

WHAT EVERY HUSBAND NEEDS TO KNOW

By:

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AUTHORITY AND POWER

At every level of government, there must be authority and power. Authority is a mandate to maintain proper order. Power is the “force” necessary to back-up that authority. Without power to back-up authority, authority is lost! For example, let us suppose the police (at the city level) had no guns, batons, or handcuffs. Suppose they had no permission to ticket or arrest wrong doers. They would be ignored by the citizens over whom they supposedly have rule. Those, that wanted to, would ignore traffic laws and do as they please. There would then be speeders and those that run red lights. There would also be a greater number of robberies and so on. This is because the police, without power to back-up their authority, can do nothing to stop lawlessness. Therefore, at every level of government (whether federal, state, city, or family) there must be power to rule! Where there is authority, there must be power to back-up that authority.

In the United States, on the national level, we have the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). They would claim to be an investigative body and not a police force. However, they have (in fact) become the national police force. The FBI can yell: “Stop, FBI!” The person of interest would usually stop. Why? It is because they know that if they do not stop, the FBI has the “power” (a gun) to back-up his command. The person reasons: “If I do not stop, I could be shot;” so he or she stops. On the state level, we have the state police. Their authority is represented by their designated state police vehicles, their uniforms, and badges. Their authority is backed-up by their guns, mace, hand-cuffs, etc. On the city level, we have the city police. They also have their authority represented by their squad cars, uniforms, and badges. They, too, have their authority backed-up by the power and ability to use their guns, tasers, pepper spray, batons, and other equipment.

On the family level, we have authority from God! God established the family. The head of the family is the husband (the father if there are children). He is assisted by his wife (mother of his children). He (the husband) is the head of the house and the authority in the family. Therefore, he must have power to back-up that authority. The power is usually backed-up by a superior size and strength over his wife and children. It should be known that he can exercise his power “if” or “when” he has to maintain order and respect for his authority in the home. He is commanded by God (in scripture) to rule!

THE TOOLS OF POWER

Any authority must have its tools of power. We have mentioned the police man who has a badge to represent his authority and he has his tools of power (gun, baton, hand-cuffs, etc.) to back-up his authority. The police man’s authority is also backed-up by the laws and court system; which includes judges, attorneys, etc.

A husband/father must have his tools of power to back-up his authority. What are they? One tool is rebuking; which is a verbal reprimand. Another is chastening; which is a physical punishment. Another tool, if necessary, is putting the wife away (divorce).

Since marriage in the Western World is based on a false premise, some of these things are not discussed before marriage. If the husband’s authority and power is discussed, it is not taught properly. The false premise is: “Marriage is an equal partnership between a man and a woman.” This is totally and absolutely false! Yet, about 95% of the Western people would say that it is true! Why? It is because they do not follow the Bible and they follow Western tradition instead. For example, in the USA, it is said that everyone is equal. Thus, the tradition of equality trumps the Bible’s admonishment for wives to submit themselves to their own husbands as unto the Lord (Jesus); as Ephesians 5:22 indicates they should. If you ask an American about this verse, they will likely rush to say: “Husbands are supposed to love their wives like Christ loves the church; and if he loves his wife, he

will treat her as an equal.” This is rubbish and illogical rationalization. If he is truly a man that wants to follow the Lord, he will not treat her as his equal; because God says in His word not to do so! Where? In Genesis, chapter 3, God ordains that the husband should rule over his wife! Genesis 3:16: “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” If the husband is to rule over his wife, then they cannot be equals within the marriage. Yet, the wife can receive an equal (or even greater) reward in Heaven for her service and obedience here on the Earth. However, while on the Earth, the husband is not to treat her as his equal. Let us pause there for a moment. That statement is shocking to many of you, so let’s give you time to digest it.

Therefore, the man (husband) needs to understand that God expects him to place and keep his household in order. He is responsible for his children being disciplined and in order; and also for his wife being an obedient, godly woman. What are his tools of power to enable him to ensure this order? His tools of power are: (1) rebuking, (2) chastening, and (3) putting away. Many will say that it is okay to chasten children, but one should never strike a wife in any way. They would say that striking a wife is abuse! Proverbs 23:13-14: “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. ¹⁴ Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” Some will say that this verse is for children and not an adult wife. While it is true that this particular passage speaks of children, notice that it is not considered abuse to take a rod (a switch or small/thin tree branch) and chasten a child. It is called correction; and works to save his soul from hell!

Therefore, if chastening of a child can be done (and not called abuse); then certainly a man can chasten his wife without abusing her! We are not saying that a man should strike his wife on the face. We are not saying that he should break her bones. We are not saying that he should use his fists. We are not saying that he should cause her to bleed.

If one can whip a child on the buttocks without it being abuse, then he can do the same with a wife under his authority. Some think that there is no scripture that points to that, but is that true? Jesus said, in Revelation 3:19: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the Church; according to Ephesians 5:25. Christ rebukes and chastens those he loves; and so must a husband and father. Now, just as a police man should not arrest anyone that does not deserve to be arrested, no husband should rebuke a wife that does not deserve a rebuke. In addition, of course, no husband should chasten a wife that does not deserve chastening. However, “if” and “when” necessary, a husband needs to understand that rebuking and chastening are tools he should use.

THE REBUKE

A rebuke is verbal. It is something we say that has a warning within it. A rebuke is designed to admonish wrong doing to deter any further bad behavior. Isaiah 1:19-20: “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: ²⁰ But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Notice that the first part of this passage shows the good that will follow for obedience. Then, in the second part, there is a stern warning regarding disobedience. A rebuking encompasses a stern warning.

In Deuteronomy, chapter 28, we see this principal again. This passage gives many promises of blessings if they are obedient as a people. They could be the head and not the tail. They could go above and not beneath. They could be blessed in the city and blessed in the field. They could be blessed in the storehouses and in the land.

Their children could be blessed. They could lend and not borrow, etc. If... If.... If...they will keep God's commandments! However, then, the possible curses are also listed. The blessings are reversed. Then they could be the tail and not the head; and flee before their enemies. They could be cursed in the city and in the field. They could sow much seed in the field and gather little. In fact, the curses mentioned for disobedience are over twice as many as the blessings for obedience!

Also, see Revelation 3:15-19: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 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: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:15-19)

Notice that Jesus says: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." A rebuke is the first way of correction; which is verbal. Chastening goes beyond the verbal to the physical by applying the rod of correction. Still, the rod is not to destroy; but to correct. If either of those do not work, then there is a final way; which is putting away (divorce).

THE ROD

When we fully understand that the wife is under the authority of the husband, then we can know that it is his right and responsibility to use power given to him to bring order to his household. The Bible says in Proverbs 26:3: "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back." The question is: "Can a wife act as a fool?" The answer is: "Yes." Many wives do act as fools. Nevertheless, in the Western World, we have been indoctrinated to believe that to use a rod on a woman, or an adult wife, is abusive. However, this is not abusive. If I can use a rod on my children without being abusive, then I certainly can use a rod on my wife without being abusive. Proverbs 22:15: "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Some will say that this verse only applies toward one's child. However, I would point out that there are two types of children. There are natural children and there are spiritual children. A wife may be grown in the natural, but virtually a child spiritually. If she is rebellious and disobedient to her husband, then she certainly has not reached spiritual maturity. In spiritual maturity, one functions in his or her divinely appointed position. Therefore, the very fact that she fails to adhere to Ephesians 5:22-24, is evidence that she is a child (spiritually). Ephesians 5:22-24: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." The foolishness displayed in her rebellious disobedience is adequate evidence that she is immature; and therefore, eligible for the rod to drive foolishness far from her!

Also, consider Proverbs 20:30: "The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly." The belly represents the soul. In the natural, when we have a wound, blood coagulates and closes the wound to stop the bleeding; and the white blood cells go to work to cleanse any possible infection. Even as that is done in the natural, so do "stripes" (the marks applied by the rod) cleanse the inward parts of the belly (soul).

Ephesians 5:23: “²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” Christ is the savior of the whole body of believers. However, it is the husband’s responsibility to be the savior of “his” body (his family); this includes his wife and children. We have seen that beating with the rod of correction saves a child from hell. Proverbs 23:13-14: “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. ¹⁴ Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” Is it not the husband’s job to also save his wife from hell?

Hebrews 10:26-27: “²⁶ For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” Therefore, if a woman knows that she is to obey her husband and willfully disobeys, she is not only violating her husband’s commands, but is also disobeying God’s commands. If she continues to do that willfully, she is backsliding and drawing back and away from God. If she backslides (or draws back) far enough, then she “could” lose her salvation. Hebrews 10:39: “³⁹ But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” If the husband can stop such backsliding (drawing back) by applying the rod, then he certainly should! The rod is a tool (in his arsenal of tools) to bring righteousness to his household.

THE FIRST APPROVAL OF PUTTING AWAY

The first occurrence of divorce appears in Genesis when Abraham sends Hagar away. Some may try to argue that Abraham was not legitimately married to Hagar. She had been the servant to Sarah (Abraham’s first wife). When Sarah was found to be barren for many years, Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife; so he can have an heir by Hagar. After Ishmael was born, Hagar’s behavior apparently became that of arrogance and pride. Abraham tells Sarah that she is still her handmaid and that she can deal with her harshly. When Sarah does, notice that Hagar flees. Then an angel of the Lord appears to Hagar and tells her to go back! Obviously, then, she was a wife to Abraham. Later, Sarah has Isaac. Ishmael begins to mock Isaac. Then, Sarah asks Abraham to send Hagar and her son, Ishmael, away. This grieves Abraham; nevertheless, he goes to God to question what he should do. God tells him to send Hagar away. See Genesis 21:9-14: “And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. ¹⁰ Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. ¹¹ And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. ¹² And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. ¹³ And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed. ¹⁴ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.” (Genesis 21:9-14)

Obviously, from verse 12, God approves of divorce in this case. Why? On what premise does God approve of divorce? Look at Mark 9:47-48: “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” Also, see Matthew 18:8-9: “Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. ⁹ And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”

VASHTI

The next case where we see that God, apparently, approves of divorce is in the case of Vashti (the queen). See Esther 1:1-22: “Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:) 2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, 3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: 4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days. 5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; 6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. 7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. 8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure. 9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus. 10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, 11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. 12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him. 13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment: 14 And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;) 15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains? 16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. 17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. 18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath. 19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. 20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small. 21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan: 22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.” (Esther 1:1-22)

Notice that Vashti willfully rebels and refuses to obey the King (her husband) by not coming to him as he commanded. In addition, notice that this rebellion is in front of his important guests. One of the wise men, Memucan, says that Vashti has not only wronged her husband (the king), but also all the husbands in the kingdom. When it is widely known that the queen (Vashti) did not come at the king's commandment, all wives will despise their husbands. This points to the fact that it is very important for a leader to have an obedient wife.

A rebellious wife of a leader will affect all the wives under that leader. This is confirmed in the requirements of a leader (elder) in 1 Timothy 3:4a: “One that ruleth well his own house.” In this context, the word house is not referencing the bricks, wood beams, tiles, etc. The word house, here, means the household. This would include the wife and children. This passage goes on to say, in 1 Timothy 3:4-5: “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?).”

Going back to the book of Esther, chapter 1, we see Memucan (the wise man) continues his advice and tells the king to put Vashti away and find a better than she (see verse 19). Therefore, when a wife becomes willfully rebellious, one option is to put her away (divorce) and find a better than she. This may be a part of why Ephesians 5:33 says that a wife should “revere” her husband. That word reverence comes from the Greek word phoebe; which means to fear, be frightened, or be in awe of. Obviously, Vashti had no such fear when she refused to come when the king called her. However, after Vashti was put away, all the wives in the kingdom knew to fear their husbands because a commandment was given that each man should bear rule in his own household (see Esther 1:20-22). Today, in much of the Western World, there is no honor to husbands. Wives do what they want. Wives do not “fear” their husbands. Wives know that, if they are put away, they will get custody of the children, half of his assets, and he will be required to help support her and the children until they are grown; and she can find another man if she wants to.

If wives fear their husbands putting them away, they will be less likely to be disobedient. However, the court systems of the West have sided with Satan and given the upper hand to wives. A husband that is obedient to God and His Word, will be persecuted in the West. Now, there are those that will say that king Ahasuerus was not an Israelite, so this does not count as having God’s approval. To that I say: “Hogwash!” If God did not want it to be in the Bible, it would not be there. The book of Esther could have started with chapter 2; but the first chapter shows why the king needed a new bride. The new bride had to be better than Vashti. Vashti’s failure was her disobedience to her husband. God wanted us to know that!

GOD’S DIVORCE

We see in Jeremiah, chapter 3, that God is figuratively or metaphorically married. God is married to Judah and Israel; and they have committed adultery (in a sense) through their idolatry. Therefore, there is a necessity to put them away. Jeremiah 3:1-15: “They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the Lord. 2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness. 3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed. 4 Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth? 5 Will he reserve his anger for ever? will he keep it to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldest. 6 The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. 7 And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. 9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed

adultery with stones and with stocks. 10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. 12 Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. ¹³ Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. ¹⁴ Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: ¹⁵ And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jeremiah 3:1-15)

Notice, in particular, where verse 8 says: “for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.” The reason that some women need to be divorced is so that others can fear and not make the same mistakes! That is why Vashti “had” to be divorced! However, in this case, Judah does not fear and goes out and does the same thing! We should note that their adultery was through their idolatry. Their idolatry was in trusting other nations instead of God.

Therefore, adultery is not “only” sexual misconduct by a married woman having intercourse with another man. Adultery is also the committing of idolatry. Then, we should note 1 Samuel 15:23a: “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” Therefore, when wives are rebellious and stubborn, they are committing that which is abhorred in God’s sight! Why is stubbornness as idolatry? It is because they are reverencing something other than their husband. This is true, even if it is themselves! A wife that is continually and constantly rebellious and stubborn, not only deserves to be divorced, she “should be” divorced so that others may fear!

WHAT IS TREACHERY?

In Malachi, chapter 2, we read that God hates divorce; and a man must not deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. Malachi 2:14-17: “Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 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. 16 For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. 17 Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?”

What is dealing treacherously with the wife of your youth? To put away, or divorce her, unnecessarily would be treacherous. We must not put away a wife easily, quickly, or without just cause. A wife that has been faithful since you were both youths must not be easily or quickly put away; that would be treacherous. God does, indeed, hate putting away in such cases.

Deuteronomy 24:1-2: “When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go

and be another man's wife.” (Deuteronomy 24:1-2) Here, we see a law given by Moses for putting away a wife. Jesus refers to this in Matthew 19:3-9: “The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered [allowed] you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it [divorce] was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” (Matthew 19:3-9)

The Hebrew definition of “adultery” is a wife who breaks wedlock (see Strong’s Concordance 5003). Therefore, for adultery to occur, a woman breaking wedlock must be involved. Such was the case with David and Bathsheba (Uriah’s wife) in 2 Samuel, chapter 11. Bathsheba was breaking wedlock, and therefore, committing adultery. David was also committing adultery by having intercourse with another man’s wife.

How is it that Jesus says that the man is committing adultery? To get a better view and to understand this term; let us look at Mark, chapter 10. Mark 10:2-12: “And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. 3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? 4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. 5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. 11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”

Notice verse 11 says: “commits adultery against her.” How can a man commit adultery against her? It is by putting her in a situation where she needs to marry another man for protection and provision while he still lives. She is then committing adultery by being married to another man. He, then, commits adultery “against her” by putting her in a position to commit adultery. Therefore, when Jesus says this in verse 11, it is not the marrying of another wife that is the adultery; it is the putting away of a wife for “the purpose of” marrying another that commits adultery “against her.” This would be dealing treacherously with the first wife (the wife of your youth). The rule given by Moses in Exodus 21:10 was that if a man marries another wife, then he must not diminish the food, raiment, or duty of marriage to the first wife. Exodus 21:10: “If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish.” The man had to be able to afford the second wife without damaging the first wife! Apparently, there were husbands that dealt treacherously against the wife of their youth by using “any excuse” to divorce the wife of their youth “so that” they can marry another wife. With this, God is not pleased! God hates this reason for putting away!

EXCEPT FOR FORNICATION

Matthew 5:32: “But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving [*except*] for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth

adultery.” Why did Jesus use the word “fornication?” If a woman is married and has sex with another man, then that would be adultery. Why did Jesus not use the word adultery?

In Greek, fornication is the word porneia (Strong’s 4202). Strong’s says that porneia comes from 4203 and includes adultery and incest; figuratively idolatry/fornication. Strong’s 4203 (porneuo) comes from 4204 and means to act the harlot and indulge in unlawful lusts; either sex or practicing idolatry/commit fornication. Strong’s 4204 (porne) means an idolater/harlot/horror. Adultery is the Greek word moichao (3429); which means to commit adultery.

Jesus used the word “porneia” in this passage because of its wider application. Jesus did not just mean a wife who has sex with another man; he also meant a wife who is idolatrous! What is idolatry? To be idolatrous is to worship something other than God; whether it is things or oneself! In Colossians 3:5, we learn that covetousness is idolatry! Colossians 3:5: “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” The Greek word for covetousness is pleonexia (Strong’s 4124); which means fraudulent, extortion, covetousness practices, and greediness.

Therefore, it is not only when a wife has sex with another man that her husband can put her away, but also if she is practicing idolatry, covetousness, or greediness. However, there are more reasons. Stubbornness is also idolatry. 1 Samuel 15:23a: “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” If a woman is covetous, meaning she is always greedy to have more and is never satisfied, then she is an idolater and can be divorced. If a woman is stubborn and rebellious, then she is like a witch and idolater; and she can be divorced! As we read in Jeremiah, chapter 3, God divorces Israel when they became idolatrous; and God called that adultery.

Unfortunately, many so-called Bible scholars fail to fully read what scripture actually says about divorce. Many marriages are left in shambles because of this. Men have been neutered in thinking they have no recourse and have to put up with an odious wife. In addition, wives have become embolden and demand more of their husbands than God would ever allow them! Bad teachings from many Western teachers, who have more of an eye to please their primary customers (women) than to please God, have faulted to cause this.

CONTROL FREAK

There are certain words in the West that we most often attach to other words to give the initial word a bad reputation. One example is “conspiracy theory.” The word conspiracy is almost always attached to the word theory to imply that there is no real conspiracy; and there is only someone’s “guess” that there might be a conspiracy. Thus, the word conspiracy is robbed of its power!

In marriage seminars, taught by many ministers, they use the term “control freak.” The word freak is attached to the word control to imply that there is something wrong with being in control. The implication is that any husband who wants to be in control is a freak; and therefore, there is something wrong with him. However, we must remember that it is God who placed the man in a position of control. Why? It is because it is a “type, pattern, and shadow” of Jesus Christ who should be in “control” of the Church! To say that the husband and wife are equal, as many teachers on marriage do, is to deny that Jesus Christ is to be in control of the Church! As we have seen in scriptures, it is very clear that the husband is to be in control of his household; which includes his wife and children! Now, this is not to say that the man cannot confer with his wife on a particular

issue and get her advice. However, it is to say that it is not always necessary for him to do so! If we look at Ephesians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:18, and 1 Peter 3:1-6, they all indicate that the man is the head of the wife and that she is to be obedient unto him. The only exception is if he demands that she disobey the written word of God! Then, and only then, can she refuse to obey. In 1 Peter 3:1-6, we can see that she is to obey and maintain a meek and quiet spirit even if her husband is unsaved!

Ephesians 5:22-23: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Colossians 3:18: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.” 1 Peter 3:1-6: “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;² While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.³ Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;⁴ But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.⁵ For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:⁶ Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”

Therefore, when speaking of marriage and the husband and wife relationship, the word “freak” should not be attached to the word “control” if it is to imply that the husband should not be in control; because he should be!

SUBMITTING ONE TO ANOTHER

Ephesians 5:21: “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” Some ministers like to start the discussions on marriage with this verse. Of course, this is deception. This verse belongs with the previous verses in whose context is speaking of the Church brethren submitting one to another. It is in the next verse (Ephesians 5:22) that the context changes to speak of the marriage relationship. That should be very obvious.

Ephesians 5:22-23: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” Then... Then... Then... verse 24 goes on to say: “²⁴Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” If the wife is to submit to the husband in EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING and EVERYTHING; then how can they be submitting one to another? Many ministers that teach that husbands and wives should submit one to another are purposefully being deceptive on this issue in order to calm the fears of their main customers; the women. They go overboard looking for a way to mitigate what the scriptures clearly say. Scripture is very clear. The wife is to submit to the husband, and not vice versa!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let me say that there are other things that a husband needs to know. He needs to know how to show love to his wife. He needs to know how to make love to his wife. He needs to know the attributes of being a good father. However, these things are in many other books.

The purpose of this book is to show that a husband needs to be the head of his family and the various tools that can be used to establish and maintain that headship. He needs to establish his position before the marriage, and then set early precedent in the marriage that he will not be walked on or controlled. He must know that, contrary to popular opinion in the West, it is not wrong to be in control. In fact, he should know that God expects him to

be in control and he is responsible to bring his wife and children to the highest Godly standard in which he is able.

If he has a mature and godly wife, then this will be a much easier task. However, if he should marry an immature woman, or one who has been trained by errant ways of the West, then his task can be much more difficult. Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” 1 Peter 3:6: “Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” According to this passage, the husband is the “lord” of his household; including his wife and children! Sara called Abraham “lord.” The fear of the husband’s lordship over the household is also the beginning of wisdom. Where there is no fear or reverence, there is already a problem!

I have seen and known men in the rural areas of Africa that have established this fear in their households and have reaped the benefits thereof. I have also seen the lack of fear in many households in the West and the devastation and wreckage of the marriage that results. Men need to know that it is their duty to establish the headship of the household and the standards by which his family will live!

He needs to know his God given tools of power; and to follow Jesus (who is our example). He can then love his wife as Christ loves the church. Never abusing her, but loving her as his own flesh. He can rebuke (if and when necessary) and he can chasten (if and when necessary). If these two tools fail to achieve results, then the husband can, and perhaps should, put her away (divorce her).

I wish the readers well. May God bless you as you seek to establish households under God’s rule.

~END~