

# The Subfloor

## Part 3

### Ephesians 5:22-24; 33b

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

#### Series 7

According to the Word of God, a husband needs respect. In the last lesson, we learned that as a wife lies 'edge out', she brings respect to the home. We talked about the principle of respect. In this lesson, we will talk about the practice of 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."***

#### The Five A's

Most ladies have no problem understanding the nature of unconditional love. But because we live in a society that has taught that respect is

something that is earned, many ladies struggle with unconditional respect. I know some women would say that if her husband loved her like Christ loved the Church, it would be easier to respect him. But, that makes it conditional; if my husband does this, then I will respect him. No ladies, it might be easier, but it doesn't necessarily mean you would respect him the way God has ordained him to be respected. I would like to take a few minutes and share what I believe is the practice of respect. How does this actually work? How do we build on that principle of respect? I am going to share five A's. Now, practice these for about six months to a year, and if it doesn't work, then we will come up with five more next year!

### **1. Be aware of your husband's needs.**

There must be an awareness of his needs. Please remember that your husband has been designed to be different from you. If I want to be biblical, then I need to say that you have been designed to be different from him. He was designed by God first, and then later, you were designed to be different from him. As much as you believe that he is different, he really isn't; you are. You guys have known that for a long time!

Ladies, you have to be aware that his needs are not like your needs. You want to believe he is different by flaw. No, he is different by design. He has been created by God, and God knew he needed you to be his helper. He made you to be different so that you could become one with him, but not be the same as him. It is so important that Christian homes understand this principle. God never ordained sameness, He has ordained oneness. So be aware of his needs and do not see them through your eyes of pink. Understand that his needs are different because he is blue. God's design is not for one to be pink and the other to be blue. His design is for us, together, to be purple. Purple is the color of royalty, of majesty; it is the color of God. God has ultimately designed the male-female relationship to picture His image.

## **2. Appraise your husband's needs.**

Do an appraisal. Most men are familiar with appraisal, as some women are too. When you want to sell something, a professional appraiser comes out and studies what you are selling. When someone appraises a piece of land, they do not just drive by. They get out and walk every inch of the land. They are studying or getting to know the property. You need to get to know the needs of your husband. If you know him, you will know what his needs are.

## **3. Appreciate your husband's needs.**

It is kind of a weird feeling when you get an appraisal of your property, because you know that, to a great degree, the price you get will be determined by his appraisal. That professional appraiser has the ability to depreciate your property, or appreciate your property.

The property next door to you, especially if you are a farmer, is always more valuable than any other property in the county. Ladies, if you could just understand that principle. It is really easy for you to appreciate qualities in other men, but I ask you not to depreciate the needs in your man. Appreciate them, because he is the one closest to you. He is who you are one with; you are his body and he is your head. To appreciate something means that you add value to it; you make it worth more. That is what respect is. It is when a need of your husband is standing before you, you've appraised it, and now you have the opportunity to appreciate or depreciate it. When you depreciate his need, it feels like disrespect to him. When you appreciate it, it feels like respect.

## **4. Admire your husband's needs.**

When you admire your husband's needs, God will teach you something that He will not teach you outside the marriage relationship. In this relationship, you are truly one with your husband, and you picture the Church as he pictures Christ. This is important, not just to him, it is important to you. Tell your husband what you admire most about him. You will discover that

he will categorize that in the need compartment of his life. He will feel like you respect him in this area. Tell him what you admire about this need he has, because that need greatly influences you.

### **5. Affirm your husband's needs.**

In my opinion, you affirm by continuing to tell him, and just keep telling him. I am amazed by how women remember all of the things their husband did when they dated that they quit doing after they were married. But somehow, women have forgotten what they used to say to their husbands that they no longer say to him. Affirm, and keep telling him. How long do you have to keep telling him? For as long as he is alive...he needs affirmation!

### **The Neck that Turns the Head**

If you will be aware of his need, if you will appraise them, if you will appreciate them, if you will admire them, and if you will affirm them, you can become 'the neck that turns the head', and your husband won't care. I am not using that saying like most people use that. We all know what 'who wears the pants in the house' means. We've all heard ladies say, "It's ok for him to be the head because I know I am the neck that turns him." You mean that you are the neck that controls him! I want to suggest that instead of trying to dominate your husband and trying to get your way with him, why don't you respect him. As you respect him, you will become his most trusted admirer. You will become his most trusted advisor.

You can ask our staff this, no matter how many times I have to make a decision; I tell them that I have to run it by my wife, because I know I look at things in blue. I am not trying to get her permission to make a decision in this church. I know that I look at this as blue, and I know it requires a purple color, so I need pink advice on this. No matter how much I admire the ladies on our staff, I respect the lady that I love the most, my wife. Therefore, the opinion I want is hers. I don't mind telling you that I have

been influenced by her a lot. But I have learned that I listen to her because she respects me.

After pastoring a church for 30 years, I have learned that some who come to me with thoughts and ideas have no respect for me. I know they have no respect because they have criticized and complained. I am sorry, but if you dis me for five years and then come to me as your pastor, how far do you think you are going to get? Let's just be honest. When I get ready to make a decision that falls in your area, and I can choose someone who does have respect for me, who do you think I will ask advice from? I will ask where there is respect!

Do you ladies get that? A husband would love to have a neck that influences him. I don't think most ladies understand what it means to be the head and to be told by God to love your wife like Christ loves the Church. Do you realize that we will stand before God one day and give an account for the way we have loved our wives, and the standard will be the love of Christ? You say, "yes, but we have been told to be the Church." Exactly...you are going to turn out pretty good on the Day of Judgment. Half of our Baptists churches fight, divide, disobey, and don't get along. That is why half of our marriages are ending in divorce. Your husband needs respect!

### **Four Areas to Apply the Five A's**

I want you to apply those five A's in four particular areas in your husband's life. But first, let me remind you that it applies only to husband-wife relationships. This doesn't apply to dating teens. As a matter of fact, everything I have been saying only applies to husbands and wives; not our kids and their relationships. There shouldn't be a man or woman here who teaches their daughter to submit to her boyfriend; absolutely not! There shouldn't be any sons loving their girlfriends like Christ loved the Church. That love is reserved for one lady and one lady only, and that is your wife!

Now, I am speaking in generalities. If you are married to a man that is physically, spiritually, or psychologically unhealthy, that means there is something wrong. It may not be a bad reason that there is something wrong. It may have been something that happened beyond his control. All four of these aspects may not apply. While these are general statements about most men, you are married to a unique, one-of-a-kind, kind of guy. So if he doesn't have one of these needs, it's ok. You just discover what his other needs are.

## **1. Work**

According to Genesis 2, when God created Adam and Eve, the first responsibility He gave the man was to get a job. Since there was a whole planet, one garden, and one man, it was an easy choice for God...work and till the garden! Therefore, most men are going to have a job outside the home. God has wired him that way. Ladies, this need to work is so important to a guy. You need to understand that when your husband loses his job, it will not do you a bit of good to remind him how much you love him. He will be depressed, sad, down, and he will struggle. If your husband becomes physically handicapped or disabled during his working years, he will struggle. He has a need to work. Men get personal fulfillment from their job. It is the way we conquer the world. It is how we express who we are. I don't think you get that, because if you did, you would not be as disrespectful as you are about his need to work. He needs you to respect that.

I have noticed that a married couple can meet another married couple they haven't seen in twenty years, and the two ladies immediately connect and begin to talk. Within 30 seconds, they have their pictures out and are talking about kids and grandkids. In two minutes time, they have relived the past twenty years! Now, the two men are still feeling each other out. They are like two heavyweight prize fighters in the ring. They don't come out slugging; they come out and circle each other. It takes a couple of minutes to know whether we want to engage each other in conversation. I

promise that we will not be swapping pictures of the grandkids! We won't be talking about anniversaries or anything emotional. The first words out of our mouth will be something like, "What do you do?" Then he'll say, "Well, what do you do?" Every man knows this principle; we gauge the worth of another man by what he does. That is why it is devastating for a man to have to say he is unemployed, or disabled. He is basically saying that he does nothing, and a man struggles during that period. When he is doing nothing, he feels like nothing! It may not be right, but that is just the way it is.

You have to understand, that is why I didn't tell anyone for years that I was a pastor. I only talked about being a farmer. Every man will understand this. When another man tells you what he does and you tell him you're a pastor, in the real world, they are thinking sissy, coward, or you don't have a real job. So, I learned to say that I'm a farmer, knowing that a man will follow that up by, "What do you raise?" I always say, "Corn, soybeans, cattle, sheep, and a few goats." The next question is always, "I didn't know people raised sheep in Western Kentucky; how many do you have?" I say, "About 1500." Then he says, "What kind of sheep do you raise in Western Kentucky?" I come back and say, "Baptists."

Ladies, you have to understand our need to work. When you think you are griping about his pay, you are really griping about his worth. When you complain about what we can't do because we don't have the money, you are complaining about him! In football, it is called 'piling on.' He is already down, already struggling, and those questions will feel very disrespectful. You think you have to bring it up, but I promise you that he is working on it. He doesn't have his head in the sand like you think he does. But because he is blue and you are pink, we are going about it differently. This is why I encourage ladies not to argue with your man before he goes to work!

And please, in this cellphone age, don't call your husband at work and continue what you were mad about this morning! Work is important to

him; that is where he expresses his worth. Respect him in his need to work.

## **2. Respect his need to lead.**

He is the head and you are the body, and he knows his example of leadership is servant leadership. It is to love you by example. There is probably not a man anywhere who believes they love their wives like Christ loved the Church. This means you have been living with a man who has been ordained by God to be the leader of your home, and he feels like a failure. If there is one area where he needs you to come alongside and respect him, it is in this need to lead; to be the head. He takes leading the home very seriously if he is a spiritual man of God.

Ladies, you are not the leader of the home, your husband is. He may be the most introverted man in church, but he can still be an influence and a leader in the home if you will understand that is how God has designed him. He is not to be boss or dictator, he is to lead you. But he doesn't lead the way you would lead. He will not ask for directions and he will not ask for instructions. I am telling you this so that you can respect him.

So what does that mean to you? It means that when you follow your husband, you are going to get lost a lot! He is never going to admit he was lost; he knew where he was at all times! He had just never been to that part of town before, and you needed to check it out! Yes, it cost you an extra hour getting to your vacation spot, but it is ok when he is the one making the decisions. Now, when you make the decision to be five minutes late because of your hair; that is another story! It also isn't going to do any good to stand there with the instructions on putting together a bookshelf; he is not going to read them before he starts assembling. If he does not ask for directions and he's not going to look at the map; if he isn't going to read the instructions from the people who made the bookshelf, do you think he is going to ask you? Do you think he will listen to what you are going to say? No...not until he can't get there on his own, or he knows he



put it together wrong. Then he will stop and ask directions; then he will read the instructions.

Ladies, if you will understand that is how blue leads, if you will wait until he is ready for advice, the first person he will ask is you. If you'll wait, when he asks, he will actually do it your way for once. When he does it your way and it turns out right, he will come and ask again. But you led for so long, doing it your way, and it didn't work out the way he thought it would, so he doesn't trust you anymore. But you can remodel by waiting for him to ask. Men ask people that respect them. They do not ask people who don't respect them.

### **3. He has a need of companionship.**

This is a big one. In the garden, God said it is not good for man to be alone, so He made a helper for him. The word ***helper*** means 'one who answers back.' It is not one who talks back, there is a difference. That means that God designed Eve for Adam so they could share life together. A lady must understand that most men want to share the experience of life with them. Therefore, your man wants you to be with him. He needs you to be with him. If a man is going to hit a hole-in-one at the golf course, he would rather his wife witness it than anyone else. If he is going to kill the big deer in the woods, he would really rather his wife witness that than any other. The reason is because he wants you to be his best friend.

I want you to understand this, so let me explain what has possibly gone wrong in your home. Ladies have a need for companionship. I call it face-to-face time, but men aren't really good at that. Men are good at what I call shoulder-to-shoulder time. You know, I just love for my wife to ride with me when I make hospital visits. If I'm going to Nashville, I don't want to go by myself; I want her to go with me. If I am going to drive a tractor, the one I really want sitting beside me is my wife. That little seat that is called the 'buddy seat' in a combine; I call it 'the love seat.' I want my wife in that seat! But the problem is that after you've been married a little while, most women view what a guy does as doing nothing. Most ladies

don't have time to do nothing. So a lady sees her husband hunting as doing nothing. I mean, he sees nothing, shoots nothing, and he can't talk, so that is doing nothing! So a lady will say, "I can't go with you because I have laundry and dishes." Really? You are telling me that it is more important to do laundry and the dishes than it is to spend time with your husband...really? You have just disrespected him. You just said that the world is pink, not blue.

When we go into a restaurant, if I let my wife have her way, she will sit on one side and want me across from her so we have to look at each other face to face. If I have my way, we will get a booth every time. I will let her sit down first, but not because I am being polite. I want to see where she is going to sit and I slide in beside her. I am not going to sit on my side of the bench and her on the end of the bench. I am going to sit in the middle so that she is right up against me with her shoulder. I can put my arm around her; she's mine; she's a captive wife! Now if you put most men in that situation, they don't have to say a word. They can sit there and eat for 45 minutes without saying a word! The wife is miserable and the husband will describe it as awesome. Couples will drive for miles to a restaurant without saying a word and the wife is fuming by the time they get there, but the husband is tickled to death! Most men, not all, but most men, do not have to analyze every detail of every moment of the experience. They just want someone to experience it with them, and it is their wife. He needs you.

#### **4. He has a deep need for intimacy.**

Remember that he is blue and not pink, therefore, he does not spell intimacy as **a-f-f-e-c-t-i-o-n**; it is **s-e-x**. Most ladies will never understand the damage they have done to their husband by being disrespectful in this area. I read a comment by someone who said, "Satan does his best to bring two people together before marriage, and then does his best to keep them away from each other after marriage." Why will you use sex before marriage to get a man, but then not want to use sex after

you get him to keep him? Why will you use it in an argument? Why will you use it when you've really messed up and think he is looking somewhere else? I don't understand that.

Ladies, you want a man to minister to your soul, your spirit, before you give him access to your body; that is pink. In the blue world, most men will not give you access to their soul/spirit until you've ministered to their body. Why is that wrong? Why is yours right and his is wrong? Are you ladies listening to me?

God wired most men to be visual. This is why you get offended when he looks somewhere else. You don't want him looking somewhere else because you know he is visually stimulated. That is why some of you think it is ok for you to look, because you aren't visually stimulated. But he is, therefore, you want him to have eyes for you only. Now I am confused. You want him to have eyes for you only, so he keeps his eyes only on you because he loves you. So, when he has his eyes only on you, what do you think he is going to want? You will say sex, but what he wants is intimacy! What is wrong with a man who loves you to the point that he wants to be intimate with you at least once a day? You want him to minister to you emotionally and spiritually, 24/7, every day. And if not, you think he doesn't love you. Yet, you get upset and think something is wrong with him because he wants to be intimate with you! I don't get that. You've listened to the world instead of listening to God.

There is a whole chapter in the book of Proverbs that warns a man about looking somewhere else and to keep his eyes at home. He is to rejoice with the wife of his youth and let her breast satisfy him. That is all he wants to do!

I want to be really careful here. I don't want any husband to use this, or any wife to be condemned by this. First, there is never an excuse to have an affair, never! But in all of my years of counseling, I have discovered that when affairs take place in a marriage, they are never about sex, on either side. Generally, when a lady has an affair, it is usually because she feels

unloved. When a man has an affair, it is usually because he feels disrespected. While you complain about how bad he is, she has been telling him how good he is!

The way to a man's heart is through respect. God wired your man with needs. Ladies, you need to respect him in every area that he has a need because you want him to love you in every area that you have a need. Men spell love: **r-e-s-p-e-c-t**.