



## Part 1 – He Said, She Said

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### *Central Point...*

**Ephesians 5:21** *Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another.*

Many studies over the years have consistently arrived at the same conclusion: women and men are **different**. One of the challenges we face in relationship, whether married or not centers around the question, "How do I relate to someone who is so different than me?"

Contrary to what we may believe, relationships between men and women are not **impossible**. Problems arise when we expect or assume the other person should think, feel or act the way **we** do.

What's critical is a willingness to show **respect**.

### *Focal Point...*

#### Fireproofing Principles

Marriage works best when:

1. Husbands and wives give up their rights for the sake of the **other**.

**Ephesians 5:22-28** *Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.* <sup>25-28</sup> *Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.*

Principle 1 – The principle of **submission**.

2. Husbands and wives understand and **respect** their differences.

**1 Peter 3:7** *The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.*

Same destination, different routes:

- Men want to be **loved**, but need to be **respected**.
- Women want to be **respected**, but need to be **loved**.

Principle 2 – The principle of **appreciation**.

3. Husbands and wives understand their marriage as an **indicator** of their relationship with Christ.

**Ephesians 5:29-33** *No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh." This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.*

The best way to exhibit Christ-like behavior toward our spouses is when we **imitate** His initiative...

...in **reconciliation**.

**Romans 5:8-10** *But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.<sup>9</sup> So through Christ we will surely be saved from God's anger, because we have been made right with God by the blood of Christ's death.<sup>10</sup> While we were God's enemies, he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Surely, now that we are his friends, he will save us through his Son's life.*

...in **provision**.

**Ephesians 5:29-30** *No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body.*

Husbands are called to be providers:

- **Physically.**
- **Emotionally.**
- **Spiritually.**

Wives are called to be providers:

- of **character.**
- of **wisdom.**
- of **kindness.**

Principle 3 – The principle of **encouragement.**

## *Turning Point...*

There are three simple truths to consider in effectively dealing with the differences with our spouse:

1. It's **our** job to love our spouse – It's **God's** job to change them.
2. We need to be an **expert** of our spouse, and **learn** to love them effectively.
3. The only person who can meet your deepest needs is **Jesus.**

Our challenge...

Believers – simply ask God,

*Father God – How am I doing in appreciating my spouse's differences?*

Seekers – If you are one checking out the claims of Christianity, know that the future God desires for you to experience is one that includes a growing personal relationship with Him. The good news is that to receive it, you simply have to ask Him.

To invite Christ into your heart, you can simply pray,

*Heavenly Father, I come before you today, asking you to save me. I invite your Son Jesus Christ into my heart and my life to be my Lord and my Savior. Please forgive me of sin in my life, and cleanse me from every unclean thing in my life. Father, I want to be personally accountable to you and those who will see my life from this moment forward, and with your help grow to be the person you created me to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.*