



The Role of the Husband
February 14, 2019

Verses Covered

1 Timothy 3:12
1 Peter 3:7
Colossians 3:19
2 Samuel 1:25 – 26

Alright, gentlemen. We're going to take two weeks. We're going to look at our roles as husbands. Now it's going to take two weeks to do that because we're basically crappy. We're going to look at a couple verses and then I want to explain the difficulty. The Bible does not assume good things about us as husbands. Go to 1 Timothy 3:12. The Bible assumes we're really not going to be good and I want to address today what causes that. Then we'll look next week at what the solution is that requires probably great effort on your part, whether you want to do it or not.

¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

He's going to say the same thing to the overseer. Literally, the Greek means a man of one woman. In other words, your first priority once you marry is the only woman you look at, the only woman you lust after, the only woman you are emotionally connected with is your wife. You are, in the Bible, a three-part person: body, soul, and spirit. Now they interrelate. It's very difficult to see where they connect and don't connect and disconnect in your life. The Bible says in the Old Testament; the soul of Jonathan was knit together with the soul of David. This is where we connect with each other emotionally. Obviously, this is going to be inside our walk with Christ. And then physically how we respond to each other. This is more than just sex. Now all three of these are here. He talks about the fact that I'm to make sure that I never touch another woman and I never emotionally connect with another woman. And I actually never deeply spiritually join with another woman. I don't pray alone with another woman. I make sure that my life in all three areas is centered inside the woman who took my name.

Now that is difficult. Go over to 1 Peter 3:7. Here's what he says:

⁷Likewise husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life so that your prayers may not be hindered.

One of those verses of scripture you're not going to be able to live out.

He says I'm to understand and I'm to understand that she is weaker. And therefore I live with her based on that so that my prayers work. Obviously, if I don't do this, my prayers don't work. I mean that's the clear definition of scripture. So I have to understand that she's weaker. Now, this is not, obviously no matter who this chick is that's trying to play NFL football, I don't care who that is, they're weaker physically, but they are substantially weaker in their soul. Now I want to walk you through some of that today. This is where we have our deepest struggle. And they are weaker and we have to understand how they are. And then we have to live with them understanding the difference here so that we don't lose our walk with Jesus Christ.

Now go to Colossians 3:19. This is the assumption that we're going to be which is why the Bible condemns it. It says:

¹⁹Husbands, you love your wives. Do not be harsh with them.

So I don't have the right to be harsh. And the assumption then is that I will be. That I'm going to be harsh with her. I'm going to be mean to her. I'm going to be curt, terse, difficult, because of the fact that she is weaker and this is going to be a problem for me. And so my reaction to her is going to be harsh because she is not the way I am. Now one last verse. I'll read it quickly. 2 Samuel 1:25 – 26. David's best friend has died (Jonathan). And this is what he writes which the homosexual community has tried to borrow. It says:

²⁵How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain on your high places. ²⁶I'm distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me. Your love to me was extraordinary surpassing the love of women.

I think what he's referencing is that Jonathan was easier to love and relate to than his wives were. So I want to walk you through some of the differences here. And then next week we're going to look at how to fix this as best we can. You really can't fix it, but more of how to deal with it. But you've got to understand that you and your wife are, I'm just going to walk you through all the places you're probably going to be different here. Once in a while, a man and a woman are reversed. But there's always at least a reversal. Now my son had been married about 2 weeks and he comes home, we're at Bass Pro, we're walking around. And he goes, "Dad, can I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure." He said, "So Courtney and I are at home. We've just gotten home from vacation. I'm working on the TV set. I'm focused on that. She comes in the room and she goes, 'Are you OK?'" He said, "What do you mean am I OK?" "Well is everything alright? You're not mad about anything?" He said, "No." She said, "We haven't been talking." He said, "Courtney, I'm working on the TV set." "OK." So she leaves the room. So my son said, "Dad, was mom ever like that?" I said, "Oh, son. One of the worst moments in my life..... And it really is true. I'm going to give you four books to read. One of them, and you need to read these four.

I use them in my premarital. One of them is Waffles and Spaghetti. That is the best book ever written about men and women. Because men do live in boxes and women are spaghetti. I told him, "Yeah, we'd be driving down the road and I'm thinking, 'Man I've got my life. I've got my truck, my tunes, and my woman.'" And I'm driving down the road. It's good. And then here it comes. "What are you thinking about?" Well, I'm a man. I live in boxes. She's spaghetti. Everything is connected to her. It's not to me. I go box to box and I have some boxes, and they are never going to believe this about you, I have boxes that are completely empty. There's nothing in there. And I'm in there real content. So I'm in my empty box driving down the road and she goes, "What are you thinking about?" And so I'm honest. I go, "Nothing." So now she's mad because she assumes I'm thinking about something and I just don't want to share it with her. So my son said, "Dad how did you deal with that?" I said, "Well, son, what I did you can't do." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Well, I got to be honest. I lied to your mother. I got so tired of it that finally one day we're driving down the road and she asked me and I said, 'Well I'll tell you, Peg, I'm working on a sermon in my mind.'" And the great thing was two things happened. She shut up and started praying for me." So it was really good from that angle. I said, "But you're not going to be able to do that. So just do the best you can." So you're going to have to deal with the fact that she really is spaghetti and everything is connected. That's why your wife will go into details that you just want to blow your brain out about. I remember I was talking to a couple and the wife had just come home from a trip. Boy, those are the moments when you get all of it. She had just come home from a trip and the 12-year-old son was in the room. And she started telling her husband about the trip and the motel and the carpet and the drapes and all this stuff. She'd run through all these details. They had dinner at this place and she started describing the tablecloths and all of a sudden the 12-year-old went, "Dad, she's even going to talk about the color of the tablecloths." Even at 12 years old he was beginning to realize the horror of dealing with a woman because they are in and will go into details because they're spaghetti. It's how they stress relieve. I stress relieve by getting in another box. I go out a shoot a pistol. I can play golf. I can go to the deer lease. I just have to get into another box. I can watch a football game. They don't do that. They stress relieve by sharing all the details of an issue. The problem is, and that's how they vent/stress relieve, the problem with their venting is at one point, you're going to look at her and go, "Baby, I can fix it. If you do these three things, you'll be fine." Well, that's when you get the real butt-chewing. And then you keep your mouth shut and then someday she'll go, "Why aren't you telling me what you feel?" "Well the last time I told you, I was in trouble." Let me encourage you to go home and google up a video. It's the greatest video ever. The husband with wife with nail in head. You need to get that video. It's this couple. She's got a nail in her head. And she's complaining about headaches and different things. And he's going, "You know, baby, I think if you took the nail out." "I don't want to talk about the nail in my head! I'm talking about..." And you realize that's your wife. So understand. They vent and you're going to have to deal with it. Because of that, they don't view anything the way you view it. They think differently about clothes. They'll worry. They'll ask you, "Do I look fat in these?" And I'm just going to tell you something and you can just think I'm unholy. But there are times you've got to lie. You just don't be honest and go, "Baby, you really do look fat in that." It's not worth the pain of the truth that's going to come for the rest of your life. So just do what you've got to do.

They are totally different. I mean you and your wife are different in virtually every category. Just think of movies. I mean they love chick flicks. I hate those things. Now if they're funny, I can halfway tolerate it. But the last time we were going to a movie, a chick flick, there were four or

five couples going with us. And right before we walked out the door, my wife looked at me and said, "Alright, here are the rules tonight. You may not sigh out loud. You may not roll your eyes. You may not look at your watch. And you may not make funny comments that you think are funny that make people in the theater laugh." I said, "Well there's no point in me going, is there." That didn't work out well.

You're different in the way you communicate. You put four women at a table and you leave them for two hours. When you come back they will know everything about each other's families. You put four guys at a table and leave them, number one, they're not staying for two hours. Number two, they'll know about who the best quarterback in the Super Bowl is. We are not the same as them and when you talk to a woman, they want, and I can't do this with men, they want eye contact. I mean they want you to focus just right on where they are. We don't do that at the deer lease. We don't look at each other. Ed and I, we don't do that. We're all around the fire, you're kicking logs on the fire, and once in a while, you'll say something that actually has some sort of value. But you're not looking at each other eye-ball to eye-ball. They want that. After about three minutes, I'm blowing my brains out. So you've got this huge difference in these areas. So you're waffles and spaghetti. There's nothing you can do about that and you've got to address that. Then you have what's known as love language differences. Now I know this sounds goofy to a bunch of men. And I hated this stuff, but I'm telling you this is true. There really are different love languages. If you love your wife and yours but not hers, you're going to find yourself absolutely failing. There are acts of service, there's gift giving, there are words of affirmation, there is physical touch, and then there is quality time. Now you're generally a couple of these. And most of the time what's going to happen, and we're going to look at some personality in a minute, you're going to marry the opposite of what you are. A lot of times, you're going to have the opposite love languages. I shared with you early on when we were talking about the role of the Spirit in your life. I flew to Midland and talked to Dennis about the woman he was in love with and leaving his wife. I can't remember if I shared the rest of this story. His love language was gift giving. Hers was not even close to that. So when he got rid of the other woman and he wanted to make his relationship with his wife right, he wanted to start over. They were fixing to head to North Carolina to pastor and they wanted to start over. So what he did, because his love language is gift giving, he went out, they didn't have much money, but he bought a really nice emerald ring. And he had it set and they go to dinner and he takes it out and he hands it to her and he says, "Look I want to start our marriage over." For him, it was a tender moment. She opened it up, it's not her language, she opened it up and looked at it and said, "Listen, you shouldn't have spent this money. This is not what makes me love." Well, it crushed him. He's a big Italian guy, and I'm not excusing him at all so don't misunderstand me, but that moment crushed him in a way that he never got past. I don't want to say this in a coarse way, but he wound up going to North Carolina and his wife who looked like she came off the cover of Vogue magazine, he left her for a lady that was just not even close to that. I sat with his kids who were 14 and 13 at the time who begged me to get dad not to leave mom. He left the ministry and he left his wife because this lady who was not, I mean just at a coarse level, was not at all beautiful compared to his wife. But he left her for her because she met his language in a way his wife never did. And he never met his wife's language. I have people in my office where the wife says, "I don't feel loved." And the husband says, "I've done everything I can." And that's probably both are true. You've got to love your wife in the way she feels it. So I would encourage you to get this book. There's a book on love languages. Now there is one he doesn't have which I really believe which is teasing. That's mine.

The problem is my wife is words of affirmation. It's not a good combo. So this works a couple days and all of a sudden the fifth day my wife's mad and I'm trying to figure out why it worked Tuesday but doesn't work Wednesday. So you've got to figure out what these are. I'm telling you, Gary Smalley wrote this book. I would get it. I would give it to your wife. She'll love the fact that you're trying to connect with her. Anything for sex. I'll get to that in a minute. So I would definitely try to figure out what her love language is. One of the best ways to know is what does she do to you? What does she try to do for you? My wife would affirm me. It took me years to figure out. She would call me during the day and bother me. I mean she would call me on the phone, this is way before internet days, cell phones. She'd call me on the phone in the middle of the day and say, "Hey, just wanted to tell you I love you." And I'm like, "Honey, I am busy. I do not have time for this stuff." Well, that was stupid. So I would look at what she does to you and figure out because this really is accurate. And if you don't love her in the way she feels it, you can pour your heart out and it's not going to work.

Now, you have personality differences. Generally, you're going to marry the opposite of what you are. Now there are a couple personalities. The guy that actually discovered these is Hippocrates. He figured these out.

Melancholy

They're detailed. Keep lists. Check them off. Everything in its place; there's a place for everything. These are not absolute. There are varying degrees of these. I've had some women that when kids come kind of give a little bit of this up. I had a lady, she and her husband, she came through Central, as a matter of fact, she's the one that called me on her wedding day at 7:30 and said, "I can't do it." She'd been dating him 8 years. So I stood at the church and told people they weren't getting married; nobody believed me. I finally got tired of nobody believing me and the last three families that came, wedding was at 2:00, they showed up at 1:30. And I said, "Yeah, they're not getting married here, they changed it. They've gone to 1st Baptist Bryan. If you'll go down Texas and hang a right, you'll get there." She was so melancholy that, and a lot of times, I've learned to ask certain questions, one of the questions I ask is, "Are their cans in your kitchen cabinet with all the labels facing the same way." And this lady said, "Yeah, and they're even alphabetized." Now that is just perverted.

Phlegmatic

These are the people that are really nice. Everybody likes them. They hate conflict. They are the most dangerous of the personalities. They hate conflict and because of that, I've been doing particularly the personalities now for 32 years. And I made a horrifying discovery. The people that are phlegmatic are the people that seem like they would be the easiest person to marry, and they are. But the problem is when they get married because they hate conflict they won't deal with anything. And I've seen it in virtually every marriage. Within 7 – 10 years, there are issues with their spouse they don't like, but they don't say anything about it. And then within 7 – 10 years, they've stuffed so much stuff down, then all of a sudden in that time frame, they'll just snap and absolutely quit the marriage. And the poor spouse, because they've never addressed anything, the poor spouse is like, "What happened?" They don't know what's going on and they've stuffed so much stuff down, they don't know where to go to fix it. So when I deal with these people I make them address what they face in the marriage. But they seem easy, but they are in fact the most dangerous.

Choleric

It's my way or the highway. My wife and I are both these. This is the way you know you married a Choleric. If you're driving down a road and you make a turn and they go, "Why did you turn there?" There's your Choleric right there. I finally learned the answer to my wife when she said, "Why did you turn there?" My answer now is, "Because I want to." So I wouldn't do that early in my marriage, but we're way too past that.

Sanguine

That's my wife. Friendly. Outgoing. Loves people. They recharge with people. These people don't. Now the problem comes, for example, if you're a Choleric/Melancholy you're probably going to fall in love, and this is generally what happens, you fall in love with what you don't have. You fall in love what you don't possess. I'm pretty Choleric. I fell in love with a Sanguine. Now the problem with a Sanguine is as a woman, she's not only detailed, but she's a Sanguine so she's really detailed. She can start a story here, go to here, go to here, back to here, instead of going straight to here. And I looked at her a couple of years ago, my wife was running on a story, and I said, "Look, I love you. I'd die for you. But I have no idea what you're talking about right now." You're going to marry the opposite of what you are and you've got to live with that and that becomes difficult. It does over time become fairly painful.

Then you have Ephesians 5 which we're going to look at next week. It tells the man to love the wife. It tells the wife to respect the husband. It never tells the wife to love the husband. It never tells the husband to respect his wife. It tells you to love your wife and tells her to respect you. Because inside a marriage, you crave respect; she craves being valued. The problem is because you crave respect, a lot of times you'll give her respect; she craves love, she'll give you love when you're actually giving each other what you don't crave innately as a husband and wife. So you have these issues that you have to address. And the problem is all of this is hardware, none of it is software. This is hardware. They're not going to change, probably, their love language. They're not going to change their personality. They're wired this way. This craving that we have is not going to alter. And so we have this difficulty inside the marriage. It's difficult to relate soul to soul because you're so different. And we don't see this initially. I remember I started doing this a few years back and it's been really insightful. It's how I know how far along in the soul connection a couple goes. When I first do premaritals and I bring the couple in, I'll sit down and I get them in there and I look at the guy and I go, "OK, you're surrounded by Bibles. You're in church. You're going to have to be truthful. And I ask him two questions. First question is, and of course they're looking at each other, you know, like we love each other. So I ask him, "Are there days that you get tired of hearing her talk?" And you can see his face just kind of freeze and she's stunned that he hasn't immediately said, "Oh no, I want to hear her talk all the time." And when they tell me that, then I go, "OK, son, you have a lot to learn." But generally, they'll go, "Yeah." And then I ask them a second question. "Are there days you're tired of her asking you questions?" And they'll immediately go, "Oh my gosh, yes." And she is stunned that he doesn't want to hear me talk all day?" And that's when I kind of walk them through that is the difference between a man and a woman and a husband and a wife. Now you can't fix any of these. But what do you do? The new move is simply not to marry today. The new move is we'll just live together and see if it works. The problem is it's never going to work. This is never going to change. It's always going to be an issue. It's always going to be difficult. That's the thing you have to face.

Now you can't fix it so you do have to adapt to it. So here's how you do it. There are four Greek words for love.

<i>Storgē</i> στοργή Everything in the family is good	<i>Eros</i> Ερος Sexual, sensual love	<i>Philia</i> φιλία Feelings we have toward one another	<i>Agapé</i> ἀγάπη Love based on value of object I'm in love with
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Eros & Storgē don't appear in the New Testament. Eros is erotic. It doesn't appear in the New Testament because in that day, the sexual aspect had become so vile. As a matter of fact, we think we are sensually based in this country. I couldn't say this to the women when I walked them through it. The Roman empire was way beyond anything we are. Pompeii, we've unearthed a lot of stuff in Pompeii, obviously frozen in time. Exit signs in Pompeii were a man's penis. They were vile. So the eroticism of that day was simply sick in that it was only about sex. It wasn't about making love.

Storgē is a weird Greek word. It literally means when everybody in the family is good together. That happens every leap year. Because generally you're driving down the road and your kids are going, "He's breathing my air. He's looking out my window." And you want to kill them. I remember we're driving down the road when my son's like six, he won't quit passing gas, I finally said, "I'm done boy, get out." We're on the interstate. Petty said, "You're kidding." I said, "Oh, no." He got out. I made him walk about a 100 yards on the interstate. My wife's going, "Somebody's going to run him over." I said, "We can make another kid." So he gets in the car, but he didn't pass any more gas. This just doesn't work very well.

So you've got two words here that in the New Testament. *Philia* which is basically what you feel. And *agapé* is what you choose. When you hear a first-year Greek student, first word he's going to tell you is *agapé* and he's going to tell you it's God's love. It is not God's love. It does not mean that. It's interesting in Josephus, he says the Pharisees *agapé* the Pharisees. The Pharisees were sorry but they valued each other. You choose to love something because of the value in the object. Now if you base your love in your home, and when Ephesians 5 says, love your wife, it uses *agapé*. If you base your home on what you feel and all these differences come into play, this is going to go away. If it doesn't go away, it will at least go away periodically. And what happens is as it goes away, you begin to distance from your wife. And then you go to work and this really good looking secretary is telling you how wonderful you are, and let me just tell you, the reason she's telling you how wonderful you are is that she doesn't live with you. But this feeling can shift anywhere and it will shift toward her as she pulls you into her life. This is going to come and go. And it can go in an instant. So you're going to get up every morning and you're going to choose to love your wife because of her value to you. You're going to get up every morning and this is what you're going to do. You're going to choose to love your wife because of the value in two ways: the value she is to Jesus and the value she is to you. When I get up in the morning and I think about my wife, I know that she houses the Holy Spirit. I know that Jesus died for her. I know that He values her. I know if she were the only person in the universe He would have died for her. So I see her value and then I look at her value to me. She's always taught my children to love me. When I was in the middle of all the convention fights over the scripture and we lost friends, she stood by my side. She's been by my side in every church we've been at no matter

what I faced. She's been my best confidant and so when I look at her value and her value to Christ, it changes what I feel. These go back and forth, but my feeling will be based on how well I do my *agapé*. If I really choose to see her as God sees her and I think about the value she is in my life, I will feel good about her and when these two things click in, there's not a secretary in the world that can pull me away from my wife. So this is the key. This is the only solution because these differences are pronounced, they are fundamental, and this is why there's no point in divorcing. Because no matter whom you marry, you're marrying a woman (I hope). Some of you I don't know, but I'm hoping that you're going that way. So there's no point in divorcing because every woman's the same and every man's the same. The bottom line is women are emotional and men are stupid.

I had a lady in my office the other day who said, "I don't want to hear that about my husband." I said, "Well, honey, you've got things to learn. He's stupid." We don't mean to be. It's just a gift. So I would encourage you, and we're going to talk about how you lead your wife next week. But I would encourage you to go home, if you haven't read *Waffles and Spaghetti*, *Love Languages*, *Love and Respect*, by Eggerichs, and *Personality Plus* by Littauer. I would take those home. I would give them to my wife and I would read this and try to face some communication with your wife because the other thing is you're totally different physically. You're different sexually. Now, this is a course way to put it but let me put it in a way that we'll probably understand it. There's an old adage in regard to sex between men and women that men need a place, women need a reason. That's coarse, but it really is pretty accurate. You determine your wife's love for you by whether or not she has sex with you. She doesn't do that. She can go without sex. They're like sex camels. She can go without sex because if you just snuggle with her, she's good. Snuggling makes you go, "Baby, I got to go one step further." So you have this deal that you have to deal with. And the other thing is you're turned on differently. You're turned on visually. She's turned on relationally. In other words, you're turned on by her body. She's turned on by how you treat her soul. I remember Skaggs was telling me, I told him I never protect his name, Skaggs was telling me, our former Associate Pastor, he said, "You know, I know my wife turns me on when I see her naked and I thought I'd just see what this would work like." So he said, "I got up one morning, I'm naked, I come in, stand next to her in the mirror." He said, "It didn't phase her one bit. So your wife in panties and underwear is going to turn you on. You in a speedo doesn't do anything for her. So you don't turn her on physically. You've got to romance her in her soul. You have pornographic literature. It's all visual. She's got pornographic literature, it's all Harlequin romance novels. He held me in the moonlight. He danced with me. He looked longingly into my eyes. He poured all the scars in the deep emotional wounds he had. Boom! She's in the bed. Because she's been romanced in the soul. We don't do that. We sit there and we go, "It's time, baby." So you've got to romance her in the soul and so you have these huge differences. You have soul differences. You have physical differences. You have all these differences that you cannot fix and you will not change. They are hardware. This is the only solution to what you face.

Now I'm going to walk through next week what you do as a man as head of the home and what you don't do. We'll walk through that next week. But I simply want you to understand. This is the only thing that's going to solve all the difference you face and those differences are there and there's no point in divorcing your wife because whomever you marry, they're going to be the same as your wife.