalm 111:10, the Bible says, ***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."*** When we submit to each other, we have God's Word on our minds and hearts, and when we have a heart for serving God, then serving people, especially who we are married to, should come naturally.

In 1 Peter 5:5, the Bible says, ***"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."*** A humble spirit is one ready for submission to God and others, one that understands that submission isn't just a command, but an act of love and service.

2. Ephesians 5:22 - a submissive wife pleasing to the Lord

Being believers of God and followers of Christ, we have a guide for how we are to submit to Him and each other. In marriage, submission is also a requirement, but many cringe at the thought of submitting to their spouse.

There are a lot of women who have experienced the wrong examples from men during the course of their lives, and that has greatly altered their perception of submission.

Most men have misunderstood that submission isn't forced upon a woman, and because a woman submits, it doesn't mean that a man is superior to a woman in any way.

Submission from a wife shouldn't be due to the command of her husband, but because of her husband's submission to the Lord.

A wife should submit to her husband as he leads her in the way of the Lord, not as he is halfway through a power trip.

A wife's submission helps her husband to fulfill the purpose God has set for them as individuals and together as one.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:22, a submissive wife pleasing to the Lord.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

The word "wives" mean "women". The word "husbands" means "men". Let's break down the initial design for marriage, according to the Word of God.

In Genesis 2:22-24, the Bible says, ***"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."***

God designed marriages from the beginning to be between a man and a woman, and to expound according to the current trend, between a person born a male and a person born a female. I am not here to be politically correct, nor am I a homophobe in any way, but God designed the institution of marriage to be between male and female. Woman was taken out of man, and marriage is the reunification process of making the two one flesh.

The word "submit" means "to make oneself subordinate to, or to make oneself obedient to". Submission by wives isn't absolute, because if the husband is leading their wife into a life of sin or faithlessness, then there is no way the wife should submit.

The Bible expressly tells us in Romans 13 that we submit to the governing authorities, because they are ordained by God, but in Acts 5:28-29, the Bible says, ***"Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."*** When the governing authorities' commands are against the command of God, then we must listen to God first, and the same rules apply in marriage. If the husband's direction is against the Word of God, then the wife should listen to God first.

The Word of God is the only authority in a marriage, and if a husband is being led by the Holy Spirit, living by the truth of God, then a wife should be more than willing to submit.

Submission isn't about educational level, ability, or knowledge in relation to her husband, but it is because it is what the Lord commands us. In Genesis 3:16, the Bible says, ***"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."***

After the fall, God commanded husbands to have headship, but it didn't nullify God's intention in Genesis 1:27-28, where the Bible says, ***"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed THEM, and God said unto THEM, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."***

The husband's title as head is something given by God, but it doesn't mean that husbands are to be domineering dictators in the home.

God designed husband and wife to reign together, have dominion together, and be fruitful together.

God desires wives to submit to their OWN husbands, limiting her submission to the man that God has placed over her.

In Song of Solomon 2:16, the Bible says, ***"My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies."*** In Song of Solomon 7:10, the Bible also says, ***"I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me."*** A wife who submits to her husband should receive the same submission, and should be rewarded by an outpouring of love and desire showered upon his wife. A husband and wife belong to each other, and both belong to the Lord.

The phrase "as unto to the Lord" implies a wife's submission to her husband should be as if she is doing it to the Lord. It also implies that a wife's submission should be done to please the Lord. Remember, a marriage requires submission, and in mutual submission, there is also mutual service to God and each other.

In Ephesians 6:5-7, the Bible says, "***Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men***". This doesn't mean that wives are the servants or slaves to their husbands, because the husband and wife serve each other and God.

These two verses express the attitude that we must proceed in service to one another; having deep reverence, dedication and sincerity, doing it from a place of obedience to God.

The wife who lovingly submits to her husband pleases both him and the Lord, and that component of the marriage honors the Lord.

3. Ephesians 5:23 - the powerful purpose for headship

Headship is a role given to the husbands by God, a role that should bring humility and service. Headship is not given for men to abuse, to meet their own selfish need for power, neither is headship given by God for man to exercise his own agenda.

Headship is given so that the husband can represent Christ in the home and cultivate an environment for success for his wife and children.

For a husband to lead his home effectively, he must understand that the Word of God speaks of how Christ leads the Church.

Christ is the head of all things, but He is the biggest servant we have experienced, and His desire is to always please God and His bride.

Headship is about responsibility, not about power, and a husband is responsible for ensuring that both he and his wife become everything the Lord has created them to be.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:23, the powerful purpose for headship.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

The word "head" means "chief one of whom others are subordinate to". The word "Church" means "a community of Christians or an assembly of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are a lot of women who don't like hearing that the husband is the head of them, primarily to the male chauvinism they have experienced, the incorrect domineering nature of the males they have encountered, or the poor representation of manhood in the communities they come from.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, the Bible says, "***Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.***" The husband's responsibility is to follow Christ first, and then promote his wife to follow, after his example. A man who doesn't follow Christ is not an effective head of his marriage, because everything he needs is in Christ for leading the way God intends.

In John 14:26, Christ says, **"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."** The husband who follows Christ is led by the Holy Spirit, and taught all He needs, to be the husband God calls him to be. Apart from the Word of God, a husband can't serve God in this headship.

2 Peter 1:3 says, **"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue"**. God teaches us how to live a Godly life as husbands, leading our wives in the way of the Lord by His Word, by the example of Christ, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 11:3, the Bible says, **"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."** Headship begins with God, continues through Christ, to men, and then conveyed to women.

It is absolutely vital for a husband to understand who gives him his authority as head in the marriage, because when a husband truly understands that his headship is given by God, he won't wear it as a badge of dominance.

In Colossians 1:18, the Bible says, **"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."** A husband must come into an understanding of how Christ led the Church, in humility, in servitude, and in love, in order to understand that he needs to lead by the same example.

The word "saviour" means "deliverer" speaking of Christ, the Saviour of mankind, who saves his people from the guilt and power of sin and death, from punishment and misery, as a consequence of sin, giving them eternal life and blessedness in His kingdom. A husband cannot provide this type of salvation to his wife as the "saviour of the body". but he can protect, and keep his wife from danger or destruction, bringing her into a state of prosperity and happiness. The husband provides an earthed version of what Christ has provided to the "body" the Church.

In Ephesians 1:22-23, the Bible says, **"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."** Just as God put all things under the feet of Christ, especially the Church, God has put all things in the home under the feet of the man.

The wife is the husband's "body", so the husband is to love, protect, and preserve his wife like he would himself. A husband as the head is supposed to understand the will of God for their marriage, the will of God for his wife, and ensure that the will of God is done in the home. Headship is a responsibility God has given husbands, to ensure he brings the absolute best to his wife and the marriage, according to the will of God.

4. Ephesians 5:25 - the sacrificial beauty of a husband's love in a marriage

A husband's greatest contribution to marriage is love. Love is so important in the marriage, because it manifests the presence of God into a marriage. A wife's submission flows from the love and respect she has for her husband and for God, but a husband is to honour his wife's submission and their marriage with love.

Christ is always the example for marriage, from both the wife's side as well as the husband's, because He is the perfect example of submission, and also the perfect example of love.

A husband's duty to his marriage is to love his wife, not as the world defines love in a cancel culture, but an unconditional, refreshing, invigorating, life-giving, edifying, and sacrificial love that covers and restores her.

Love is completely selfless, and a wife's needs from her husband are more important than his own.

If a husband doesn't give himself for his wife, then his love is questionable.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:25, the sacrificial beauty of a husband's love in a marriage.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"

The word "love" means "a warm affection received from God that is extended to others, with an idea of duty, veneration, respect, honour, a service of fidelity". The word "Church" means "a Christian congregation or community, or an assembly of believers". Just as Christ is the example of how a wife should submit to her husband from His submission to God, Christ is also the example for how a husband should love his wife.

In John 3:16, the Bible says, ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*** God loved the world so much that He gave His Son to die for the sins of the world. In this sacrifice, there is THE GIFT OF LIFE available to all who believe in Him.

God gave Jesus for us, but Jesus had a choice in this as well, because in John 10:11, Christ says, ***"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."*** Christ gave His life for us, and that is the greatest gift He could give the world. In John 15:12-13, Christ says, ***"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."***

In order for a husband to love his wife correctly, according to the Word of God, he must familiarize himself with the way Christ loves the Church. If he has never received the love of Christ, then how can He extend it to his wife?

In 1 John 4:7-9, the Bible says, ***"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."***

Love is manifesting God's presence into a marriage because God is love. The husband has the responsibility of headship, because he is commanded to love his wife, which ushers in the presence of God. God gave us the example of Christ, so we could understand that our love has to remain the same, even when circumstances challenge.

In 1 John 4:12, the Bible says, ***"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."*** A husband has the opportunity to reveal God's presence and residence into a marriage by the love he gives his wife.

The word "gave" means "to surrender, yield up, entrust, or commit". A husband's love is also proven in his surrender to God and the marriage, and by his commitment to his wife. This love is in all seasons, good or bad. In Colossians 3:19, the Bible says, ***"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."*** We must treat our wives with the same love and affection Christ treats us with, and stay away from bitterness and strife, because Christ did not handle us in this fashion.

In 1 Peter 3:7, the Bible says, ***"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."*** The wife is entrusted to her husband, and it is his job to love, encourage, and empower his wife in the Lord. A husband's job is not only to affirm his wife with love but to help her see who she really is. Whatever the husband receives of God is what He then shares with his wife.

In Ephesians 5:2, the Bible says, **"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."** A husband must be willing to sacrifice himself in order for his wife to be her best in the Lord. This type of loving sacrifice is acceptable and pleasing to the Lord.

5. Ephesians 5:26 – the purifying role of husbands in the marriage

The title of "head" in marriage carries great responsibility, and there are many things a husband must do for his wife in a marriage. We previously saw in the Word that husbands and wives are to submit themselves to each other and God, and we also saw in the Word that husbands must love their wives with a sacrificial love, seeing the example of Christ as the standard to follow.

A husband must also love with a purifying love, bringing the Word of God into their marriage, and seeing to the spiritual development of his wife. It is also the man's responsibility to ensure that both conform to the Word of God and allow the Word of God to govern their marriage and their lives.

Headship isn't about giving orders, but about positioning those under our care to be exactly who God desires them to be. For that to happen, husbands must have a relationship and fellowship with God, patterning their lives by the Word of God.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:26, the purifying role of husbands in the marriage.

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"

The word "that" at the beginning of a verse displays a continuation to a previous thought, a connection between two verses. In Ephesians 5:25, the Bible says, **"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"**. Before we can get to the point of sanctification and cleansing, we must love our wives and give ourselves up for them as Christ did for the Church. Love and sacrifice opens the way for sanctification and cleansing. Husbands cannot expect their wives to grow with them in the Lord if they aren't showing their wives love and sacrifice.

The word "sanctify" means "to make holy, purify, or consecrate, by Christ's purifying influences on the heart. The word "cleanse" means "to purge, or free from filth". In John 17:17-19, Christ says, **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."** A husband's job is to be sanctified by the Word of God which is our truth, and as we live a Godly life in the world, we will show our wives how to do the same. Husbands are to pattern their lives by how Christ lived, and we must lead by example.

The phrase "washing of water" is used here as an instrument of cleansing. The word "word" here means "teaching, precepts, or doctrine". Just as Christ allowed the Word of God to be the instrument of cleansing, so husbands must allow the Word of God to be the instrument of cleansing in their marriages. In Titus 2:14, the Bible says, **"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."**

Christ's desire was to see His Church cleansed and free from sin and iniquity, a husband should have the same desire for his wife to be cleansed from sin and iniquity. On his own, a husband is incapable of cleansing anyone, including his wife, but the Word of God provides everything needed through Christ for his cleansing.

In John 15:2-3, Christ says, **"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."** It is the husband's

job to bring a mirror to his wife, the mirror in this case being the Word of God, which begins a process of his wife seeing what is unfruitful in her life, and as Christ purges the branches that are not producing fruit, she becomes even more fruitful. Nowhere in this passage does it ever imply that we are to help our wives to be more fruitful for our benefit, but it is for the benefit of God being glorified by her life.

In John 4:34, the Bible says, "**Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**" Christ didn't come to earth to do His own will, but His desire, His meat, His food, was to do the will of God. Husbands will only be able to promote this in their marriage, if they have embodied Christ in their personal lives. When the Word of God and the will of God is as meat to the husband, it makes it easier for it to become the same for his wife.

In Romans 10:8, the Bible says, "**But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.**" A husband can only teach or promote what is within him. If the Word of God isn't in his heart or in his mouth, then how could he ever encourage his wife to plant the Word of God in her heart?

It is the husband's duty to submit to God and his wife, to love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and cultivate an environment for her spiritual success.

6. Ephesians 5:27 - a glorious bride for a faithful husband

Christ provided the way to salvation and redemption by the blood He shed on the cross for our sins, so that we can experience fellowship and a right relationship with God as He intended from the beginning.

Christ makes us into a beautiful bride, amazing in the appearance of our God, through His submission to God, His service to us, His sacrificial love, and by the purification we receive as His Word washes us clean.

The husband must pattern his life after Christ's example, all while understanding that our job is to not be our wives' salvation but rather to lead our wives into the presence and purity of our Lord. As we encourage our wives in the Lord, and the Lord purifies and cleanses us both, they become the most beautiful, perfect people in the world, being displayed with the light of Christ.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:27, a glorious bride for a faithful husband.

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

The phrase "present it to himself" means "to stand beside, to recommend, or to substantiate." When a husband stands beside his wife, he defends her, he embraces her, and he receives her as his own.

Think about how a traditional wedding goes. The husband stands by the pastor, the wife appears veiled, and the Church stands to welcome her. When reaching her husband, he lifts off the veil and sees his wife at her absolute best.

The word "glorious" means "splendid, honorable, signifying the Church adorned in pure and splendid raiment as the bride of Christ". In 2 Corinthians 11:2-3, the Bible says, "**For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**" Just as Christ received the Church unto himself,

husbands are to receive their wives unto themselves, protecting them from outside forces that aim to destroy what God is building.

When Christ stands beside us, recommends us, and substantiates us, He displays before God that we are His choice. Husbands must do the same.

In Colossians 1:22-23, the Bible says, ***"In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister"***. Christ's death becomes our cleansing from sin, making us pleasing and acceptable in God's sight. A husband is to have a desire to not only see his wife saved, but also to build an environment for her to excel spiritually, and become completely rooted in the Word of God.

"Not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"

The word "spot" means "stain or soil". In Song of Songs 4:7, the Bible says, ***"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee."*** Christ wants to present His Church to God without stain or dirtiness. Christ wants us at our absolute best. In 1 John 1:7, the Bible says, ***"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*** Christ gives us the opportunity to walk according to the Word of God just as He did i earth, so husbands must set the proper example of godliness in their marriage.

It isn't the husband's job to cleanse his wife, but it is his job to support his wife in receiving cleansing according to the Word of God, and to lead by example.

In 1 Peter 1:18-19, the Bible says, ***"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"***. A sacrifice with a spot or blemish was unacceptable to God and He would not receive it.

A husband has the responsibility of making sure both he and his wife are living Godly lives, acceptable to the Lord.

The word "holy" means "morally pure, upright, and virtuous". The phrase "without blemish" means "blameless, or without fault". In Ephesians 1:4, the Bible says, ***"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"***.

This has always been God's design for us since the beginning, for us to be in His presence cleansed from all sin. A husband's job is to ensure that the will of God is done in his marriage and together they become as a glorious Church in Him.

7. Ephesians 5:28 - loving our wives as we love ourselves

Husbands have many duties to their wives, but the main one is to love them as Christ loved the Church. This type of love is unconditional, pure, and it is a gift of life that should continue to overflow in the marriage. This love pleases God, and it also shows God a great appreciation for what He has blessed the husband with.

Husbands should desire to love their wives, to be a covering for them, to bring out their wives' greatest potential.

The beauty about true love is that it only considers the recipient, and it projects the presence of God into a marriage.

For husbands to know how to love their wives, they must learn what love is.

The divorce rate is at an all-time high because husbands haven't been taught what love is, where love comes from, and what love produces.

Love cultivates a constructive environment for the marriage to grow and bear fruit.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:28, loving our wives as we love ourselves.

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

The word "ought" means "should". The word "love" means "to regard with strong affection, out of an idea of duty, veneration, and respect, serving with fidelity".

In Mark 12:30-31, Christ says, ***"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."*** Christ expresses that there are no commandments greater than to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The law is fulfilled by the keeping of these commandments and a marriage pleases God when husbands love their wives as themselves.

A husband's duty should be to love His wife, but that should also be His desire!

Sadly, there are a lot of husbands that have no clue how to love their wives, some even don't know exactly what love is.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4, the Bible says, ***"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."*** Love is patient, if a husband loves his wife, he must be patient with her, allowing her to grow and mature into the woman God knows she is. Husbands also are to treat their wives with kindness, cultivating an environment of loving respect and edifying treatment. A husband's heart must be softened to his wife, and must be gentle with her. Husbands are to not be jealous of their wives, whether they be more intelligent, more financially secure, or more spiritually connected to God. A wife's strengths will be a husband's strength if he humbles himself and is willing to learn from his wife. A husband needs to be willing to be vulnerable in the presence of his wife.

In 1 Corinthians 13:5, the Bible says, ***"Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil."*** Husbands are to behave themselves like children of God everywhere they go, and not be rude, offensive, or overbearing, not being selfish in their ambitions or only after their own happiness. If husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies, then what will please his wife is just as important and even more important than what will please himself. Husbands must also have a desire for both to walk in Godliness, and together seek the Lord with their whole minds and hearts.

In 1 Corinthians 13:6, the Bible says, ***"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth."*** A husband should usher in the Word of God to be the standard in the marriage, because a husband who loves his wife desires them to have direct contact and fellowship with God, and to grow in the Word of God together.

In 1 Corinthians 13:7, the Bible says, ***"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."*** A husband's love should be present in all seasons, under every circumstance, and always being positive in his view of their future together. A husband must see beyond their current reality to the bliss he desires them to have in love, and in Christ.

In Philippians 2:2-4, the Bible says, ***"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look***

not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." A husband's desire should not only be to love his wife, but also to be of one accord with her.

A husband should love his wife in humility, preferring her needs above his own, feeding her the same things he himself should desire. Husbands always must consider what God would desire from him in loving his wife as he administers love unto her. Love never fails!

8. Ephesians 5:29 - nourishing and cherishing our wives in the Lord and in love

For husbands to effectively love their wives as Christ loved the Church, they must pursue what the Word of God says about love, and about obeying the Word of God as written.

We have to love our wives the same way we love ourselves, but the question is, do we husbands love ourselves?

A husband must assess his own needs, wants, desires and understand how to fulfill them, so when he assesses his wife's wants, needs, and desires, he will fulfill those too. A husband is never supposed to eat while his wife starves, and never supposed to excel Scripturally while his wife lacks Scripturally.

Christ made sure that we were given the Word of God as God gave it to Him, and we were also given the promises of God the same way He received them.

Until husbands understand that through marriage their wives are a part of their own bodies they will continue to aim to fulfill their own need.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:29, nourishing and cherishing our wives in the Lord and in love.

"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church"

The word "hated" means "to detest or love less". The word "flesh" means "the body or human nature". God really has something against people who don't steward headship well.

Jeremiah 23:1-2, the Bible says, ***"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD."*** There is an expectation from God that those who He ordains as head must feed those that are under their headship. God provides for those He ordains, and those He ordains must feed those entrusted to their care.

Husbands must come to understand that when they enter into the union of marriage, their wives are under their care. Husbands must submit, love, sacrifice, cover, and present their wives spotless before God, so this requires selflessness, and a real desire to please both God and their wives.

In Jeremiah 23:4, the Bible says, ***"And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD."*** A husband should have the same love for his wife as Christ has for the

Church, and Christ gave himself freely for His Church. Christ did not want the Church to lack anything from God, so He equipped the Church with everything needed. Husbands must do the same.

The word "nourisheth" means "to rear up to maturity, to train." Husbands must have a very proactive role in their wives spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial development. The word "cherisheth" means "to warm towards, to brood, or to foster".

In John 15:5, Christ says, ***"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*** The husband's responsibility is to make sure that he and his wife are branches on the vine of the Lord, receiving the spiritual food needed to be who God calls them to be.

It is the husband's job to position his wife to be fruitful for the Lord, in the same way he must be fruitful. A husband must provide for the needs of his wife, helping her to grow mature in Christ, and he must also provide tender affection, love, strength, comfort and security.

If Christ's example is followed, there is no such thing as a selfish husband.

In John 13:34-35, Christ says, ***"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*** We show who we serve by our love for our wives.

Christ didn't tell us to love each other with our version of love, or by applying the current societal standard of love. He said use His love as a template for how we are to love our wives.

In 1 Peter 5:2-3, the Bible says, ***"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."*** Husband's must feed their wives as Christ feeds the flock. Husbands should never seek their own success above their wives, neither should they use marriage to feed their own desires.

A husband's desire should be towards God first, then his wife, and last himself. Husbands must understand that God entrusted husbands with the care of their wives, and just as husbands must learn to take good care of themselves, they must also learn to do the same for their wives.

9. Ephesians 5:30 - being members together of the body of Christ

God created mankind for fellowship with Him, and to be one with Him in all things. He created Adam and Eve to abide with Him, and they had direct contact and access to all of the provisions of the kingdom of God.

Because of the fall, a second Adam came, Christ, to not only pay the cost for the sins of the whole world, but bring us back into fellowship with our loving God.

Not only does God abide with us, but His Holy Spirit dwells in us, and we are now one with God in Christ.

Just as individuals we are then one with God in Christ, so husbands and wives are also members of one body, and together, they are one with God in Christ.

Successful marriages are those where they are one with God and with each other, living their lives experiencing the presence of God and fulfilling His purpose for their lives, and understanding that they belong to the Lord first.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:30, being members together of the body of Christ.

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."

The word "member" means "a limb". The word "body" speaks of the whole, referencing the Church. The phrase "flesh and bones" implies things inside and outside. So we are members of the body of Christ inside and out, and our bodies are His, our minds and hearts are His and our spirits are His.

In Psalm 24:1, the Bible says, ***"The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."*** We belong to the Lord in all we are and as believers, we must remember that.

In Genesis 2:22-23, the Bible says, ***"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."***

What makes husbands and wives one is through the joining together in marriage, where husbands become reunited with his "rib". What makes us one with God in Christ is when Christ becomes one again with us by the Holy Spirit He has given us.

In John 17:22-23, Christ says, ***"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."*** God's design was always for us to be one with Him and in Him, to experience His glory, and for Him to put His stamp on us in the earth, so mankind will see who we belong to. God desires to establish His relationship with us, and also establish our place in the earth as the Church.

In Romans 12:4-5, the Bible says, ***"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."*** Just as we have many different roles in the kingdom of God, but are still one in Him, husbands and wives have their individual roles to play while they are still one in each-other. God didn't create all of us the same so that we can reach every place together.

God created husbands and wives as one thereby complementing each other, each having what the other needs.

In 1 Corinthians 6:20, the Bible says, ***"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*** Our lives, inside and out, are meant to be lived to bring glory to God, and a marriage should be the same dynamic. The marriage should bring glory to God because both belong to the Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 7:3-4, the Bible says, ***"Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife."*** As we are to live our lives to bring glory and honor to God, husbands and wives must live their lives to bring glory and honor to God and to honor each other in love and devotion.

In 1 Corinthians 12:18, the Bible says, ***"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."*** God has clearly defined the roles of those in the body of Christ, and He has also clearly defined the roles of husbands and wives in a marriage.

In 1 Corinthians 12:25-26, the Bible says, ***"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."*** God didn't create us to have division, but to come into oneness with Him and each other.

The body is supposed to come together so that the will of God is done, and that the body supports all. A marriage is no different, and husbands and wives must come together as one body, flesh, and bone.

10. Ephesians 5:31 - when the two come together as one

When God was creating man, He spoke His plan into existence, then God formed man from the dust of the earth, and then breathed the breath of life into him, making him a living soul. Then he created woman by causing man to go into a deep sleep and taking a rib from Adam to form Eve from it.

So there was something removed from man at creation that God ordained woman to complete.

God did the same for us with Christ, having something missing for Christ that He then ordained the Church to complete.

God desires us men to leave the safety, provision and protection of our mother and father's house and to build a home and a life with our wives.

This completes the picture God has for marriage.

Just as God ordains a husband and wife to become one flesh, He also ordains the Church to be one flesh with Christ.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:31, when the two come together as one.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

The phrase "for this cause" implies that a reason is given for a man and his wife to become one flesh.

In Ephesians 5:29-30, the Bible says, ***"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."*** Husbands need to recognize that just as we become one flesh with Christ we are directed to be one flesh with our wives.

It all begins with the Lord, who provides the standard for our relationships in His Word.

In Genesis 2:18, the Bible says, ***"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."*** God designed marriage knowing our need for companionship and completion. God knew man could only go so far on his own, so He created a help meet for him, so they both together could be everything that God ordained them to be. When a husband has his help meet, it opens up a whole different avenue to him spiritually.

In Matthew 18:19-20, Christ says, ***"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*** A husband and wife who gather together in Christ's name can guarantee that they will remain in the presence of the Lord. When the two come together as one, the agreement ushers in their prayers being answered as well.

In Ecclesiastes 4:11-12, the Bible says, ***"Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*** God created marriage for companionship and strength, for the two to overcome anything that crosses their way, including the enemy.

The word "leave" means "to abandon or forsake". The word "joined" means "to glue to, to adhere, to cleave". So a marriage does not form without trust and sacrifice.

Future husbands are to leave the security of their parents home, getting out from under their provision, to enable them to then build their own family with their wives.

When a marriage forms, a husband's parents are no longer first in his life here on earth, instead his wife becomes first, second only to God.

If a husband doesn't understand that the order has changed, to God first, wife second, himself third, and family fourth, then he hasn't grasped the meaning behind "one flesh".

In 1 Corinthians 6:15-16, the Bible says, ***"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh."*** We are not supposed to join ourselves to others who are outside the will of God.

Marriages are supposed to be extensions of the marriage each of us has with Christ, and each marriage is supposed to be a successful conduit for the will of God to be fulfilled within it. Husband and wife can't do that if they are not on the same page, and having the same priority, or having the same loyalty.

In 2 Corinthians 6:14, the Bible says, ***"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*** Husbands and wives must share the same faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and have the same understanding of the foundational matters of the faith.

If husband and wife are going in two different directions spiritually, emotionally, mentally, or financially, how can they become one? God designed marriage for husbands and wives to be one, not so they can be independent of each other. Unity is vital!

11. Ephesians 5:32 - uncovered mysteries of God in marriage

There are things God wants us to know as believers that have been reserved especially for us.

God has a strong desire for us to know Him thoroughly through His Word and also by His revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit.

There are mysteries that couldn't be understood in the Old Testament times the way we can understand them now, and that is all by the design of God.

Marriage is a union with a much deeper meaning for the husbands and wives involved. It gives a living illustration of Christ and the Church, and also how deep God's love is for us, to betroth us to His Son. Because of this spiritual marriage, we have unlimited access to the kingdom of God, including the secret things hid from old.

But, if there are no real secrets because of Christ with us, then how need there be secrets between husbands and wives?

Marriage is supposed to pattern our relationship with Christ, and openness is one of the key elements.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:32, uncovered mysteries of God in marriage.

"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

The word "mystery" means "a secret, something into which one must be initiated or instructed before it can be known; something, of itself, not obvious and above human insight; spoken of facts, doctrines, and principles not revealed."

The word "speak" means "to lay forth, to utter, or to set discourse". God never intended to keep His will a secret from us. He gave us His Word, and He also gave us His Holy Spirit, to ensure that not only will we understand His will, but all gaps will be filled by the Holy Spirit.

In John 17:7-8, Christ says, ***"Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."*** Everything Christ gave us is of God, and in Christ's intercessory prayer, He acknowledges to God that He gave them the Word and the disciples received the Word of God given and they believed in Christ because of it.

In John 16:13, Christ says, ***"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."*** Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth, including the mysteries of God. It was always God's intention to reveal His secrets to His Church, but we must be willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit. Christ remained attached to God for truth and direction, and so must we.

In Matthew 13:10-12, the Bible says, ***"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath."*** Christ assured us as believers that God desires us to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever is given by God is given in abundance.

Abundance is always meant to be shared.

The word "church" refers to the congregation, assembly, or community of Christians, or believers in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. These mysteries and secrets were set for us to experience at such time as God appoints.

In Ephesians 1:9-10, the Bible says, ***"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him"***. The mysteries of God were reserved for those who are in Christ, those who are one in Him.

In the Old Testament, they didn't have the inhabitation of the Holy Spirit within them, available to all who believed. We do! God desires us to live as Christ did on earth, in full knowledge and power.

In Colossians 1:26-27, the Bible says, ***"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"***.

In marriage, we have something so powerful available to us as believers and that is the Holy Spirit in us, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit through every moment we spend in marriage.

The Word of God shows us how to be the type of believers that God called us to be and teaches husbands how to love, cherish and guide their wives by the example of Christ.

Marriage is a union of permanence emulating our union with Christ, a bond perfected by the Holy Spirit.

12. Ephesians 5:33 - reverence and love, binding qualities of marriage

Love and reverence, two amazing qualities that build believers up in the Lord, the two qualities that are key in marriage and relationship building.

As believers we all have roles to play in building the kingdom of God, marriage is no different.

If every person in the body of Christ served in the capacity they are called according to the Word of God, the Church would grow and reach people everywhere, and be truly effective.

When husbands and wives serve each other and God in their respective capacities, marriages grow immensely, please God, and serve as a living testimony for others to govern their marriages in the same way.

But if people act individualistically, do their own thing and follow their own agenda, the body will suffer division and loss.

Today, we will look at Ephesians 5:33, reverence and love, binding qualities of marriage.

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

The word "love" means "to regard with strong affection, to serve with fidelity, veneration, and reverence". Husbands must understand that loving their wives is a great service, one that shouldn't be done out of obligation or treated like a chore.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, the Bible says, ***"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work"***. What we sow into a marriage tends to be what is returned. If we sow inattentiveness, a lack of regard for the feelings and thoughts of our wives, or if we overpower the marriage with dominance, we can only blame ourselves when resentment results.

If we sow love, quality time, edification, affirmation, and commitment, then it should reap a harvest of trust, love, submission, and cooperation.

God doesn't desire us to embark on a path in marriage for it to not work out. God wants to empower marriage with His grace, causing it to bear fruit for the glory of God.

The phrase "every one of you in particular" implies that this applies to every individual, so we each have our own role to play in both marriage and in the body of Christ. If husbands sow love with cheerfulness from a good heart, then wives should sow

submission and cooperation from the same place, the heart. If something isn't done from a good heart, motives will always be in question.

In 1 John 2:10, the Bible says, **"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him."** This applies to husbands loving their brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as loving their wives. If husbands lead with love, they don't have to worry about wronging their wives.

In 1 John 4:21, the Bible says, **"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."** Love comes from God, and Christ is the clear example. God instructs us to love each other according to that example.

In Matthew 20:28, Christ says, **"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."** A heart of love gives a husband a heart of service, and a desire to serve God by also serving his wife, loving her as Christ loved the Church.

The word "reverence" means "to morally respect, fear, or honor". In 1 Peter 3:1, the Bible says, **"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives"**. Not every believing wife's husband is going to initially submit to God in word and deed. God still requires them to submit to the husband, but God requires wives to display conduct patterned after the Lord that sets a great example. If God requires this submission and reverence where a husband is wayward, He definitely expects it for the husband serving Him faithfully.

In 1 Peter 3:5, the Bible says, **"For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands"**. Submission to the husband is a statement of faith and trust in God, one that should be worn with pride. Reverence is a service to God, should be given willingly and cheerfully.

Both love and reverence are qualities Christ displayed fully to God, and the kingdom of God came through Him. May the kingdom of God come through your marriage as well.

God Bless!

Marshall & Jessica

WHY KJV (King James Version)

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

This is one of my favorite Bible verses, a constant source of encouragement for me to dig deeper and deeper into the Word of God to receive truth in its deepest form. I believe it is our job as believers to study as deep as we can, and then build our way up. The King James Version of the Bible is one of most popular early translations of the Bible to English, so that is where my study begins. I have come to learn that by putting the King James Version side by side with other translations that may be easier to read, that easier doesn't always keep the deeper meaning intact. The "thee", "thy", and "ye" can be a little overwhelming at first, but as with anything else we study continuously, it will become easier to decipher.

The Bible I use, the KJV AMG Hebrew-Greek Keyword Study Bible, gives me an enormous tool to not only study the Word of God from an earlier English translation, but gives me access to study the keywords in the Scripture to find the deeper meaning of the verses I study. The more I studied the Word of God, the deeper I wanted to go. When I first started my incarceration over 17 years ago, I read the NIV version of the Bible. As I matured as a reader, I went back to the King James Version in 2007, wanting to learn the most difficult English translation. I went to the Hebrew-Greek Keyword Study Bible in 2014 and have been using it since. I recently was given a MacArthur Study Bible, NASB, which I use for scriptural cross-references and commentary purposes. I am in no way saying it is wrong for anyone to study any translation other than the King James Version, but I do suggest that everyone possesses one, so we can break down the Word of Truth side by side. It is important to go to the earliest possible translation, to see the modernized translations accurately convey the Word of God.

Studying the Word of God pleases Him, and I desire to break down the Scriptures rightly, understanding that by studying the Word of God, I am breaking down truth so I can position myself for the Holy Spirit's teaching. Whatever I learn, I then share, and by sheer repetition, I am able to retain what I learn better.

May the study of God's Word release amazing truths and powerful revelations in your lives.

Marshall's Bio, Poems, and History

Marshall's Bio

Marshall Jones is a 38 year old man on a lifelong journey of bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. The author of "A Raven's Meal" (RoseDog Books), a poetry collection, he aspires to target the grey areas, and the people who are terribly misunderstood by society. Believing that everyone deserves a voice, he not only shares his testimony, but he also tries to use his gifting to share other people's experiences as well. He writes from the prison system that has housed his body for 17 years, but also from the place that has been the catalyst to his freedom.

Marshall's Poems

You can view Marshall's poems at <https://www.redthreadpoets.com/category/100-poets/marshall-jones/>

History

MARITAL BLISS SERIES – DAILY DEVOTIONS By Marshall Jones

Red Granite Daily Devotions commenced on Red Thread Poets Facebook page on November 1, 2020. This is the 9th in his Daily Devotion Series. The Daily Devotions are recapped by date at www.redthreadpoets.com/daily-devotions/

Marshall uses these resources in his Bible Study: AMG Hebrew Greek Keyword Study Bible (KJV), Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, The MacArthur Study Bible (NASB), Webster's New World College Dictionary.

ABOUT RED GRANITE DAILY DEVOTIONS AND MARSHALL JONES

- Entirely influenced by Holy God Almighty
- Conceived November 2020
- First Daily Devotion November 1, 2020
- 13 Series available as of Q2 2026
- Over 1,300 daily Devotions written since November 2020.
- Written by Marshall Jones from his cell in Wisconsin, United States of America
- 22 years to 2026 serving a double life homicide sentence
- Jessica his wife and partner from November 1, 2022
- We all await the Lord's grace for a positive outcome from the new 2026 Commutation Advisory Board in Wisconsin, please pray for such

FOLLOW MARSHALL AND JESSICA JONES:

<https://www.redthreadpoets.com/red-granite-daily-devotions/>

[Forged by Fire; Iron Sharpening Iron Private Facebook Group](#)

THE SERIES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

1. PSALM 91: 16 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on January 2, 2021.
2. LOVING YOU: 30 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on January 28, 2021.
3. THE FEARLESSNESS OF FAITH: 21 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on March 13, 2021.
4. WARFARE IN THE SPIRIT: -16 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on May 19, 2021.
5. THE BEATITUDES: 10 Daily Devotion: The first was posted on July 21, 2021.
6. THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD: 15 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on August 13, 2021.
7. PSALM 23: 6 Daily Devotions: The first was posted in November 2020.
8. JESUS CHRIST - THE MYSTERY UNCOVERED: 31 Daily Devotiion. The first was posted on November 28, 2021.
9. MARITAL BLISS: 12 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on August 21, 2022.
10. GODLY PROSPERITY: 10 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on October 10, 2022.
11. SLAIN TO RECEIVE: 7 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on September 4, 2023.
12. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: 12 Daily Devotions. The first was posted on October 28, 2023.
13. LIGHT OF CHRIST: 31 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on February 23, 2025.

MARITAL BLISS

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