

HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES!

(Sermon to the saints at Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, on December 10, 2023)

DIRECTIONS, STATEMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS IMPORTANT MANDATE.

Selfish ungodly people everywhere enter into all kinds of relationships with a desire to serve their own selves, and gratify their own flesh, without knowing or caring what is required of them. Their desire is for the honor, profit, or pleasure their relationship will provide them but not for what God and man requires or expects from them. [**Genesis 2:18**: “*And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*” **Proverbs 18:22**: “*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*”] Their mind is concerned only with what they shall have and not with what they shall be and do. [See, e.g., **Luke 6:31-32**: “*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.*” **1 Corinthians 10:24**: “*Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth.*” **Galatians 6:2**: “*Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*” **Philippians 2:4**: “*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*” **2 Timothy 3:2**: “*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy[.]*”; **James 2:15**: “*If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food[.]*” **1 John 3:17**: “*But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*” **Genesis 4:9**: “*And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?*” **Esther 6:6**: “*So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?*” **Isaiah 56:11**: “*Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.*” **John 6:26**: “*Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.*”]

They know what they want others to do for them, but do not care what their duty is to others. This is the way it is with too many husbands and wives. This country has a 50% divorce rate; they cannot hire enough judges to cover the caseload that results because they refuse to obey the command: “Husbands! Love your wives.” The devastation to their children and their children’s children, etc. that results from their rebellion is heartbreaking and endless. We should be genuinely concerned to know what the duties of our relationships are; and how we can please God in our relationships.

The prime directive is that the first duty of husbands is to love their wives (and wives their husbands). **Ephesians 5:25,28,29,33**: “*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies; he that loveth his wife, loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church. Let every one of you in particular so love his wife, even as himself.*” See **Genesis 2:24**: “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*”

Directions for maintaining love includes the following:

1. Choose a good spouse in the first place. A spouse that is truly good and kind and full of virtue and holiness to the Lord. **Proverbs 18:22**: “*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*” **Proverbs 19:13(b), 14(b)**: “*The contentions of a wife are a continual dropping...and a prudent wife is from the LORD.*”
2. Don’t marry until you are sure that you can love entirely. That requires maturity, charity, patience, and many other gifts from above, coming down from the father of lights. **James 1:17**: “*Every*

good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

3. Don't be too hasty, but know beforehand all the imperfections which may tempt you to despise your future mate. **Proverbs 18:13:** *“He that answereth (Heb. returneth a word) a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”* This is a proverb I have historically reserved for judges; but in reality it is applicable to every important decision in your life especially marriage—it requires study and deliberation; you do not rush into it.
4. Remember that justice commands you to love one that has forsaken all the world for you. One who is contented to be the companion of your labors and sufferings, and be a sharer in all things with you, and that must be your companion until death. [**Matthew 5:32:** *“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”* (**Matthew 19:9**) **1 Corinthians 7:39:** *“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”* **Colossians 3:19:** *“Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”*] **Genesis 2:24:** *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”*
5. Remember that you are under God's command; and to deny marital love to your wives is to deny a duty which God has urgently imposed on you. Obedience therefore should command your love.
6. Remember that you are "one flesh;" you have drawn her to forsake father and mother, and to cleave to you. **Matthew 19:4-5:** *“And he that made them at the beginning...said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”* This comment is found at the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge for the word cleave: “[Proskollao <See definition 4347>,) "shall be cemented to his wife," as the Hebrew davak implies; a beautiful metaphor, forcibly intimating that nothing but death can separate them.”
7. Take more notice of the good that is in your wives than of her faults. Let not the observation of her faults make you forget or overlook her virtues. **1 Corinthians 13:7: Charity** *“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”* **Philippians 2:3:** *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”* And, do I need to remind you of the need of that same effort and necessity for the wife towards the husband? More so, in most cases.
8. Don't magnify her imperfections until they drive you crazy. Excuse them as far as is right in the Lord. Consider the frailty of the sex. Also consider your own infirmities, and how much your wives must bear with you. **Psalm 103:14:** *“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”* **1 Corinthians 13:7:** *“[Charity] beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”*
9. Don't stir up the evil of your spouse, but cause the best in them to be lived out. **Proverbs 10:12:** *“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”*
10. Overcome them with love; and then they will be loving to you, and consequently lovely. Love will cause love, as fire kindleth fire. A good husband is the best means to make a good and loving wife. **Romans 12:21:** *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* **1 Peter 3:14:** *“But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be*

troubled[.]”

11. Live before them the life of a prudent, lowly, loving, meek, self-denying, patient, harmless, holy, and heavenly Christian. [Consult these verses, please: **Ephesians 4:1-2**: “*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love[.]”* **Colossians 1:10**: “*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God[.]*” **1 Thessalonians 2:12**: “*That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”* **Proverbs 11:30**: “*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”* **James 5:19-20**: “*Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”* **1 Peter 3:12**: “*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”*]

The following is prime directive ranking up there with “Husbands, love your wives.” Abhor not only adultery itself, but all that leads to unchasteness and the violation of your marriage covenant. **Matthew 5:27-28**: “*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* **Hebrews 13:4**: “*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”* **Job 31:1** “*I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”* **Psalms 101:3**: “*I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*” **Proverbs 6:25**: “*Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.”* **Proverbs 23:33**: “*Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.”* **James 1:13-15**: “*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”* **Proverbs 22:14**: “*The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.”* **Malachi 2:15**: “*And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.”* **Proverbs 6:32**: “*But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”*

Next prime directive: Husband and wife must delight in the love and company and lives of each other. When husband and wife take pleasure in each other, it unites them in duty, it helps them with ease to do their work, and bear their burdens; and is a major part of the comfort of marriage. **Proverbs 5:18-19**: “*Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; ... and be thou ravished always with her love.”*

Additional prime directive: It is your solemn duty to live in quietness and peace; to avoid every occasion of fierce anger and discord. The following shows the great necessity of avoiding dissension:

The duty of your marriage union requires unity. Can you not agree with your own flesh? **Proverbs 11:17**: “*The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.”* **Ephesians 5:29**: “*For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church[.]”*

Division with your spouse will pain and upset your whole life. Just as you do not wish to hurt your own self and are quick to care for your own wounds; so you should take notice of any break in the peace of your marriage and quickly seek to heal it. [**Ephesians 5:28-30**: “*So ought*

men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”]

Fighting chills love, fighting makes your spouse undesirable to you in your mind. To be tied together through marital bonds while your hearts are estranged is to be tormented. To be inwardly adversaries, while outwardly husband and wife turns your home and delight into a prison. [**Proverbs 19:13**: “A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.” **Proverbs 21:9**: “It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.” **Proverbs 21:19**: “It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.” **Proverbs 25:24**: “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.” **Proverbs 27:15**: “A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.”]

Dissension between the husband and the wife disrupts the whole family life; they are like oxen unequally yoked; no work can be accomplished for all the striving with one another. **2 Corinthians 6:14**: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” [**Deuteronomy 22:10**: “Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.”]

It greatly makes you unfit for the worship of God; you are not able to pray together nor to discuss heavenly things together, nor can you be mutual helpers to each other's souls. [**Matthew 5:23-24**: “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother have ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” **1 Samuel 15:22**: “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”]

Dissension makes it impossible to manage your family properly. [**Matthew 12:25**: “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” (And see **Mark 3:25** and **Luke 11:17**).]

Here are some suggestions on avoiding dissensions--.

Keep alive your love for one another. Love your spouse dearly and fervently. Love will suppress wrath; you cannot be bitter over little things with someone you dearly love; much less will you descend to harsh words, aloofness, or any form of abuse. [See for example: **Psalms 133:1**: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. **Proverbs 15:17**: “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.” **Romans 12:10**: “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” **Romans 14:19**: “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” **Romans 15:1**: “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”] **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**: “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”] These verses are familiar to us as duties to fellow members, and certainly your spouse falls within that group, yes?

Both husband and wife must mortify their pride and strong self-centered feelings. [See for example: **Luke 9:23**: “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” **Psalm 101:5**: “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.” **Proverbs 16:5**: “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.” **Proverbs 21:4**: “An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.” **Proverbs 28:25**: “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.” **Matthew 23:12**: “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.” and **1 Peter 5:6**: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”] These are the feelings which cause intolerance and insensitivity. You must pray and labor for a humble, meek, and quiet spirit. A proud heart is troubled and provoked by every word that seems to assault your self-esteem. [See for example: **Psalm 10:4**: “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.” **Hosea 7:10**: “And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.” **Proverbs 13:10**: “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.” **Proverbs 28:25**: “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.”]

Do not forget that you are both diseased people, full of infirmities; and therefore expect the fruit of those infirmities in each other; and do not act surprised about it, as if you had never known of it before. Decide to be patient with one another; remembering that you took one another as sinful, frail, imperfect persons, and not as angels, or as blameless and perfect. [See for example **Jeremiah 17:9**: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”, **Isaiah 1:6**: “From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.” **Romans 7:24**: “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”, and **1 John 1:8**: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”. **Revelation 3:17**: “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”]

Remember still that you are one flesh; and therefore be no more offended with the words or failings of each other, than you would be if they were your own. Be angry with your wife for her faults no more than you are angry with yourself for your own. Have such an anger and displeasure against a fault, as will work to heal it; but not such as will cause festering and aggravation of the diseased part. This will turn anger into compassion, and will cause you to administer care for the cure. [See for example **Ephesians 4:26**: “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” **Ephesian 5:32**: “This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” and **James 1:19**: “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”]

Agree together beforehand, that when one of you is sinfully angry and upset the other shall silently and gently bear it until you have come to your sanity. **Ephesians 4:2**: “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.” [1 **Corinthian 13:4**: “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”]

Have an eye to the future and remember that you must live together until death, and must be the companions of each other's lives, and the comforts of each other's lives, and then you will see how absurd it is for you to disagree and upset each other. **Ecclesiastes 9:9**: “Live joyfully (Heb. “Enjoy life”) with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.” [Romans 7:2: “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he

liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.”]

As far as you are able, avoid all occasions of wrath and quarreling about the matters of your families. **Genesis 2:24:** *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”*

If you are so angry that you cannot calm yourself at least control your tongue and do not speak hurtful and taunting words; (Do not ventilate your anger as you will only feed your fleshly vengeance). Be silent, and you will much sooner return to your serenity and peace. **Galatians 5:15:** *“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”* [**James 3:5, 6, 8:** *“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth. Behold, how great a matter (or wood) a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course (the Greek is “wheel”) of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ...But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”* (**Psalm 140:3:** *“They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders’ poison is under their lips. Selah.”*)]

Let the calm and rational spouse speak carefully and compellingly reason with the other. Usually a few sober, grave admonition will prove as water to the boiling pot. Say to your angry wife or husband, "You know this should not be between us; love must put it to rest, and it must be repented of. God does not approve of it, and we shall not approve of it when this heat is over. This frame of mind is contrary to a praying frame, and this language contrary to a praying language; we must pray together; let us do nothing contrary to prayer now: sweet water and bitter come not from one spring [**James 3:11**].” Some calm and non-condescending words of reason may stop the torrent, and revive the reason which passion had overcome. **Proverbs 15:18:** *“A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.”* [**Matthew 5:9:** *“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”* **Psalm 85:8:** *“I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.”*]

When you have sinfully acted towards your spouse confess to one another; and ask for forgiveness of each other, and join in prayer to God for pardon; and this will act as a preventative in you the next time. You will surely be ashamed to do that which you have confessed and asked forgiveness for of God and man. **Ephesians 4:32-5:1-2:** *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”* **James 5:16:** *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

One of the most important duties of a husband to his wife and a wife to her husband is to help each other carefully, skillfully, and diligently in the knowledge and worship, and obedience of God that they might be saved. This is not love, when you neglect each other's soul. [**2 Corinthians 2:4:** *“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears: not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.”* **2 Corinthians 12:15:** *“And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.”* **1 Thessalonians 2:8:** *“So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear unto us.”*] Since you believe that you have immortal souls, and an endless life of joy or misery to live, then you must know that your great concern and business is, to care for those souls, and for the endless life of those over whom you have influence. Therefore if your love does not help one another in this, which is your main concern, it is of little worth, and of little use. What then shall we say of them that do not only deny their help, but are hinderers of the holiness and salvation of each other. [**1 Kings 11.4:** *“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods:*

and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God as was the heart of David his father.” **Acts 5:2**: “And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” **Job 2.9**: “Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die.”] And yet how common a thing is this in this untoward generation. (**Acts 2:40**).

Consider these verses that show that the very design of marriage is primarily to help each other’s souls: **Genesis 2:18**: “And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” [1 **Thessalonians 5:11**: “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” **Ephesians 4:16**: “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” **Hebrews 12:15**: “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and therefore many be defiled.” 1 **Corinthians 7:5**: “Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.” **Colossians 2:19**: “And not holding the head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.” **Genesis 35:4**: “And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.” **Leviticus 19:17**: “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.” **Numbers 16:27**: “So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.” **Numbers 16:32**: “And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and their goods.”] 1 **Peter 3:7**: “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, given honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

Therefore without a moment's hesitation determine to live together as heirs of heaven (**1 Peter 3:7**), and to be a helper to one another's souls. To assist you in this holy pursuit I will give you these following directions, which if practiced, may make you to be special blessings to each other:

Before you can help each other's souls you must be sure of your own. You must have a deep and living understanding of the great eternal matters of which you are required to speak to others about, especially your spouse. If you will sell these great eternal matters for a moment of ease or pleasure, can you have compassion for your spouse’s soul? [See these verses: **Genesis 2:18**: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” 2 **Corinthians 13:5**: “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Chris is in you, except ye be reprobates?” **Galatians 6:3**: “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” **Genesis 25:29, 34**: “And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint...Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink and rose up, and went his way, thus Esau despised his birthright.”]

Take every opportunity which your nearness provides to be speaking seriously to each other about the matters of God, and your salvation. See examples here: **Colossians 3:16**: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” **Hebrews 3:13**: “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” **Hebrews 10:24**: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works.” Discussing those things of this world no more than required. “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” **Mark 8:36**.

In light of these verses, it is reasonable to cherish the conversation when the husband or wife is speaking seriously about holy things: **Proverbs 27:7**: “*The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.*” **Proverbs 15:12**: “*A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.*” **Proverbs 15:31-32**: “*The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.*” Husband! Your wife was put on the earth by an Almighty God for this purpose. Wife! Your husband was put on the earth by an Almighty God for this purpose.

Watch over the hearts and lives of one another, judging the condition of each other's souls, and the strength or weakness of each other's sins and graces, and the failings of each other's lives, so that you may be able to apply to one another the most suitable help. What else would this verse mean in the context? **Hebrews 10:24**: “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.*”

Do not flatter one another from a foolish love. Do not be meanly critical of one another. Do all in true, Godly love. See, for example: **Ephesians 4:15**: “*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*” [**Ephesians 4:26-5:9**: “*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children: and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth:)*”]

Do not discourage your spouse from instructing you by refusing to receive and learn from their corrections. **Proverbs 29:1**: “*He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*”

“*The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.*” **2 Timothy 4:13**. Help each other by reading the Bible and the faithful books which help you by expounding upon those things written in the Bible. [And I offer to you **Ephesians 4:11-16** in support of this proposition: “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the statute of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and from, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of the itself in love.*”]

Don't conceal the state of your souls, nor hide your faults from one another. You are as one flesh, and should have one heart: and as it is dangerous for a man to be ignorant of his own soul, so it is very hurtful to

spouse to be ignorant of one another, in those areas where they have need of help. **James 5:16:** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” [**Ephesians 5:27-32:** “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such things; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hates his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”]

Join together in frequent and fervent prayer. Prayer forces the mind into sobriety, and moves the heart with the presence and majesty of God. Pray also for each other when you are in secret, that God may do that work which you most desire, upon each other's hearts. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

Lastly, Help each other by an exemplary life. Be yourself what you desire your husband or wife should be; excel in meekness, and humility, and charity, and dutifulness, and diligence, and self-denial, and patience. [**1 Peter 3:1:** “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands: that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.” **John 13:12:** “So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?” **1 Timothy 4:12:** “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” **1 Corinthians 11:1:** “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” **1 Thessalonians 1:6:** “And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.” **2 Thessalonians 3:7-9:** “For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you. Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought, but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.” **Titus 2:6:** “Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.” **James 3:17:** “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” **2 Peter 1:5-8:** “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”]

Another important duty in marriage is to help in the health and comfort of each other's bodies. Not to pamper or cherish the vices of pride, or sloth (idleness), or gluttony (the two great murderers of mankind); but to increase the health and vigor of the body, making it fit for the service of the soul and God. In health, you must be careful to provide for each other healthy things. [**1 Corinthians 6:19:** “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” **Deuteronomy 21:20:** “And they will say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice, he is a glutton, and a drunkard.” **Proverbs 23:21:** “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall cloth a man with rags.” **Proverbs 19:15:** “Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.” **Proverbs 6:9:** “How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?” **Proverbs 10:4:** “He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.” **2 Thessalonians 3:10:** “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” **Proverbs 19:24:** “A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.” **Proverbs 20:13:** “Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty: open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.” **Proverbs 24:33:** “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.” **Isaiah 56:10:** “His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping lying down, loving to slumber.” **1 Timothy**

5:13: “*And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*”]

Also in sickness, you are to be caring of each other; and not to spare any costs or pains, by which the health of each other may be restored, or your souls confirmed, and your comforts cherished. **Ephesians 5:29:** “*For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.*”

Another duty of husbands and wives is, to be helpful to each other in their worldly business. Not for worldly ends, but in obedience to God, who will have them labor, as well as pray, for their daily bread. [**Proverbs Chapter 31; Titus 2:5:** “*To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*” **1 Timothy 5:14:** “*I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.*” **1 Timothy 5:8:** “*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*” **Genesis 3:19:** “*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return.*” **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12:** “*For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.*”]

Also you must be careful to guard the honor of one another. You must not divulge, but conceal, the failings of each other. The reputation of each other must be as dear to you as your own. Don't discuss among your friends the faults of each other, which you are required in tenderness to cover up. **James 4:11:** “*Speak not evil one of another, brethren, he that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.*” **Proverbs 17:9:** “*He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.*” **1 Peter 4:8:** “*And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*”

It is your marriage duty to assist one another in the education of your children. [**Genesis 18:19:** “*For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*” **Genesis 35:2:** “*Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments.*” **Joshua 24:14:** “*Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.*” **1 Timothy 5:14:** “*I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.*” **Proverbs 31:1:** “*The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.*”]

It is your marriage duty to assist each other in outward charity. [**Hebrews 13:2:** “*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*” **Genesis 18:6:** “*And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.*” **Romans 12:13:** “*Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*” **2 Corinthians 9:6:** “*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*” **Luke 16:9:** “*And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.*” **1 Timothy 3:2:** “*A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.*” **1 Timothy 5:10:** “*Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.*” **Proverbs 11:25:** “*The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*” **Nehemiah 8:10:** “*Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat,*

and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Proverbs 19:17: “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.” Job 29:12: “Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.”] Acts 20:35: “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Last, it is a great duty of husbands and wives, to help and comfort one another in preparing for a safe and happy death. In the time of health, you must often and seriously remind each other of the time when death will make the separation; and live together daily as those that are expecting that parting hour; including reproving everything in one another, and stir up one another to do all without delay which the approach of such a day requires. And when death is at hand, with tenderness, seriousness, skill, and diligence, in the last office of love for you to perform, to the departing soul of so near a friend, to be a most wise, faithful and diligent help. They that live together as the heirs of heaven (**1 Peter 3:8**), and converse on earth as fellow travelers to the land of promise (**Hebrews 11:9**), may help and encourage the souls of one another, and joyfully part at death, as expecting quickly to meet again in life eternal (**John 12:25**). There to sing eternal praise to the most-wise God who provided you all things that pertain to life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**) including that “help meet” (**Genesis 2:18**) for this eternal purpose.

[Deuteronomy 32:29: “*O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!*” **Psalm 39:4:** “*LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.*” **Psalm 90:12:** “*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*” **Romans 14:8:** “*For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.*” **Hebrews 13:14:** “*For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*” **1 Peter 1:17:** “*And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*” **Psalm 3:5:** “*I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.*” **Psalm 37:37:** “*Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*” **Psalm 49:15:** “*But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.*” **Psalm 73:24:** “*Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*” **Psalm 116:15:** “*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*” **Proverbs 14:32:** “*The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.*” **Ecclesiastes 7:1:** “*A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.*” **Luke 16:22:** “*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.*” **Luke 23:43:** “*And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*” **1 Corinthians 15:51-57:** “*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” **2 Corinthians 5:1, 4, and 8:** “*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens...For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life... We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*” **Philippians 1:20-23:** “*According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.*” **1 Thessalonians 5:9-10:** “*For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*” **2**

Peter 1:11,14: *“For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ... Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.”* **Revelation 14:13:** *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”* **Psalms 23:4:** *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*]

I love you. Amen.