



Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.... Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3:12-14; 18-21

I. The Purpose and Mystery of Marriage Ephesians 5:22-33

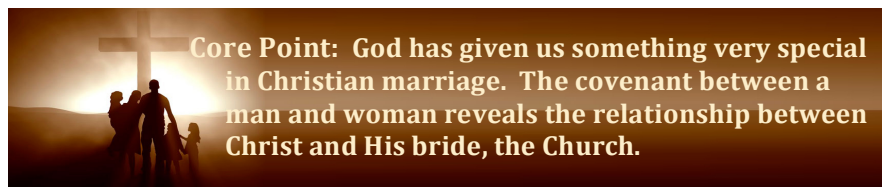
Christian marriage reveals the mystery of God's design for relationships. Beginning with a man and woman, God joins them together and their special covenant relationship is to bring glory to God their creator. We often focus on just the practical aspects of marriage and miss the revelation; marriage the revealing of the mystery of the special relationship that marriage gives us. **We are the bride of Christ and we have a relationship of intimacy with God as His special people. This is the Christian core belief of the core virtue of Holy matrimony.**

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? **Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

Marriage and family relationships never work because of rights but by the rule of love.

The biggest enemy to marriages and the family is **selfishness**.

Selfishness is when we make everything about us, our rights, what we want more than what God wants.



II. The Secret to Marriage and Family

*"For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep **the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice**, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." Genesis 18:19*

The way of the Lord is not: a selfish way, an undisciplined way or an unloving way.

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. Matt. 24:11-12

Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.

Psalm 128:1-3

What parents are to do for their children: Deut. 6:4-9

Train them in the instruction of the Lord and bless them.

Children and Parents and the Promise. Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **"Honor your father and mother,"** which is the first commandment with promise: **"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."** Eph. 6:1

*A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My **honor**? And if I am a Master, **Where is My reverence**? Mal. 1:6*

Honor must be taught, people from young to old must be instructed in the way of honor. It is the kingdom way.

We must learn to practice honor in our marriages. **1 Peter 3:9**
Learn how to give honor.

The two big words in raising children are love and obedience. If obedience is expected to occur without an environment of love, the children will be provoked to wrath.

The honor of parents **releases** a promise of blessing and long life.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

