

The Doctrine of Love for God

A. Introduction.

Continued ...

C. The True Love of Jesus Christ.

1. Introduction.

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(b) The aggressive, perfect human love of enduring devotion demonstrated the unique power of the spiritual life in two ways on the Cross. First, there was the impeccable, personal, human love for God the Father, so that the human nature of Jesus Christ fulfilled God's plan under the greatest testing of all time. Second, Christ was judged for every sin of every human being in the history of the human race, both believer and unbeliever—the doctrine of unlimited atonement, [Rom 5:6](#); [2 Cor 5:14-15,19](#); [1 Tim 2:8, 4:10](#); [Tit 2:11](#); [Heb 2:9](#); [2 Pet 3:9](#); [1 Jn 2:2](#), “And He is the propitiation as a substitute for our sins and not for ours only but also as a substitute for the sins of the entire world.”

(c) Let us translate the doctrine of unlimited atonement into our Lord's perfect human love for God the Father related to His staying power on the Cross. So perfect was the human love of Jesus Christ for God the Father that He demonstrated the highest degree of staying power in all of human history in two ways. First, He received the imputation of all the sins of human history imputed to Him on the Cross, [1 Pet 2:24](#); [2 Cor 5:21](#). Secondly, Jesus Christ endured the judgment of each sin of human history with the enduring staying power of enduring devotion, [Rom 5:8](#); [Isa 53:5-6](#); [1 Pet 3:18](#), “For Christ also once and for all suffered as a substitute for our sins, the Righteous One as a substitute for the unrighteous ones, in order that He might bring us to God, on the one hand having been put to death in the flesh, but on the other hand made alive by the agency of the Holy Spirit.”

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(2) The power of this true soul love is far greater than anything else in

life. It is available to every believer of the Church Age in the unique post salvation spiritual life which was given to us by our Lord. It is the love of maximum integrity directed toward God. It is a gift from Jesus Christ to everyone of us the moment we believe as one of the thirty-nine irrevocable assets we receive at the moment of salvation. It is the transfer of the prototype spiritual life to the operational type spiritual life for the Church Age only.

(a) Jesus Christ reflects the love of the integrity God the Father in His human nature more than anyone who has ever lived. He did this in the prototype spiritual life and then gave this spiritual life to us as members of His royal family.

(b) [Rom 5:5](#), “And confidence does not disappoint us because the love for God has been poured out in our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

(c) [1 Cor 2:9](#), “And just as it stands written, `Things that the eye has not seen nor the ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

(d) [1 Jn 2:5](#), “Whoever guards His word, truly the love for God has been brought to completion in Him.”

(3) [Jam 1:12](#), “Happy is the person who has staying power [HUPOMENO] under testing, because, when he has passed the test, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” The greatest power in the spiritual life is love. All true human love in history is the monopoly of the soul, so that it is totally compatible with both the righteousness and justice of God and results in the harmonious rapport with God. In the same context we have [Jam 1:2](#), “Think it all joy [pure, unalloyed happiness free from sin and emotion through personal love for God] whenever you encounter various testings.”

(4) [2 Thes 3:5](#), “And may the Lord direct your hearts into love for God even with reference to the staying power of Christ.”

(a) The word “direct” is the Greek verb KATEUTHUNO, which means to make a straight path, to direct something to someone. This is a potential based on the believer executing the spiritual life of the Church Age.

(b) The “heart” refers to the stream of consciousness, the location of the seven compartments of the soul (the frame of reference, memory center, vocabulary storage, categorical storage, conscience, momentum department, wisdom department), where thought is circulated.

(c) Our first concept of love for God is related to the filling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit produces love. As we learn doctrine, we come to the point of personal love for God the Father and eventually occupation with Christ.

(d) The “Lord” is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ in His hypostatic union who produces the action of directing our thoughts into personal love for God the Father and into the same staying power which He had on the Cross. Jesus Christ directs your heart, your thinking into the same love for God the Father which our Lord had as a human being in hypostatic union.

(e) The noun HUPOMONE means “endurance” or “staying power.” The staying power of Christ refers to everything our Lord did from rejecting the temptation to sin in the desert to the point of staying on the Cross and being judged as a substitute for us. The staying power of Jesus Christ on the Cross is a demonstration of the perfect human love of Jesus Christ from His human nature in hypostatic union directed toward God the Father.

(f) We have been given at the moment of faith in Christ as one of the thirty-nine irrevocable assets the same potential for this staying power in true love developed in the soul. You do not have true love in your soul until you have true love for God. It is the execution of the unique spiritual life of the Church Age. It is reflected in the love which the husband and wife have for each other in [Eph 5:22ff](#). This love is the only love which is totally compatible with the love of the integrity of God.

(g) The staying power of the Cross endured both imputation and judgment of all sins in human history. The staying power of Jesus Christ was motivated by perfect human personal love for God the Father, and perfect human impersonal love for all mankind. He had enduring devotion and respect. He responded to the imputation of our sins with love, respect, dedication, esteem for the Father, consideration and partiality for God the Father. All of this was thought in His stream of consciousness.

(h) The prototype spiritual life of the human nature of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union was motivated by this true love.

(5) [2 Cor 5:14-15](#), “For the love of Christ motivates us; having reached this conclusion, namely that One died as a substitute for all, therefore all died; in fact He died as a substitute for all, that they who live no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died as their substitute and rose again.”

(a) The phrase “The love of Christ” is a subjective genitive rather than an objective genitive (which would be translated “the love for Christ”). We are talking about the love from the human nature of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union.

(b) The Greek verb SUNECHO means to sustained, to hold together, to be occupied with, to absorb in, to urged on, to impel, to be motivated. The love of Jesus Christ motivates us. How does the love of Christ motivate us? By going back to the Cross and seeing how Jesus Christ utilized the spiritual life that makes love the greatest power and the greatest dynamics spiritually that has ever existed. The gnomic present tense makes a statement of general, timeless fact. It happens in every general. The love of Christ motivates us without time limits throughout the Church Age. We are motivated to attain the love which our Lord had for God the Father in His humanity.

(c) The fact that our Lord died as a substitute for all is a reference to His staying power, His personal love for God the Father, which motivated Him to remain on the Cross and be judged for every sin. When anyone rejects Jesus Christ as savior, they are rejecting the love of Christ.

(d) Believers never execute the spiritual life because they are living for themselves and what they can get out of life by way of entertainment and stimulation. If you live for yourself, the love of Christ will never motivate you.

(6) [Jam 1:22-25](#), “But become doers of the word, and not hearers only, constantly deceiving themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer [carnal believers], he is like a person who observes his natural face in a mirror; for once he glances at himself, then off he goes, and immediately he forgets what sort of a person he was. But he who looks intently into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has persisted, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of accomplishment, he will be happy in what he does.”

(a) A doer of the word is a believer who metabolizes Bible doctrine. Metabolization of doctrine is how the mirror of Bible doctrine is formed in the soul. A hearer of the word is someone who gives the teaching of the word of God a hearing and reject it. Therefore, there is no metabolization of that doctrine. Rejection of Bible doctrine results in self-deception.

(b) If we do not develop this mirror through Bible doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness, we will fail.

g. The aggressive true love of enduring devotion our Lord Jesus

Christ for God the Father resulted in the decision to receive the imputation of all personal sins on the Cross. The responsive true love of respect for God the Father motivated our Lord to receive the judgment of those sins. The result is stated in one phrase in [2 Cor 5:21](#), “He made Him who knew no sin to become sin as a substitute for us, with the result that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Christ had to be made sin by imputation. But He retained His perfection while bearing our sins and being judged for them.

6. The Decisions of the Impeccable Human Nature of Jesus Christ on the Cross Related to His Substitutionary Atonement.

- a. Two decisions are based on the imputation of all human sins to Christ on the Cross and the judgment of all human sins in Christ on the Cross.
 - b. The imputation of all human sins to the impeccable human nature of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union required impersonal love for all mankind in His status of spiritual death.
 - c. The judgment of all human sins by God the Father required our Lord to have personal love for God the Father as the judge and never become bitter.
 - d. No one is fulfilling the spiritual life until he has personal love for God the Father and impersonal love for all mankind.
 - e. The aggressive true love of enduring devotion for God the Father resulted in the decision to receive the imputation of every sin in human history.
 - f. The responsive true love of enduring respect for God the Father resulted in receiving the judgment of every sin in human history.
7. There are three great powers of human love as found in the word of God.

- a. The power of the human love of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union loved God the Father so much that He not only received the imputation of every sin in human history and its judgment, but He stayed on the Cross until that judgment was finished.
- b. The potential power of human love in the Church Age believer as a result of the transfer of the prototype spiritual life invented, tested, and utilized in the dispensation of the hypostatic union and then given to the Church Age believer.
- c. The power of human love in the Christian institution of marriage as a part of the corporate testimony of the Prosecution in the rebuttal phase of Satan’s appeal trial.
- d. In each case, this harmonious combination of power occurs in two

categories, resulting in maximum glorification of God.

(1) The greatest manifestation of this dynamic human love occurred at the Cross, when the human nature of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union received the imputation and judgment of all of our sins, resulting in eternal salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. He used both aggressive and responding love.

(2) In every case, this dynamic love in two categories (aggressive and responding) combines or originates in the soul of certain categories of mankind.

(a) The soul of the human nature of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union, [Rom 5:8](#).

(b) The soul of the Church Age believer who executes the unique spiritual life of the Church Age, [1 Pet 1:8](#).

(c) In Christian marriage, the soul of the husband with emphasis on aggressive love of enduring devotion and the soul of the wife with emphasis on responsive love of respect. In the function of Christian marriage two subcategories must be recognized.

i. The husband is under the divine mandate to have aggressive love for his wife. In the husband's spiritual life directed toward God, the Christian husband also has a strong responsive love toward God called respect. Most Christians do not have respect for God.

ii. The wife is under the divine mandate of responsive love or respect for her husband and obedience to his authority. At the same time in her spiritual life directed toward God, the wife has strong aggressive love toward God in enduring devotion to perception of doctrine.

(d) Therefore, in the believer's love for God as a major part of spiritual dynamics, we follow the colors in two ways. We are aggressive in our love toward God through perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine; hence, enduring devotion. We are responsive in our love toward God by obedience to the word of God.

D. True Love In Marriage—Corporate and Personal Testimony.

1. [1 Cor 2:16](#) says, "For who has known the thinking of the Lord that we should instruct Him? But we have the thinking of Christ."

a. We will spend our entire lifetime on this earth learning and understanding, and growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, because He has provided for us His very own thinking. The very idea that we can understand what the Lord Jesus Christ thinks and that which has been recorded in the Scripture as His thinking is in itself phenomenal.

b. The Corinthian believers had learned a little doctrine and they thought they knew it all. As a result, in their blasphemy they were guilty of trying to teach the Lord.

c. The thinking of Christ is recorded in the New Testament epistles. No believer is capable of any kind of love which is mandated for the spiritual life apart from the thinking of Christ. Love is a part of thinking in the soul. It is not emotion.

d. The mandates that are given to us with regard to Christian marriage cannot be fulfilled apart from love for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and that love only comes when we possess in our soul the thinking of Christ. No Christian ever has true love in his soul for God unless he has true love circulating in the stream of consciousness, and that comes through perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine.

2. Principles.

a. The power of the human love of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union is the potential power of human love in every Church Age believer. This is a part of the heritage of the Church Age.

b. The potential power of human love in the Church Age believer is the result of the transfer of the prototype spiritual life that Jesus Christ invented, tested, and proved throughout the dispensation of the hypostatic union, especially on the Cross.

(1) This power was illustrated when Jesus Christ was on the Cross and God the Father called for the printout of all the sins of human history and imputed them to Jesus Christ for judgment. Our made the decision to receive the imputation of all of the sins of human history. He received the imputation and judgment of these sins.

(2) This is the greatest spiritual function of all human history, and it came from the very spiritual life which He invented and has given to us as Church Age believers. This spiritual life is exceedingly abundantly above anything we could ever ask for or think. The spiritual life is a system of thinking. So who has known this thinking of Lord? Anyone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and has exposed themselves to the teaching with regard to the greatest spiritual life that ever existed.

(3) Every mandate we have requires the filling of the Spirit and personal love for God.

c. This love comes in two categories: enduring devotion and respect. Every believer has the potential for enduring devotion, which is the aggressive part of true love, and respect, which is the responding part

of true love.

(1) You cannot ever commit any kind of a sin and at the same time have respect for God.

(2) Therefore, as we grow in grace and as we have respect for God and give Him deference, admiration, honor, esteem, consideration, and partiality, then when we face certain temptations, we will resist those temptations and continue our spiritual advance.

d. While enduring devotion is demanded of the man in marriage, respect as part of the same true love package is demanded of the woman. Respect is just as strong a love as enduring devotion. The Greek word AGAPE describes these two concepts of true love.

(1) The husband is responsible for the aggressive part of true love—enduring devotion. The wife is responsible for the responding part of true love—respect.

(2) We cannot execute all of the mandates related to marriage ([Eph 5:22-33](#)) unless we have both categories of love for God.

3. Christian marriage is the peak of the prehistoric, angelic conflict; for it is the only argument, which Satan did not deal with during the Old Testament. Satan appealed his sentence to the lake of fire. In the Old Testament every argument of Satan is answered except why Adam and the woman were not condemned to the lake of fire as a couple after they sinned. The answer is found in the corporate testimony of Christian marriage during the Church Age.

4. The souls of the husband and wife have true love in two categories, which are the two categories of AGAPE love.

a. He has aggressive love or enduring devotion, which includes intensive love, enduring loyalty, consecration, and dedication.

Simultaneously he develops respect for God, which includes deference, admiration, honor, esteem, consideration, and partiality.

b. The soul of the husband emphasizes aggressive love or enduring devotion. The soul of the wife emphasizes responsive love of respect.

c. In the function of Christian marriage, there are two subcategories of true love—enduring devotion and respect. For soul rapport in Christian marriage, the husband is under the divine mandate of aggressive love. This is his corporate responsibility.

d. In his spiritual life directed toward God, the Christian husband also has a strong responsive love toward God called respect by obedience to the word of God. Personal love for God the Father and occupation with Christ come out of the application of respect for God. Whenever certain temptations come along, it is always respect for God which

causes you to say “no.” If you do not have respect for God at the point of temptation, then you will instantly change your values, commit the sin, and enter a frantic search for happiness.

e. For soul rapport in Christian marriage, the wife is under a divine mandate to obey and respect her husband. This is her corporate responsibility. The husband has the authority in the Christian institution of marriage.

f. In her spiritual life directed toward God, the Christian wife has enduring devotion to the word of God.

g. Both husband and wife have the potential for each one of these categories of true love. The husband, who has aggressive love toward his wife, must also have respect for God. The wife, who has respect for her husband, must also have aggressive love toward God. Each has an equality in the spiritual life of equal privilege and equal opportunity. Both categories of love are directed toward God. This is the staying power of the spiritual life, just as these mandates are the staying power of Christian marriage.

h. Staying power is the greatest power in the spiritual life, and it is always related to love. Love has a dynamic that this world has never understood.

5. Individual responsibility belongs to every believer in the execution of the spiritual life of the Church Age. The development of spiritual love is the greatest power in the spiritual life. For the believer's love for God as a major part of spiritual dynamics, we follow the colors in two ways:

a. We are aggressive in our love toward God through perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine. That is the staying power of the spiritual life.

b. We are responsible in our love toward God by obedience to the word of God, including rebound ([1 Jn 1:9](#)) when necessary, and changes in our modus vivendi which are incompatible and non-productive both to our spiritual life and the fulfillment of the objective which God has given us for keeping us in this life—to glorify Him.

6. The Doctrine of Corporate Responsibility.

a. Introduction.

(1) Three Principles of Corporate Responsibility.

(a) Corporate responsibility is for the Church Age believer only.

(b) Corporate responsibility is related to the extrapolation of Christian marriage from the divine institution of marriage. Therefore, it is unique to the Church Age.

(c) It is related to the two divine mandates for love in marriage. Hence, the existence of two categories of true love in the soul (true love is always found in the soul, not in the body)—enduring devotion and respect. In marriage, enduring devotion and respect are separated and become a corporate responsibility. Satan has no answer for this and it breaks the back of Satan in his appeal trial. God makes His point in every generation with these PLEROMA believers in marriage.

(2) In the creation of rational creatures, God always provides a system or a multi-system of authority.

(3) Marriage is no exception. In Christian marriage, the husband has authority over the wife, and in family, the parents have authority over the children. When this is exercised properly, then the next generation has a chance. Where there is failure in the proper exercise of authority by parents, then the next generation has little or no chance. This is the problem of the fourth generation curse.

(4) The authority of the Christian husband over the wife is not demeaning. It was never designed to be a system of bullying or a system of arrogance on the part of the man. This authority is necessary for the survival and blessing to the nation and to the human race in general. This is why God has provided both nations and their boundaries, [Acts 17:26](#), “And He made from mankind every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.” God decides how long a nation or a race is going to survive.

b. The Doctrine of Christian Responsibility in Christian Marriage.

(1) This doctrine is pertinent to the unique post salvation spiritual life of the Church Age. This doctrine is pertinent to equality of husband and wife in the execution of their own spiritual life. We have a system of authority and the husband is the leader. His authority comes in the greatest possible leadership. His aggressive love for God is translated into his aggressive love for his wife. There is no bullying in this system of leadership. He has an aggressive love for God, and when he marries, his wife will respect him because of the way in which he utilizes his authority.

(2) The husband’s authority over the wife is related to the corporate testimony part of the rebuttal phase of Satan’s appeal trial. Each one has a spiritual life, and they both have equal privilege and opportunity to execute their spiritual life. Both are under personal responsibility to

execute the unique spiritual life of the Church Age.

(3) There is equality of husband and wife in Christian marriage under personal responsibility to execute the unique spiritual life of all human history. There is corporate responsibility in marriage related to the rebuttal phase of the prehistoric angelic conflict. The husband is responsible to use aggressive love of enduring devotion to his wife and responding love of respect for the word of God. These are potentials for the spiritual life and absolutely necessary to execute the spiritual life.

(4) The wife is responsible for responsive love of respect for the authority of the husband. [Eph 5:22](#) says, “Wives obey your husbands as to the Lord.” This means that the wife must have an aggressive love for God in order to have a responsive love toward her husband. No wife can execute this command unless she has both categories of love (enduring devotion and respect) for the Lord. The wife will only do this effectively if she has both categories of love directed toward God. If she does not have both categories of love directed toward God, she will never have respect for her husband.

(5) The amplification of [Eph 5:22](#) is in verse 24, “But as the Church is subordinate to Christ, so also wives are under the authority of your husbands in everything.” The Church becomes subordinate to Christ by the execution of the spiritual life through the metabolization of Bible doctrine. This almost sounds like slavery, but not when there are the two categories of true love involved. When there is love on the part of the husband, there is respect on the part of the wife, [Eph 5:33](#), “In any case however, you husbands also, each one of you individually must love his own wife even as himself, and the wife see to it that she respects her own husband.”

(a) The husband is given the strongest possible command that he must lead the way, reach a personal sense of destiny, and have spiritual self-esteem.

(b) The wife is commanded in a more subtle way to do exactly the same thing. The woman is commanded just as strongly, but in a more subtle and refined way with a more gentle tone.

(6) The Christian husband now must execute aggressive love for God, which is enduring devotion. Aggressive love is vigorous initiative in persistence in perception, metabolization, and application of epignosis doctrine in the stream of consciousness. The husband’s enduring devotion advances from spiritual self-esteem to occupation with the person of Christ, which provides the motivation for his

intense love for his wife. The wife responds with deference and admiration. His enduring devotion to God becomes the staying power for his loyalty and faithfulness to his wife, so that the wife responds by honoring her husband. Therefore, his consecration of her matches her esteem of him. His enduring devotion results in responding love in her soul of partiality and consideration of him.

(a) The husband must develop respect for God as well enduring devotion for his wife, because this is the only way he will stay out of temptations that will destroy the marriage. The same is true for the wife. She must have fantastic love for God, because that is the greatest power to resist temptation.

(b) The husband developing respect for God and the wife developing enduring devotion for God is the only way they will keep bitterness out of marriage.

7. Why Christian Marriages Fail and the Solutions.

a. Marriage is a private matter between the husband, the wife, and the Lord. You never pray for a person's personal problems, because personal problems are dwelt with by the problem solving devices and not by prayer. If you have personal problems as a part of spiritual testing, they should never be mentioned to others. Private problems are private and personal.

b. Failure to execute the unique spiritual life of all human history is the basis for failure in Christian marriage. Disillusion results in either to husband or wife or both falling in love with someone outside of the marital bond, which is forbidden in Scripture. The result is the failure to fulfill the divine commandments of [Eph 5:22, 24-25, 33](#). How do you handle this? If you have that staying power of personal love for God when you are tempted to enter into fornication or adultery, then to enter into that sin you have to ignore Jesus Christ entirely. You have no love for the Lord at that moment; you are not occupied with Christ. [Heb 13:4](#), "Marriage must be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed must be undefiled. For you see, God will judge fornicators and adulterers." Adultery and bitterness are the worst sins related to marriage and destroy marriages. They are severely judged by the supreme court of heaven.

c. The temptation to fornication and adultery becomes a sin because the believer does not respect God. As you grow in grace you develop respect for God. Respect for God is far more powerful than the temptation to commit adultery or fornication. Adultery and fornication is a malfunction of the spiritual life when the temptation becomes a

sin, because the believer has no respect, no esteem, no consideration, and no partiality toward God. A person's love for another human being outside of marriage has become greater than their love for God. Therefore, respect, esteem, consideration, and partiality are directed toward pseudo-love, and results in horrible punishment from the supreme court of heaven. Under these conditions you never attain spiritual self-esteem with its capacity for loving God and staying power in marriage. David failed in the advanced stages of his spiritual life because of this problem. His enduring devotion to God was gone until he came to his senses and rebounded.

d. When there is a failure on the part of a spouse in Christian marriage, the other spouse has the option of impersonal love toward the failing spouse to execute the divine mandate for Christian marriage. Two solutions are immediately available: the spouse who fails has the option to rebound and keep moving, the spouse who does not fail has the option to continue personal love for God in motivation and impersonal love for the spouse who failed. This follows the pattern and the precedence of our Lord's spiritual dynamics and staying power while receiving the imputation and judgment of all sins on the Cross.

(1) The impersonal love solution toward the failing spouse must be implemented by personal love for God. The impersonal love solution directed toward the spouse follows the staying power of Jesus Christ on the Cross receiving the imputation and judgment of all sins. The primary solution is always the dynamics of human nature of Jesus Christ directed toward God the Father during the dispensation of the hypostatic union with emphasis on the Cross. A simultaneous solution is the dynamics of the impersonal love of the human nature of Jesus Christ directed toward the entire human race.

(2) The prototype spiritual life of the human nature of Jesus Christ was motivated by His personal love for God the Father to perpetuate His impeccability in the face of every possible category of temptation that could ever exist. He went beyond this capability, and on the Cross He endured something far greater than we can even imagine. The power of personal love for God the Father carried our Lord up to the pinnacle of resistance to temptation when He received the imputation of our sins and their judgment.

e. When a believer marries an unbeliever, the equality factor of the spiritual life is no longer applicable. A mixed marriage is a marriage

where one spouse is a believer and the other spouse is an unbeliever. A Christian marriage requires both spouses to be believers in Christ. A mixed marriage is not part of the corporate testimony. The believer in a mixed marriage is qualified for personal testimony against Satan but not for corporate testimony.

(1) Mixed marriages are prohibited by divine mandate. [2 Cor 6:14-16](#), “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness [believer] and lawlessness [unbeliever] have in common, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony is there between Christ and Beliar [worthlessness, referring to both Satan and the Man of Sin of 2 Thes], or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’”

(a) If a woman marries an unbelieving man, she has equal privilege and opportunity to execute the spiritual life, but her husband as an unbeliever has no such equality with his wife. But he is sanctified through his wife for blessing in the marriage, if she does not become bitter. There can never be perfect harmony between a believer and unbeliever in marriage.

(b) To deliberately get into a marriage with an unbeliever is a temptation, and occurs because you have no love or respect for Jesus Christ.

(c) There is no corporate testimony in a mixed marriage.

(2) The exceptions to the mixed marriage principle is found in [1 Cor 7:13-16](#), “Now if a woman has an unbelieving husband, and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified [set apart for blessing] through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever divorces, let him divorce; the brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances, but God has called us to live in tranquility. For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?”

(a) The word “sanctified” here refers to being set apart for blessing by association with the believing spouse who has reached spiritual maturity. It does not refer to being saved by being married to a believer.

(b) The children being unclean means the gospel is in the home, doctrine is in the home, and doctrinal application is in the home. Therefore, there is blessing by association to the children and often the children become believers.

(3) [1 Cor 7:32-34a](#), [35](#), “I would like you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. ... I am saying this for your own benefit; not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.” A divided believer never advances in the spiritual life. If the Lord is not first in our relationships, then we are in for distraction and discipline.

8. Marriage in the Garden of Eden Compared to Christian Marriage of the Church Age.

- a. The first thing that happened in perfect environment after the creation of the woman was marriage. Marriage was the thing that Satan saw was going to be the major issue of all human history. Marriage was to become the final testimony, a corporate testimony, against Satan.
- b. The man and the woman had perfect coalescence of souls, which came from a perfect love, and this perfect love was the first challenge to Satan. He had to destroy the marriage and the coalescence of souls along with the true meaning of sex, which would condemn him.
- c. Marriage was the first legal function and the most important legal function in the Garden. God designed marriage from the beginning as the only way the human race could survive to the end of time in the prehistoric angelic conflict. From marriage would come evangelism, and from evangelism would come the spiritual life, and from the spiritual life would come the testimony that would break the back of Satan.
- d. This marriage was destroyed by the volition of both the woman and the man. The first marriage had to go through a sin and failure and the perpetuation through marriage of the witnesses for the Prosecution.
- e. Marriage had to be taken out of its relationship for all mankind, which is still operational, and be related to the spiritual life of the Church Age because the staying power of the spiritual life of Jesus Christ on the Cross was given to Christian marriage to break the back of Satan forever.
- f. When a husband and wife fulfill this concept of Christian marriage,

they fulfill a principle that destroys Satan. In every generation there are always a few believers in Christian marriage who testified against Satan as PLEROMA believers.

g. It takes Christian marriage for us to understand that the personal love for God the Father, which Jesus Christ had on the Cross has two different categories. They are both mentioned and mandated in marriage because marriage was the original issue when mankind was created to resolve the prehistoric angelic conflict.

h. Therefore, Jesus Christ gave to His royal family this fantastic spiritual life the greatest staying power, which has ever existed. The mandates to the husband and the mandates to the wife are the two categories of this staying power. Personal love for God the Father is the only way that in Christian marriage the husband and wife are going to obey their mandates.

(1) The husband is able to love his wife as Christ loved the Church under the principle of enduring devotion.

(2) The wife is able to obey her husband as unto the Lord under the principle of the responsive love of respect.

i. Impersonal love is the solution to failure of a partner in marriage. If one fails, the other can succeed under impersonal love for all mankind. As a result, sharing the happiness of God becomes the greatest happiness that could ever exist and leads to occupation with Christ.