



## Part 1 – “He Said, She Said”

### *Central Point...*

#### **Ephesians 5:21**

*21 Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another.*

#### **Galatians 5:15**

*15 If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?*

#### **Matthew 20:26-28**

*26 It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. 27 Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.*

*28 That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage."*

#### **Philippians 2:5-8**

*5 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.*

*6 He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. 7 Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! 8 Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.*

Human love is an emotion that develops based on what we like about another person or does not develop because of what we do not like about the other person.

Jesus never taught "selective" love. If you have read the Scriptures above you know that the Bible comes out strong and clear that our love for our neighbor is to be unconditional with a quality equal to the kind of love you have for yourself and as close as possible like Christ has for you. Keep that principle in mind as you move through the "FireProof" studies over the next several weeks.

### **Monday:**

### *Focal Point...*

## **Fireproofing Principles:**

### **Principle # 1 Submission** Ephesians 5:22-28

*22 You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything. 25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife.*

1. What is the Scripture asking you to give up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you ever feel that no one else knows as well how something should be done as you do? How would giving-up your rights in a situation help generate a more harmonious relationship?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When comparing the relationship between a husband and wife to the relationship of Christ to the church, what level of sacredness is given to marriage?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Read this passage again and identify basic relationship principles taught in it.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer for the day:** Heavenly Father, help me love others more than I love myself that I might bring glory to You. In Jesus Name, Amen

### **Tuesday:**

### **Today do a relationship survey:**

1. Are you allowing Christ to be the head of your marriage and household? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. If your answer is "yes", list several reasons why you answered "YES".  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If your answer is "no", list several things you can change and/or add to your relationship to make it more like the relationship that Christ has with the Church.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why would you say that your marriage relationship reflects "submission" or that it does not reflect "submission"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. List ways that you have been actively and willingly supporting and encouraging your spouse as you meet the challenges of life.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer for the day:** Heavenly Father, help me to practice "submission" to my spouse that our relationship might be a testimony to the love of Christ. In Jesus Name, Amen

## **Wednesday:**

### **Principle # 2: The principle of appreciation** 1 Peter 3:7

*7 In the same way you married men should live considerably with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]*

1. What is the challenge of being a husband?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why should husbands treat their wives with respect?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Both husbands and wives, how do you need to change the way you treat your spouse?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What can you do today to be a better spouse showing greater appreciation for your mate?

**Prayer for the day:** Heavenly Father, help me show appreciation for my spouse that I can make a more positive contribution to our marriage.  
In Jesus Name, Amen.

## **Thursday:**

### **Principle # 3: The principle of encouragement.**

Husbands and wives can look at how they relate to one another as an indicator of their relationship with Christ. Ephesians 5:29-33  
*29 No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. 30 And we are his body. 31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

1. Christ made "reconciliation" possible. Romans 5:8-10  
*8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. 10 For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life.*

- a. In this passage did man deserve or earn God's Love?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. God did not require man to reach a minimum level of good behavior before He would do things that would demonstrate His Love to man. If you do acts of loving care toward those with whom you have relationships not requiring them to show you the same first, what impact do you think it can have on your relationship with your spouse or any other friend?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. To unselfishly love someone who does not show you love, to do acts of kindness for one who does not do acts of kindness for you, requires a change of the inner man. Only a personal relationship with Christ can bring that change. This is a good time to use how you relate to your spouse and

other friends as a test or proving ground for your relationship with Christ. If you need to, for the first time invite Christ into your life, do so right now. Write it out and keep it simple.

- d. Make a list of things that you can do for your spouse that are not deserved and that you can do expecting nothing in return for what you have done.

**Prayer for the day:** Heavenly Father, help me to behave toward my spouse in a way that your presence in me can be seen and that I might bring glory to You. In Jesus Name, Amen

## **Friday:**

2. Husbands and wives should invest in providing for the needs of each other. Ephesians 5:29-30  
*28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. 29 No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. 30 And we are his body.*

Husbands - this is a remarkable point. It should be a real eye-opener. It shows just how dependent the marriage is upon the love of the husband. Your love for your wife or your lack of love will in most cases make or break the marriage. Few wives can reject sacrificial love. Few women can refuse to walk hand in hand with a man who loves them unselfishly and sacrificially.

Are any of the following spots or wrinkles ones that you need to ask Christ to help you overcome?

- \_\_\_ mistreatment and abuse. \_\_\_ loose and immoral behavior.
- \_\_\_ withdrawal and avoidance. \_\_\_ temper and reaction.
- \_\_\_ broken promises and serious neglect.
- \_\_\_ severe selfishness and rejection.

**Prayer for the day:** Heavenly Father, empower me to be a spouse who speaks like Christ, behaves like Christ and loves like Christ as you strengthen me from the inside out. In Jesus Name, Amen.

## ***Turning Point . . .***

### **The Love Dare Challenges You . . .**



**Remain faithful.**

**Demonstrate love through words and deeds.**

**Provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support.**

**Respect each other at all times.**

**Grow spiritually together.**

**DARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST LOVES YOU!**