

The Subfloor

Part 2

Ephesians 5:22-24; 33b

May 19th, 2013

Series 6

We began to build the subfloor of our dream home in the last lesson. It consists of the floor joists and the subflooring. In the last lesson, we concentrated on verses 25-33 of Ephesians chapter 5. We challenged husbands to stand 'edge up' and be tall in our relationship with our wives. We spoke of the importance of loving her like Christ loved the Church. We are the 2x12's, the 16 inch centers of the subfloor. We shared that ladies are not to stand edge up, but to lie 'edge out.' Wives should not try to be tall, but to be wide because everything is built on the subfloor. Once the floor joists have been centered, the subflooring is placed horizontally on top. When those pieces of plywood are placed on top of the floor joists, they give stability to the subfloor.

I had a structural engineer do a study for me on the value of the subflooring boards. Sometimes when the wives hear the husband is the head and she is the body, the wife somehow thinks of inferiority and superiority. No, the engineer said that if you take 2x12 boards and place them on 16 centers on the foundation of a house and then screw nails or glue the subflooring boards to them, they become composite and it strengthens the house two and a half times. Composite means they become one. In other words, the subfloor boards do not just lie loose on top of the joists. So, the foundation and the subfloor become stiffer,

stronger, and more stable. When you measure the stress the floor can handle, you can put two and a half times more pressure on the subfloor that you could if they were not composite! That should tell us why the husband-wife relationship is so important.

I submit to you that in a marriage, the subfloor of your home is love and respect. I understand there are those who are single by choice or circumstance and we will address this as well. These messages are never meant to bring condemnation, but to challenge and bring conviction on building or remodeling the home of our dreams. I will be using the metaphor of the horizontal subflooring for the ladies as we talk about your relationship with your husband. Please heed what Scripture says and not try to stand alongside your husband 'edge up', but 'edge out.' Add to the strength, add to the stiffness, and add to the stability to increase your home's ability to stand the stress and pressures of this world. We will be talking to wives about respect. We are going to slow down and spend some time with the ladies on the husband-wife relationship because I think the world misunderstands respect.

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."

"... and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Love and Respect

I want to make sure you understand that the subfloor of our dream home is the love a husband has for his wife and the respect a wife has for her husband. Those two things must be composite. They must be together;

they must be one. We need husbands and wives living a life of oneness in our homes. It is the subfloor on which everything else will be.

- **Respect**

Ladies, I need to get your attention; I need you to listen. Do you have a problem with your man looking at another woman? Most ladies believe that their husband does not understand what looking at another woman does to her. There are a lot of things a guy can do, but the one thing he cannot do is to look at another woman! It becomes personal to a wife when she catches him looking. Now ladies, it does the same thing to him when you constantly talk about how great another woman's husband is, and all that he does for her. This implies that you know your husband doesn't do these things for you. Do you get that? I don't think you believe me. I believe you think it is perfectly ok for your husband to only have eyes for you, but you can check out other husbands! Maybe not physically, but you check out how great they are psychologically and spiritually. If you do not want him looking at other women, then you quit talking about other men. When you catch yourself looking at another woman's husband, (because that is what you are doing) you are looking at the wrong person in that marriage. The person you should be looking at is not the husband, but you should be looking at the wife. Understand that what differentiates your marriage from theirs may not be him, it may be her. She was a better chooser than you were. I have counseled women who have been in multiple marriages, and sometimes I have to stop and say, "I know it seems like he is always the problem. But you have to at least admit that you are a poor chooser of husbands when you are on number five and they all have the same problem."

Another thing that differentiates your marriage may not be whether she chose better or not, but she may be more respectful to her husband than you are to yours. I cannot emphasize enough how important respect is to your man. I don't mean respect from his momma, his daughter, or his boss, but respect from you.

I tried to shock you years ago by telling you to imagine your husband came home and said, "Honey, I just want you to know that I respect you with all of my heart, but I don't love you anymore." You would be crushed! Your marriage would be over, so to speak. Yet, many wives believe it is ok to say, "Honey, I love you with all of my heart, but I just don't respect you." You are killing your head. You are putting your marriage in a guillotine and you are about to sever the relationship. You will blame it on him, but I'm telling you that God has designed him to need a helper, and He has designed you to be that helper. He needs you to be who God wants you to be, in order for him to be who God has designed him to be.

- **Submit**

The first thing we are going to do is to exegete Ephesians 5:22-24 and 33b. I don't want you to think that I am saying this. I want you to know that this is the Word of God. This was written by a man who was under the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. He was guided by the Holy Spirit to be free from error. Paul said in verse 22:

"Wives, to your own husbands, as to the Lord."

Notice that I left the word *"submit"* out. Paul didn't use it when he wrote it in the Greek. There is no verb in that verse. Our English Bibles inserted *"submit"* because in Greek thought, the verb is in verse 21. When the Bible uses a form of the word submissive, it's not implying superiority or inferiority. As a matter of fact, the concept of submissiveness is in the context of the Church. We have to go back to verse 15 of chapter 5 to set the context. But verse 18 says, "Do not be filled with wine in which is excess, but be filled with the Holy Spirit." Then he gives five participles that describe what the life of a church member who is under the Holy Spirit looks like. The fifth participle is "submitting." It is a military word that means 'to be under in order for there to be order or rank.' It is the picture of a military going into battle; unified, together, and in line. It is literally a picture of staying in line.

When the Church assembles together and is under the control of the Holy Spirit, there will not be arrogance. There will be mutual submissiveness. Paul applies what is happening in the Church to not only affect what is happening when the saints assemble, but to affect what happens when you go home. So he talks to the wife first. You are important!

As the Church has a mutual submissiveness one to the other, at home, wives are to submit to their own husbands. Get in line ladies, so there can be unity, harmony, and holiness in the home! God has ordained the wife to submit to her own husband. This is not a statement of women being inferior or men being superior. It has nothing to do with identity or worth. It has everything to do with role and responsibility. Wife, you are to get in line. Do you want order in the life of your children, or do you want disorder? Do you want order or do you want chaos? Then get in line to your husband, your house-band; the one you chose for your daddy to give your hand to; the one you begged mom and dad to let you date! Despite every warning they gave you, this is him! Despite the marital counselor telling you there would be problems, you chose to say yes.

- **As to the Lord**

Submit to him "*as to the Lord*." There are a lot of contrast and comparison words in this passage. Someone is leading and someone is following. The wife is following. She is to follow her husband the same way as she does the Lord. Ladies, I would get over that "*submit*" word and get onto that "*as*" word. You ladies love the "*as*" in Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her." But, what about this "*as*" in verse 22? We guys would be fine if God had just left out the example of, "as Christ loved the Church." Then I could love my wife the way I want to love her. I wouldn't have an example. I could pick another man and say, "You could have had him!" But she can say every time, "I want Christ!"

Now, what does, "*as to the Lord*" mean? It can mean a lady's example in submitting to her husband is to be done in the same spirit, attitude, and

action that she submits to the Lord. Or, it can mean as she submits to him (her husband), in reality, she is submitting to HIM (the Lord). If you are not under him, you are not under HIM. Don't measure yourself by Bible study, or prayer, church attendance, or teaching Sunday school. Paul's example of a lady being under the influence of God's Holy Spirit and being drunk on God is her relationship to her husband and how she follows him.

- **The Husband is the Head**

Then Paul gives us the foundation of this principle:

"For the husband is head of the wife..."

I love this! Paul never told me that I was my wife's head. But he did tell her that I am her head. I wouldn't really have known that I was her head if God hadn't told her, and if Paul hadn't told me what God told her! I don't want you ladies to get together and think there is a conspiracy theory going on and that men decided we were going to be the head. As a matter of fact, God never told us to boss our wives. He told us to love you. But before He told us to love you, He told you to submit to us, not as men, but as a husband in your life because God loves you enough to give you a head. There are many ladies that forget most days that they have a head. I don't think most ladies stay conscious that they are in a relationship of oneness with a man that mirrors the image of God. In that relationship, your husband is your head.

- **Savior of his Body**

"...even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior."

Ladies, underline "even as" in your Bibles. In the same way that the Church is the body of Christ, and He is the Savior of the body, the husband is the head of the wife, and you are his body. As Christ redeems and saves the Church from its spots, wrinkles, and blemishes, you have a head to rescue you from your spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. They can be genetic

or environmental, but God loves you enough to give you a head. Notice in this passage that Paul did not say that Christ is Lord of the Church. We know He is. You would expect that if he was going to say submit, he would remind the wife that Christ is Lord, but he reminded her that she needs a savior.

- **In Everything**

"Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands."

Right now, based on what is true, the wife should submit to her own husband in *"everything"*, as to the Lord. Now, I looked up the word everything. Do you know what it means? It means 'all that exists.' There is a secondary meaning of 'all that pertains to the subject.' Why is it that ladies only want to follow in the area that they want to follow in? Why does she only want to follow when she agrees with the decision of her husband? Paul never told you to only follow your husband when he's right! It says *"in everything."* As a lady, if you are not continually under the control of God's Holy Spirit, you will not bring yourself under the leadership of your husband in everything. It is not possible. Why...because women are always right. Women are never wrong. I have had this conversation many times with my wife, and when it's over, she knows she's right. The problem is that is not what the Bible says. It says *"in everything."* I honestly believe we have no clue how good your husband could be because his policy for the family and home has never been put into practice. It is always debated, and it is always amended.

History books will write that the worst U.S. President we ever had was Jimmy Carter. At one time, he was my favorite President. It wasn't because he was a democrat or republican, but because he was a peanut farmer from Georgia, and he said he was a born again Christian. Man, he had the luxury of being a democratic President at a time when the whole House and the whole Congress was democrat. You would have thought he would go down in history as one of the greatest Presidents of our country

because there was no bipartisan bickering. But there was never a policy that he initiated that got passed without being debated and amended by his own party. We don't have a clue if he would have been good or bad. Yet no one ever blames Congress, they always blame him.

That is exactly what a wife does. You blame him, and blame him, and you blame him. At some point, he will quit fighting and he will flee. At some point, he will wave the white flag and surrender and do it your way. While you think that is good, you will discover that it isn't. When you start wearing the pants in the family, you will truly discover, as a woman of God, that you really want to wear the dress. But there will not be much left to your man because disrespect after disrespect will eventually kill a husband. Ladies, do you want to be the air in his tire? Do you want to be the antifreeze in his radiator, the fuel in his tank, and the oil in his crankcase? Then you respect him.

Unconditional Respect

The word "respect" means 'to have high regard for.' It means 'to give differential treatment to.' I don't know where a woman ever got that love is unconditional, but respect is earned. It is so wrong. You cannot have it both ways. If you want respect to be based on conditions, then you can put his love for you there too. Or, do you want to be biblical? What you really want is for him to love you, not because of who you are, but you want him to love you because you are his wife and you want to be secure in that. Then you have to respect him for who he is to you; he is your head.

I know some of you are thinking that if you had a man who loved you like Christ loved the Church then you could respect him. But let's remember what Peter said in 1 Peter 3:1-2. Now, he used the word "*subject*", but it is the same word as submit. Peter described a relationship of a wife whose husband is not under the Word. He said, "...they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and

pure conduct.” He said they could be won, not by her nagging or complaining, but by her respectful and pure conduct.

Then Peter goes into what some ladies have a problem with. I mean, to get your man, you used everything you could physically do to get him. You fixed the hair, the makeup, and the clothes that showed everything you had. Even though you were raised in the Church, most of you were willing to give yourself to him. You prized physicalness that much. You knew he had that need, so you took advantage of it. And now, you don’t want to use that! You want to get fixed up for the boss or the job, and he gets what is left over. It is amazing how Satan did everything he could do to get you to come together to have sex before marriage, and as soon as the honeymoon is over, he does everything he can to keep you from having sex. And now, you think that is all your husband is about! You need to teach your young girls that if every date begins and ends with sex, the husband will probably believe that every day of the marriage will too. That isn’t his fault; that is your fault. It is called false advertisement. You want your husbands to know you for who you are on the inside and to be attracted to that, but that’s not what you use to get him. Listen, I am saying you are stuck. But in being stuck, quit nagging, judging, and rebelling. Quit trying to do it your way and follow him. If you will follow him, God just might bring him under His Lordship. When He does, you will get a new man. But the only way you will is by your respectful behavior.

- **Follow and Respect**

Now we have a problem. Peter will use Sarah as an example to wives of how she obeyed Abraham and called him lord. I know some of you are thinking that if you were married to a guy like Abraham, you could call him lord and obey him too. Really? Have you ever studied Genesis? On two occasions, Abraham got in a foreign country and looked at his wife and said, *Wow honey, you’re really pretty and that man is looking at you! If he decides he wants you, let’s just say you are my sister and you go home with him tonight.* Would you want to be married to a man like that? You go

to Florida on vacation and he sees a man bigger than he is looking at you and decides to say you are just cousins! Abraham was a coward! But what did Sarah do? She followed and she respected. And God came to her rescue both times!

Ladies, you can either be a daughter of Sarah, or you can be a daughter of Eve. Genesis tells us the problem with Eve. Now, I love Genesis 2.

Wouldn't it have been great if the Bible could have just ended there? They were both naked in the garden and were not ashamed, amen! That is true intimacy for a man. But then came chapter 3...whoa. Eve blew it! Paul reminds the ladies of this in 1 Timothy 2. You are to learn quietly at home because Adam wasn't deceived, Eve was.

God told Eve that it was going to be difficult before, but now it was really difficult to bear children! They are going to break your heart! You think the day of pain is over when you give birth, but just wait until they become a teenager. Being a mom will break your heart, it will be painful!

Then God told Eve that her desire would be for her husband. My wife pointed out to me that this teaches that a woman's desire was not to love and follow her husband. That Hebrew preposition actually means 'to be against him.' Do you understand that when you're born, you aren't born with a tendency to follow your man? You are born with a tendency not to want to be his helper; you want to be his leader! You want your way!

Have you ladies ever considered that you could be wrong? The reason you could be wrong is that when you look at the world, it is pink. But the world is not pink, it's purple. God has designed you to need blue in your life. When pink and blue come together as one, they form purple.

Paul telling a lady to submit to her husband is not chauvinism, it is creationism. What was undone in The Fall was redone in re-Creation. In re-Creation, a woman can bring herself under the control of her husband as she brings herself under the control of the Holy Spirit. If God has designed you to be in a married relationship, you will not find what you are looking

for by wearing the pants. You will find it by wearing the dress. Do not be deceived. Don't be a daughter of Eve, be a daughter of Sarah. When you begin to respect your husband and become aware of who he is to you, when you praise him, appreciate him, admire him, and affirm him; there will be such a change in his life that there will be a change in your life.

In the next lesson, we will discuss five things:

1. How to be aware
2. How to make an appraisal
3. How to appreciate
4. How to admire
5. How to affirm

We will also talk about the five areas in which a man needs respect. If you will respect him, then get ready for the ride of your life! It can be Heaven on Earth!