

# **The Subfloor**

## **Ephesians 5:22-33**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

### **Series 5**

The next phase in building our dream home is actually laying the subfloor. We have answered the questions: Why, Where, What, Who, and When, and we have chosen our blueprint. We understand the footer is the relationship each family member has with Christ, and the foundation consists of the blocks of leaving, cleaving, and becoming one. The husband-wife relationship is the foundation of our dream home.

At this point in building a house, the block layers have left and the carpenters show up again. They take some 2x12's and begin to lay them out 16 inches apart, crown always up. We call them floor joists. After they are all in place, we begin to nail and glue the subflooring to the joists. It may be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch 4x8 sheets of plywood or 1x12 boards. But together, the floor joists, standing vertically, and the subflooring, lying horizontally, make up what we call the subfloor of our home. Everything stands on top of that subfloor. The subfloor has to be strong enough to withstand the pressure of everything that is built on top of it. The floor joists is where the house gets its strength, and the subfloor is where it gets its stability.

Now, let's think of this metaphorically. Where does the subfloor of your home get its strength and stability? I propose that the strength of your home is the husband's love for his wife. That is the floor joist. But the stability of the home is the wife's respect of her husband, which is the subfloor. The two principles that every home must be built upon after the footer and foundation laid are the principle of love and the principle of respect.

Now, when we build a house, we never lay the 2x12's horizontally. It would never support a house. The strength of the floor joist is not in the width, but in the height. 12 inches tall, 2 inches wide, and 16 inches apart makes the strength of a house. You would never build a house and put them horizontally and bring the sheet of plywood and stand it up vertically! If you take a piece of plywood and stand it up, there would be no stability. It would be wobbly and give way.

The call for the next two lessons is for men to stand 'edge up' and women to lie 'edge out.' It seems we have got it backwards. We have men who want to live edge out and lie down, and we have women who want to stand edge up, and it's wrong. You might get away with it for a few years as long as everything is going well and the sun is shining. But I promise you that when wintertime comes in your marriage and the snow or ice storm hits, your home will be a mess. The floor joist has to stand edge up and the subfloor has to lay edge out on top of the floor joist. Never put the subflooring underneath and put the joist on top. Guys, you are the strength; ladies, you are the stability. If we are to build a proper home, we aren't going to debate which is more important; strength or stability. Who wants a home that is strong with no stability? Who wants a home that is stable with no strength?

Now, I know there are single moms and dads. Some are single by choice and some by circumstance. I am also aware there are some who look fine here, but it is a mess at home. We all desire to build a dream home, so in the next few lessons we will give some remodeling tips on how to correct a poor subfloor.

## **Scripture**

***"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church***

***submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."***

## **The Floor Joist of the Home**

Guys, if your carpenter started with the subflooring before he laid down the floor joist, you would fire him. So the first thing we have to do is to look at the floor joist before we look at the subflooring. We are going to begin with how men in the husband-wife relationships are the strength of the home. Later, we will talk about how the wife and her relationship with her husband is the stability of the home. But in this text, Paul tells husbands to love their wives. He is writing to a group of men in the church at Ephesus who are husbands.

Guys, you are not your mother's little boy. You are not her baby anymore. I know if you grew up in a single home, you never had the privilege of being momma's little boy. You were momma's little man. But I want you to understand that if you are a husband, you are not momma's boy, you are your wife's man. Wives, quit talking about your husband as if he is a little boy. If you are complaining because he still acts like a little boy and never

grew up, let me remind you that you married him. If you weren't spiritual enough or had enough sense to choose a man instead of a boy, that is your fault. When a lady chooses to marry a boy who is 17-25 years of age, there is a good chance that he may never grow up if he hasn't by that age. Ladies, if you are not married, understand that you will not have a good marriage if you marry a boy. What you need is a man.

## **Charge or Retreat**

Men, not boys, have enough sense not to fight a battle they cannot win. By nature, men are fighters, they are competitors. But I've never met a man who chooses to fight a battle he knows that he cannot win. A man is programmed to two clarion calls. There is a trumpet that will sound in his heart and his mind that will be the sound of charge. When that trumpet blows, he will charge if he knows he can win the battle. But there comes a point in the battle when it turns negative and he knows he cannot win. Then someone in the group of men will have enough sense to blow another trumpet. This trumpet will be the trumpet of retreat. And he will retreat to fight another day. You ladies have to understand that. In this husband-wife relationship, he is wired to provide and to protect. But there comes a time when he knows he is losing and cannot win and he will retreat. And you had better back off. You had better not pursue him into the mountains or he will never come out and fight again. If you have a husband in a retreat position right now, please realize that is not natural for him.

## **Sacrifice: Consequence of Love**

Husbands, the home is worth fighting for. Paul says, "*Husbands, love your wives...*" This isn't talking about in a general way but in a specific way. This meant that each husband in the group he was teaching was to love his own wife; no one else's wife, ever! If we break this down, it is a command of action. It is an imperative verb, which means that Paul is not suggesting something that is a good idea. He is the spiritual general blowing the trumpet. He is reminding us that in our relationship of oneness

with our wives, we are to love her. This love involves a choice, it involves a commitment, and this love comes with a consequence. We make a choice to love the woman we are married to. There is a commitment involved in loving her. We love her, not because we have needs, but because she has needs, and there is a consequence. For many of us, it will literally involve a giving up of ourselves and laying our life down because of her needs. He said, *"...as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her..."* When we examine our love for our wives, we immediately see that it is sacrificial.

Have you ever gone under the house and checked the subfloor for termites? There is a big termite that does a lot of damage to a floor joist in a husband-wife relationship. That is the termite of self-centeredness. It's the termite of worldliness. Have you ever quit watching the TV show you are watching and just watched the advertisements? We are bombarded into thinking that it is all about us! We live in a culture that is designed to make men think it is about them because they are the primary bread winner of the home. Born with a nature to be self-centered, we have a termite infestation. Guys, we are going to have to do some spraying to combat worldliness and self-centeredness in our own personal lives. Those two things alone, not counting the termite of addiction to work, pleasure, and recreation, cause a train wreck in so many of the rooms in our house. We wonder why the floor is not level anymore. It is because the strength has been zapped from many of us because of termites.

Paul gives us an example of how to love our wife and it is the way Christ loved the Church. He said it was a giving up of self; laying down your life to make her who you know she can be. If you ever lose sight that the reason you are laying yourself aside is to make her who she is supposed to be, life will be miserable in marriage.

When I love her as Christ loved the Church, this sacrificial love sanctifies her; it sets her apart. This is an aorist verb which means a one-time action. When I choose to love my wife like Christ loved the Church, I have set her apart by herself. This is the same word we get from Isaiah 6 when he says,

*"...holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts..."* That word "holy" literally means to be in a class all by yourself; to be a unique or one of a kind. When a man makes the choice to love his wife, on the wedding day and the rest of his life, he sets her apart and says she is in a class all by herself! "You are unique, there is only one like you and of all men, I am most blessed!" That is how every woman should feel. That is why the writer of Solomon said, *"You are a rose among thorns."* He is saying to his wife, *Honey, I just want you to know that when I leave the house, don't worry about me. When I look at other women, they are thorn bushes and you are the only rose in my life!* Guys, this is why pornography will kill your relationship with your wife! This is why an affair will do so much damage! You have now elevated other women to the place of your wife instead of setting her apart as a unique one of a kind. You have to sanctify her and set her apart.

Now listen to me, never compare anything about her to your momma. Your momma is a one of a kind to your daddy, not you. And respectfully, your daughter is not your one of a kind girl. The only one of a kind girl you have is your wife. She is the only one in a class all by herself. You cannot imagine the counseling I do where wives cry and say, "If he would just love me like he loves our daughter." In his defense, one of the reasons he loves her the way he does is because she worships the ground he walks on. I know you ladies might be thinking that she doesn't really know him. Well, she doesn't know you either. If your wife doesn't feel like she's in a class all by herself, you are not loving her like Christ loved the Church. It is time to remodel the relationship.

## **The Five A's**

One of the first things you need to do is admit you have sinned. Then, you need quit lying edge out. You need to stand edge up and be a man. God has given you the ability to love your wife like Christ loved the Church. As a Christian man, you have to love of Christ in your heart. One of the best

ways to let your love set her apart is to make sure you are giving and fulfilling the five A's.

1. Your attention
2. Your admiration
3. Your affection
4. Your acceptance
5. Your availability

Now, if you've blown it and the termites have eaten you down to barely anything left, don't just begin doing these things first. First tell her that you are going to put the jack under your home and let God repair and remodel you. Give her a little warning that what is happening is not just something physically or psychologically, but a spiritual work of God in your life. She will give you the time to go through the remodeling process.

## **Strengthen with Words**

Paul then says, *"...having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word..."* It would have been awesome if we had been like Adam and got a woman who didn't have genes from her parents, or was raised in the environment most women are now. But it didn't take that home long to have problems either. But you have to understand that when you get your wife, there will be some spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. It is your love for her that cleanses her of the spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. God has designed you to be the savior and the strength.

How do we do this? We do this with our words. I believe that your wife will either live up to who you are telling her she is, or she will live down to who you are telling her she is. I hardly see a wife live beyond the words of her husband. She will become who you believe she is. So your words will either lift her up, or they will tear her down.

I read a story about a math teacher who was given the number of his student's lockers, but he mistook them for the number of their IQ's. Therefore, he taught each student according to their locker number,

thinking it was their IQ. When the semester was over, each of those math students lived up to what the teacher thought of them, mathematically.

In Colossians 3, Paul said, "*Husbands love your wives and do not be embittered toward them.*" In other words, do not be bitter, do not be resentful, and do not be harsh with them. Guys, you can have 21 days in a row of great, kind, uplifting words, and then the moment those words of harshness or resentment comes out, it cancels all 21 of those previous days. I wish ladies were programmed to disregard the one and hold on to the 21, but they are not. Because they are so insecure inside, what they really believe is that you say what you really mean in that moment of anger. When everything is going well, she doesn't believe you! It's not fair, but it's just the way they are wired. The moment that angry burst comes, you cause that spot or wrinkle to get bigger. You just highlight that blemish.

## **Presented in Splendor**

Paul said that we sanctify and cleanse her so that we can "*present her*" to ourselves "*in splendor.*" The phrase 'in splendor' means glorious. Moms and dads, we need to be a little more careful in parenting. There are a lot of things we want to blame the son-in-law for, but it's really our fault. We didn't deal with it and passed it on to him. Yet most husbands, on the day of the presentation of the bride, think she's glorious. But underneath the makeup and dress, she has been living with her parents and there are some spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. But after living with you and loving her like Christ loved the Church, you are actually presenting her to yourself. Your goal is to present to yourself a glorious bride. You deserve a glorious bride and you are getting according to how you love her. Just remember that. I know there are circumstances of a handicap or abuse and that's when you need a pastor or counselor. But God did not wed her to a counselor; He wed her to you, her husband. If we are the man of God that He has designed us to be, you can handle her spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.



## **Holy and without Blemish**

The ultimate purpose is *"that she may be holy and without blemish."* That is it! The goal of my marriage is for my wife to one day have no spots, wrinkles, or blemishes, and be totally holy and without blemish. That is awesome, and it is a lifetime job! Christ's love for us didn't instantaneously glorify us, and it will take a lot of years for our relationship to get to the point that it is total glory. But it will be worth it!

## **As Your Own Body**

Verse 28 says, *"In the same way husbands..."* Whoa...it didn't say almost like this, or strive to get as close as you can. It says, *"In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies."* He goes on to tell us that no man ever rejected his own flesh, but he fed and clothed it. He made it better and didn't give in to its spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.

## **Bear Her Sin**

Let me remind you of 1 Peter 2:21-24. Now, in chapter 3, Peter tells the husbands to likewise dwell with their wives with understanding, giving honor to them as the weaker vessel. That *"likewise"* connects back to chapter 2:21-24 when it talks about the example of Christ. Something just hit me when I studied this. It says He was reviled, but He didn't revile back. When He suffered, He didn't threaten back, but entrusted Himself to Him who is godly. Then it said, *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed."* Why does Paul tell the wife in chapter 5:23 that Christ is the Savior of the Church, and in a similar way, God has also given her a head, a husband? It is because she has been wounded. She has spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. God brought her into your life to be your helpmate because she needed a strong savior. If you believe that God was in your marriage, you need to understand that God didn't call her to bear your sin; He called you to bear her sin. It is when the spots, wrinkles, and blemishes reveal themselves that we want to revile back. When her spots,

wrinkles, and blemishes start to cause me to suffer, I start threatening...no! I do not have that right under God. What makes me a Christian man is that I understand when I take a wife that I am going to bear her sins. As a floor joist in this relationship, I have the strength to do it, and I can.

How much did Jesus complain, criticize, and gripe on the cross about you and me? Then why are you griping, criticizing, and complaining as a man? Yes it hurts, and yes you get wounded! But would the cross be meaningful to us if Jesus was not wounded by our sin? It would be meaningless! If He really wasn't tempted or feel what we felt, it would be meaningless to us.

## **TLC**

As you are wounded by her sin, her spots, wrinkles, and blemishes, it provides her an environment to heal. Wow! I am not telling you to 'take it like a man.' I am telling you to take it like Christ! Christ dealt with each of us with some TLC. He gave us some *Tender* confrontation, some *Loving* communication, and some *Caring* correction. I want every man to make the commitment that when you have to confront your wife the next time you encounter her spot, wrinkle, or blemish, you will do it tenderly. You do not confront her like you do a buddy or employee or child. The reason is because she is the weaker vessel and you are a man of steel; you're rough and harsh. Do this tenderly. When you communicate with her, do it lovingly and positively. Do not bring condemnation on her, bring conviction on her. Then, when you correct, and you must, you correct it with care. If we would take more care with our children, we would make it a whole lot easier on our sons and daughters-in-law. You do not parent to have a momma's boy or a daddy's girl. You parent so that one day your children will leave, cleave, and become one. That young man will know how to love his wife like Christ loved the Church, and that young lady will know how to respect her husband.

## Wife's Response

Ladies, when your husband steps into your life with TLC, you should respond in four ways.

1. Consciousness
2. Conviction
3. Confession
4. Change

You have to be conscious of what is going on in your life. I think ladies are worse than men in thinking *that's just the way I am*. You ladies have a hard time saying I'm sorry and I've sinned. If you have a man who is trying to love you with the love of Christ, he really wants to retreat instead of charge, but when he charges tenderly, lovingly, and caringly, be conscious of what he is saying to you. You accuse him of not listening, and you don't listen. Please don't take his words in a condemning way.

Understand these words are designed by God to bring conviction to you because He has designed for your husband to be the head and you to be the body. When he loves you like Christ loved the Church, it does not mean he will let you continue to be who you are. His love will mold you into who you are to become and he sees that potential in you.

Once you are conscious and, once there is a conviction, please confess it, not just to God but to him. Tell him you have sinned. Be glad that you don't have to deal with it by yourself, and acknowledge that it has hurt and wounded him.

Then, you must change. Please don't continue in that behavior. Just because your grandma or mom had that tendency, it doesn't mean that you cannot break it. God has designed you to be in a relationship with your husband so that you actually become better after living with him. One day you will become the lady that God intended you to be. If he is a man of God, under God, he will see it. Hopefully, he will love you in a way so that when you stand in front of the mirror, you will see yourself for who you

are. You are a glorious bride. When you see that glorious bride, know that your man had a hand in you becoming who God designed you to be. He is the strength of the home as the floor joist.