

GUINEVERE

Two Great Commandments for the Married

ser3952 God in the Movies, Pt2 July 12, 2020 E & L

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. I have been a Senior Pastor for 38 years (1982); and have been in ministry for 45 years. I was 32 years in ministry (2007) when I stumbled upon this truth—"The Two Great Commandments for the Married." Now, it wasn't anything new. These two great commandments have been sitting in God's word since God created Adam and Eve, and clearly defined in the epistles:

- 1. wives obey your husbands;**
- 2. husbands love your wives.**

This is not anything I hadn't heard before. Goodness, if I heard those words 100 times, I had heard them 1000 times. It's one thing to hear them, it's another thing to understand them from a fresh and new perspective.

Here's how it happened. It's where *God in the Movies* comes in. (I must say, Gina K was brilliant last week, and moved many of us to watch Freedom Writers after hearing her sermon. 😊 I only hope I'm as persuasive as was she.)

I stumbled upon this new enlightenment when I picked up a DVD of the movie *Guinevere* in one of those bins you find in stores where you can buy any DVD for \$3 - \$5. LOL! Here's how it all unfolded.

B. First, let's pray!

II. THE EPHESIANS PASSAGE: "WIVES SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBANDS."

Ephesians 5:22 & 33 p 1333

22Wives, *submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

The Greek word here for submit is *hypotasso* [hu po tas' so] [Strong's #5293] and it means: **"to be subordinate as in 'to obey'."* Hence, in the *Traditional Vows* the words, "to obey."

TIME DOES NOT ALLOW US TO EXPLORE THIS IN DETAIL. In brief, only where submission is contrary to God's will, as revealed in His word, are wives not to submit/obey their husbands.

33However, each one of you also must *love* his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must *respect* her husband.

III. "RESPECT" - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A. The scene we are about to see from the movie "Guinevere" says it all. If you can make it past the cigarette smoke, the message could not be

more profound. It speaks to the deep-seated need in men – every man regardless of his age, and why God said, “*Wives, respect your husbands.*” (*show movie clip. 3:53*)

<http://web.mac.com/gcccpray/iWeb/sermon/awe.html>

B. Briefly, two powerful and profound points are made in the video clip you’ve just seen which align with Scripture (whether the director realized it or not):

1. Men are visually driven.

If you don’t believe that read Song of Solomon. If you don’t believe the Song of Solomon, observe young girls coming into maturity. They are more than aware that men are visually driven.

How else could you explain David having 10 wives and 10 concubines?

SIDE NOTE! What’s amazing to me isn’t that David had so many wives – like I said, “*Men are visually driven!*” (Do I really need to explain that?) It’s that 19 other women would share the same man.

THINK ON THIS! Could you picture a woman having 20 husbands? He’d have to be some kind of a man. And, David was—money, fame and power. It is attractive.

That’s why God, in his wisdom, instructed the husband to “*love the wife of his youth,*” and the wife

“to hold her husband in awe.” We’ll come back to this instruction; it’s the heart of today’s homily.

2. The second point made by the video clip is that men require awe; it is peculiar to how God made men – which, by the way, is in His image.

The past middle-aged Bohemian photographer with holes in his jeans was in love with “awe,” and over the years he became a predator, selecting young naïve girls who saw him as “bigger than life.” They held him in awe ... at least for a little while. Yet, what is profound in the message of this scene is the very meaning of the word “respect” in *Ephesians 5:33*.

The Greek word is phobeo [fob-eh’o] [Strong’s 5399] which means: *to be in awe, to revere or reverence.* **This passage could accurately read, “Wives hold your husbands in ‘awe’.”** Why are men attracted to “awe?” More correctly put, “Why do men need “awe?” Why does God command that the wife hold her husband in “awe?”

C. Here’s the answer.

1 Corinthians 11:3-11 p 1305

³ Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. ... ⁷ A man ... is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but

woman from man; ⁹ neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

¹¹ In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

GAL 3:28 tells us that we are neither male nor female in Christ, but one. However, being one in Christ does not negate distinctive male and female *roles* and *needs*. Remember the book **Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus?** It is true!

D. Are you putting it together?

1. God rightfully desires our “awe.”

2. Now, since “man” is in the image of God, would it not stand to reason that man, too, desires “awe?”

THERE IS ALSO A REASON WHY the Preacher spends three chapters (**Prov 5 - 7**) warning men not to be led like an ox to the slaughter falling prey to the wayward woman’s *beauty* and *smooth speech*. **What is the smooth speech?**

She makes him feel bigger than life; she holds him in awe:

- “Your wife doesn’t know what she has!”
- “Most women would die to have a husband like you.”
- “You’re the most handsome man I have ever met.”
- “You’re so spiritual.”

- “Hey, I think your belly’s adorable. You’re perfect to me.”
- “You’re so smart.”

And it makes him feel like a zillion dollars. No, it makes him feel like God.

NOW WIVES HEAR ME – THIS IS SO IMPORTANT!

I do not say this as a threat. I do not say this to give husbands license to sin. I say this because it is reality. If you don’t hold your husband in “awe” he will find someone or something that will. It is how God made him; it is in the DNA of every male. And, **someone** is far more painful than **something**. But in either case, if you don’t hold your husband in “awe” the marriage will never reach its full potential; it will never be all that it can be, and it may not withstand the test of time.

E. Someone might ask the question: *How do you hold a husband in awe who hasn’t earned it?*
Ask for **sermon #2642**.

**IV. THE EPHESIANS PASSAGE --
INSTRUCTIONS TO HUSBANDS**

Ephesians 5:25-33 p 1333

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any

other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, *husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies*. He who loves his wife loves himself.

WOMEN MAY NOT LIKE THEIR BODIES, BUT MEN DON'T SEEM TO EVER HAVE THAT PROBLEM. This cartoon says it well. (show cartoon)



The Difference Between Women & Men

... ³³ ... each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

A. God gives *eight* commands to husbands in ***Eph 5***, all of which are driven by the command to “love.”

The Greek word here for love is *agapaō* (ag-a-pah’ ho), and it means *to love much in the social and moral sense*.

NOW I MUST TELL YOU, WHEN I FIRST READ THAT DEFINITION I WAS DISAPPOINTED. It didn’t seem warm

enough, fuzzy enough, and romantic enough. Yet, it is the same word used in *John 3:16*: “For God so loved the world.”

Then I realized, this isn't about *romance*, this isn't about *feelings*; this is about the stuff real love is made of – *a social and moral obligation*. It doesn't come and go; it stays the course.

It is not *phileo* (friendship). It is not *eros* (sexual). It is an obligation, a commitment that does not waver when the circumstances of life may say otherwise.

B. When a man takes a wife he has a *social and moral obligation* before God for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health to be the *provider, protector* and *priest* of his wife and his home.

DON'T MISS THIS! It is the same social and moral responsibility God had towards the man and the woman when He placed them in the Garden. After they blew it did He stick with them (cleave)? Yes! Why? Because *agapaō* is:

- Not a *feeling* – it's an *action*
- Not an *option* – it's a *command*
- Not what you *can get* – it's what you *can give*
- Not *free* – it *costs*

C. Jesus had no warm and fuzzy feeling when He went to the Cross. In fact, he didn't want to go to the Cross, but He did. Jesus was compelled by a *social* and *moral obligation* called love. Wow!

Men, would we give up our position, our possessions, our profession for our wives? If not, then we don't love them as Christ loved. NOTE! I didn't say our "calling," but that's for another time.

VII. CLOSING

A. Here it is, simple yet incredibly profound, the *Two Great Commandments for the Married*:

1. wives obey your husbands
2. husbands love your wives.

B. Invitation

Spiritually speaking, we, both men and women, are the "bride" and Christ is the "groom." This Groom, Jesus Christ, gave up position and possessions so that we "might be saved." Have you said "yes," to His invitation to receive Him as your Lord and Savior?

At GCCC we say it's as simple as ABC:

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)

(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

Now here's Michael to tell you "What's Next."

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