

Marriage: Wives, Respect Your Husbands

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

Love Is the Foundation

KEY VERSE:

John 13:34 -- "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

REFLECTION:

I want to start this week by reminding you of something I said on Sunday -- there is only one law in the New Testament, and it is the law of love. Everything in marriage, every role, every responsibility, every act of sacrifice flows out of this single command. God is not asking you to manufacture something from nothing. If you are born again, Romans 5:5 tells us that the love of God has already been poured into your heart by the Holy Spirit. It is already in you. But love is a fruit, and fruit must be cultivated. It does not grow without attention, without water, without light. This week, I want us to stop saying "I just don't feel the love anymore" and start saying "my love can grow." Because it can. That is not wishful thinking -- that is the Word of God.

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you that your love already lives inside me. Teach me to water it and let it grow toward the people closest to me. Help me choose love today even when it is difficult.

DAILY ACTION:

Write down one specific quality of love from 1 Corinthians 13 and ask yourself honestly how you demonstrated it yesterday.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

Equal but Different

KEY VERSE:

Galatians 3:28 -- "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

REFLECTION:

I want to be clear about something I said in the sermon, because people get this twisted. Equality and role are two completely different things. You and your spouse stand on completely equal ground before God. There is no pecking order in heaven, no hierarchy of worth, no second-class citizens in the kingdom. But here on earth, God has given us roles to fulfill, and those roles are not a punishment -- they are a design. Just as Jesus submits everything to the Father while remaining fully equal with Him, there is a divine order in marriage that does not diminish either person. When we fight the design instead of walking in it, we create confusion and conflict. When we embrace it in faith, something beautiful happens. I have watched it in my

own marriage of 42 years. The design works when we trust the Designer.

PRAYER:

Father, forgive me for the times I have confused roles with worth. Help me to trust your design for my marriage and walk in it with confidence and grace.

DAILY ACTION:

Have a brief, calm conversation with your spouse today where you affirm that you value them as your equal partner before God.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

The Power of Respect

KEY VERSE:

Ephesians 5:33 -- "Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

REFLECTION:

I read you the Amplified version of this word respect on Sunday and I want to sit with it again today, because I do not think we fully grasp how much weight this single word carries. To respect your husband means to notice him, regard him, honor him, prefer him, venerate and esteem him. It means to defer to him, praise him, and admire him. That is not a small thing. That is a daily, deliberate, faith-filled decision. I know some of you are thinking, "Pastor Mirek, you don't know my husband." And you may be right. But here is what I do know -- you cannot wait for him to earn your respect before you give it. That is not faith, that is a transaction. Genuine respect sown in faith has the power to call out the champion in your man.

PRAYER:

Lord, give me the courage to show respect even when it does not feel natural. Help me to see my husband the way you see him and to speak to the potential you placed inside him.

DAILY ACTION:

Say one specific, genuine word of appreciation to your husband today -- not general, but specific to something he actually does for your family.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

Words Build or Tear Down

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 21:19 -- "It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious and angry woman."

REFLECTION:

I know this verse stings a little. I said it on Sunday and the room got quiet, which usually means I am close to

the truth. But I share it not to shame anyone -- I share it because I care too much about your marriage to be soft about the things that are quietly destroying it. Words matter. Body language matters. The tilt of a head, the roll of eyes, the tone in a voice -- all of it communicates something. They say ninety percent of communication is nonverbal, and women, you know how to use every single percent of it. Here is what I want you to hear with a soft heart today: the words and attitudes you direct toward your husband are seeds. Whatever you sow, you will reap. If you want a man who rises up, speak to him like a man who can rise. If you want peace in your home, plant peace with your tongue.

PRAYER:

Father, set a guard over my mouth today. Help me to build my home with my words rather than tear it down. Show me where I have sown seeds I need to repent of.

DAILY ACTION:

Before you speak a critical word to your husband today, pause and ask yourself: "Is this building him up or tearing him down?" Then choose accordingly.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

Heaven on Earth Is Possible

KEY VERSE:

Ephesians 5:25 -- "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."

REFLECTION:

I told you on Sunday that my wife and I have been married 42 years as of this Wednesday. And I told you it gets sweeter and better. I want you to believe that for your own marriage, because I have lived it. It is not a fairy tale -- it is the fruit of two people deciding over and over again to walk in what the Word says, even when it was hard, even when they did not feel like it, even when they got it wrong and had to come back to the table. Heaven on earth in a marriage is not an accident. It is built. It is built through love that lays itself down, through respect that lifts another up, through forgiveness that keeps no record of wrongs. If your marriage is struggling, God has not abandoned you. Start where you are. Do what the Word says. Trust Him with the rest.

PRAYER:

Lord, I believe that you designed marriage to be a beautiful thing. Help me to do my part this week -- to love, to respect, to forgive, and to keep building. Thank you that it is never too late to start again.

DAILY ACTION:

Do one intentional act of love or respect for your spouse today that costs you something -- your time, your pride, or your comfort -- and do it without expecting anything in return.