

Marital Synergy

Synergy: the joint action of agents, merged together, cooperating toward mutually accepted goals, any combined action or functioning; synergism; the interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects - not self-centered (gy).

Christian marriage is designed to be a synergy, where husband and wife so join their efforts to accomplish the goal of manifesting the character/attitude of Christ toward His church and the response He desires from the church.

- Conduct in a Christian marriage has greater significance than practical expedience
- Christian marriage is an opportunity to exemplify the relationship between Christ and the church to the world and especially to the children from the marriage.

Eph 5:22-24 - Wives - Col 3:18; Tit 2:5; 1Pt 3:1,5

Submit - **hupotasso** - **hupo** = under; **tasso** = arrange in order - common military term for soldiers lined up under authority of superior rank; obey, comply, cooperate, attach.

- Lk 2:51 Jesus / parents
- Lk 10:17 demons subject to disciples
- Rom 10:3 Jews refused to submit to +R by faith
- Rom 13:1, Tit 3:1 submit to governmental authority
- 1Cor 15:27 creation subject to Godhead
- 1Cor 16:16 cooperate with spiritual leaders
- 1Pt 2:18 servants to masters
- 1Pt 5:5 young men to elders
- Heb 12:9, Jam 4:7 submit to God

It is impossible to escape the gravity of this word and its NT usage - place yourself in a subordinate position - to God, parents, truth, human authority, spiritual leaders, etc.

Yet, marriage is not the military; husbands are not God, masters, parent or boss.

1Pet 3:1-6 - submission is a mind-set, an attitude: humble, gentle, quiet, having a tranquil spirit

Fear related to human agenda - motivates controlling behaviors & manipulation

Tit 2:5 - no submission dishonors & discredits the word of God

Illustrations: Godhead - coequal, yet GS & GHS submit to GF - different roles

Paul observed elite troops, equals working together as a team with a leader.

Definition: Voluntary, willing commitment to the Lord & the team of marriage & family to relinquish controlling & maneuvering behaviors, with a humble & tranquil attitude, adopt a helping, support role that enables & encourages the husband's leadership.

- Notice that the command to submit is addressed to the wife - her role for God
- The husband is not commanded to assert authority over his wife - as if he could
- Submission requires a wife to subordinate her own agenda for the benefit of the team
- The challenge is to abandon efforts to control & manipulate to get what you believe is necessary for your +H & fulfillment - husband, children

It is the same challenge for the believer to submit to God's plan for your life

- a. Submission is the wife's gift to God, to her husband, to her children & family
- b. Wife's submission is necessary to enable & allow the husband to lead

- The husband cannot make wife respect or submit – such respect must come from the wife
- The wife's respect & submission elevates the husband / father in the eyes of the children.
- The wife's respect & submission is the pattern for the children's respect for authority

Eph 5:25-29 - Husbands - Col 3:19; 1Pt 3:7

Love - agapao, agape - unconditional, commitment to edify another

- Jn 3:16 God loves world;
- Jn 13:34 Jesus loves bel's & bel's to love bel's;
- Mt 22:37 love the Lord;
- 1Jn 2:15 not the world; 1Jn 3:11

It is impossible to escape the immensity of this word/command - God's own attitude of benevolence & grace toward all of His creation.

Love is a committed mind-set that creates an unconditional, nurturing environment in which others are encouraged to grow & mature.

Husbands lead with love by being the example of Christ's character to her and by giving his wife the freedom to spiritually succeed or fail w/out reacting

Col 3:19 - husband's hazard is to be bitter when his wife fails to submit, is controlling, manipulative or selfish - put aside self agenda for God's to be able to do this.

Illustration: as a man cares for his own body, doesn't abuse but nourishes & cherishes it.

The patience & kindness that Christ shows to the church as we seek to become like Him.

- a. The command to exercise authority is never addressed to the husband - when a man tries to force submission, he abuses his wife's freedom to choose for herself.
- b. The man leads in the spiritual life by going first down the spiritual path, showing the way, lending credibility to the Lord's word - he submits to the Lord.
- c. The husband's role is to provide a warm, nurturing environment that allows his wife to grow & succeed at her own pace, be forgiven for shortcomings & failures.
- d. Husband's love exemplifies God's love for His people and the wife's respect & submission exemplifies our obedience to Him - credibility demonstration

Synergy: Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

Love his own wife - agapao – P/A/Imp - command to love

Wife respect her husband - hina + P/M/Subj - so that wife might respect her husband

- Hina - so that - result of husband loving his wife like Christ loves the church
 - Subjunctive used as a command but the idea of contingency is included.
 - Emphasis is on command but using a subjunctive as a command is remarkable
- a. Husband's unconditional love (UL) creates an environment fostering respect in the wife.
 - b. The wife is commanded to respect & submit to his leadership position, but his leading with love helps her to respect his person.
 - c. The emphasis is on the husband's love as initiating the synergy of love & respect.
 - d. Wife needs/craves UL & husband needs/craves respect - feed on each other
 - e. Husband's love fosters wife's respect & her respectful submission fosters his love
 - f. When one or the other fails to do their part, the other is commanded to continue fulfilling their role - helps bring the other back around
 - g. 1Pet 3 - wife's quiet, tranquil, respectful submission lends credibility to the reality of God's presence in her life so that the husband can see God in her.
 - h. Husband's unconditional love lends credibility to the reality of God in his life so that the wife can see Him - husband's submission to God inspires respect in her.