

“Sweet Surrender!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Chaplain Ordination:** We recognize 3 categories of pastors: church, missions, outreach.
1. **Ron Sieber** - Chaplain **Riv. Sheriff**; finished **academy** in July; presenting serving at the **French Valley Courts**; At Calvary Murr for **16 years**.
 2. **Mark Woolf** - Chaplain **L.A. City Fire Dept**; 26 yrs **Fire Fighter Paramedic**; Haven't raised up a Chaplain for **10 yrs**, 4 Chaplains for 3500 FF; honor 4 him
 3. **Steve Wimberly** - Chaplain for **MPD** for 9 years;
- B. **Arielle Ritter** - (3rd service) Leaving for **China & Thailand** in a week. Working through YWAM. Fulfilling Humanitarian needs in China & teaching English; Then in Thailand working in a Burmese Refugee Camp; & w/Prostitutes who have been trafficked.
- C. **Prayer:** We ask you God to **break us, shape us, remake us**.
- D. **Intro:** A man once asked, “Is so-and-so a Christian?” & the reply was given, “I don't know, I have never lived with him!”
1. Christian commitment affects **every** area of life including **family**, or especially family!
 2. So Paul gives **concrete advice** about **Christian living**. Relationship Responsibilities!
- E. **“Order is heaven's first law”** in every sphere of life. [Griffith Thomas; pg.104]
1. 1 Cor.11:3 **But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.**
 2. Paul believed there was an **order** to the family, & in society; and that this order was **God-given!!!**
- F. **I make one apology:** Time won't allow me to hit on every marriage/family relationship.
1. Please use your own **imagination & reasoning skills** to apply these points to your unique & specific situation. Grab the principles. Seize the standards.
- G. In 1975 **Paul Simon** wrote **“50 ways to leave your lover”**. It was after his divorce from first wife **Peggy Harper**. He wrote it to take a **“humorous”** look at ways to end a relationship: You just slip out the back, Jack; Make a new plan, Stan; You don't need to be coy, Roy; Just get yourself free. Hop on the bus, Gus; You don't need to discuss much; Just drop off the key, Lee; And get yourself free.
1. There's even more than 50 ways to **leave** your lover; **but** a **Christian** only needs 1 reason to **stay with** his/her lover, *the analogy of Christ & His church!*

II. SWEET SURRENDER!

A. WIVES! (18)

B. Submit - to submit one's self.

1. Submission for Paul is a **voluntary** submission based on one's own recognition of God's order.

C. Fitting - an expression of necessity, **obligation**, or duty.

1. Between you & God; not you & husband.

D. "We must never be naive enough to think of marriage as a safe harbor from the fall...the deepest struggles of life will occur in the most primary relationship affected by the fall: marriage."¹

E. Not "*desperate housewives*" but **devoted** housewives.

F. Enable & Encourage your husbands leadership!

G. How you **look at** your husband will determine how you **live** with your husband! Respecting and submitting reflects how you look at him!

1. **Here's an example:** Do you look at your husband as someone that God has placed in your life as the **leader** of your family, that you're going to **respect** and that you're going to **follow** regardless of, or in spite of all his **faults**, or do you look at your husband and say to him, "I will respect you and I will follow you **if I think you deserve it, or if you meet certain conditions!**"

H. HUSBANDS! (19)

I. Love - The pres. Imp. calls for a **continual attitude & positive expression**.

1. Love them: spiritually, sacrificially, sensitively.
2. **Agape** - never occurred in secular households. The command was a distinctively Christian element of the marriage commitment.
3. It is a love that is not mere feeling but **fact**; not emotion but **devotion**; not attitude but **action**; not sentiment but **sacrifice**. [Griffith Thomas; pg.105]
4. Men have meant to attack their wives by saying, "*I never loved you!*" **But** if Jesus called us to love the *unlovable*, even our *enemies*, thus a man who says, "*I never loved you*" is simply saying, "*I have never acted like a Christian.*"

J. Do not be bitter - being sharp, harsh, & bitter. [perpetual irritation, fault finding]

1. The pres. Imp. w/the neg. **forbids a habitual action**.

¹ Dan Allender & Tremper Longman III

2. Sounds like its highly possible to become **bitter** or **harsh** toward them if we're warned against this.
 3. If you don't **love** properly, the marriage relationship can become an **irritant**.
- K. If you can't respect **this** spouse because she is prone to certain weaknesses, you will never be able to respect **any** spouse.²
- L. I must die to what **I want from her**, so I can center on **what God wants from me**. I must forget **my expectations of her**, and focus on **God's expectations for me**.
- M. Marriage: a portrait of **His love** for **His glory!**
- N. Marriage is the operation by which a **woman's vanity** & a **man's egotism** are extracted without anesthetic. Helen Rowland
- O. "One of the best wedding gifts God gave you was a *full-length mirror* called your spouse. Had there been a card attached, it would have said, "Heres to helping you discover what you're really like!" Gary & Betsy Ricucci (*Rick-ussi*)
- P. The German philosopher *Friedrich Nietzsche* suggested that marriage is a "**long conversation**," urging us, therefore, **to marry a friend.**"
- Q. **Book: Sacred Marriage** by Gary Thomas
1. What if God designed marriage to make us **Holy** more than to make us **Happy**?
 2. "If you want to be free to **serve** Jesus, there's no question - stay single. Marriage takes a lot of time. But if you want to become **more like Jesus**, I can't imagine any better thing to do than get married. Being married forces you to face some **character issues** you'd never have to face otherwise" (pg21)
- R. It looks *beyond marriage*:
1. **Spiritual growth** is the main theme; **marriage** is simply the context.
 2. Just as **celibates** use abstinence & **religious hermits** use isolation, so we can use **marriage** for the same purpose - to grow in our service, obedience, character, pursuit, & love of God. (pg.26)
- S. **CHILDREN!** (20)
- T. The thought of *giving pleasure to Christ* is an **incredible** & **inspiring** reason for children/youth to obey their parents.
- U. **FATHERS!** (21)
- V. **Do not provoke** - irritate, exasperate, excite, embitter, undue hardness.

² Gary Thomas; Sacred Marriage; pg.69.

W. **Discouraged** - to be w/o courage or to become spiritless; to lose heart; *leading to despair*.

1. They will give up because they **can't please you** or because they feel they are **not worthy** to anybody.

X. **SERVANTS!** (22-25)

Y. **Eyeservice** - going through the **outward** movements of the work w/o a corresponding keenness of will behind them. (LKGNT)

Z. **Menpleasers** - one who tries to please men at the sacrifice of principle.

AA.(23) **Whatever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord, & not to men** - Believe that?

BB. **One sailor** in the *British Merchant Navy* turned **potato peeling** into an art. He was a man who believed in doing his best, no matter what the task. Finding himself on KP and facing a huge mound of potatoes, he peeled those potatoes with all the care of a sculptor carving in wood. The eyes and bruised spots were carefully cut away. Cooks on the ships he served began to boast about the clean, smooth spuds he peeled, until his reputation spread throughout the shipping lanes. The ex-sailor became a **small businessman** in London, supplying select potatoes, peeled to perfection, to the best restaurants in the city. His name will not go down in history. He may never enjoy more than a small but profitable business. But of the millions who have peeled potatoes all over the world, **Gerald Pereth** was one who saw his opportunity for achievement in **doing the job better than anyone else**.

1. Do you think God cares about peeled potatoes? He absolutely cares about **"whatever you do!"**

CC. **MASTERS!** (4:1)

DD. **Just & fair** -

EE. The most striking feature of all of this is the way in which **everything** is related to **God**:

1. **7 times everything is done in His sight: Wives** submit **"in the Lord"**; **Children** obey **"in the Lord"**; **Servants** **"fear the Lord"**; **"work as unto the Lord"**; their reward is **"from the Lord"**; serve **"the Lord Christ"**; **Masters** are reminded they have a **"Master in heaven"**.

Jesus gets candid! (*by me*)

Wives, you're going to have a problem submitting to your husbands, because more often than not "your right & he's wrong". You'll feel a strong sense to lead, steer, or pilot the ship yourself, because you know you can. Plus, he's been wrong before, and often you're flat out just plain old smarter than him. But, I'm teaching him to lead. It will be a long process, a life-long process, but I know what's best & you don't. My order is right & fitting...even if you don't understand it. You focus on the individual matter at hand, I see

the big picture. I know what's best for your marriage, & the portrait I seek to show the world, of a husband & wife. Matter of fact, I hate the idea of the Church leading My Son Jesus, but that is the picture of a wife leading her husband. And stop being so tricky, pretending to let your husband lead. He hasn't figured it out yet, but do you know you've never deceived Me! Submit to him, even when its terribly hard.

Husbands, I tried to make it really easy with one monosyllable word...love. Of course there will be times you won't feel like it, but I don't base My love towards you on feelings, but on action. I want you to love her spiritually, sacrificially, sensitively, just as I displayed. You are going to want to hold things against her. Let them go. Don't breed bitterness, it will only eat you up from the inside out, & it's pretty ugly when it comes out. Oh she's irritating, look in a mirror. Why have you made fault finding a sport? Do you not trust that I can reveal those things to her on My own? Do you really think you can do a better job than Myself? Husbands, just love.

Children, I know you think you understand it all already, but you have a long way to go. I know your parents seem outdated & antiquated, but they've walked many miles in their moccasins. I've personally shown them a lot of life lessons over the years. I have chosen your exact parents as a perfect fit for all I have planned for you. You wont understand it all now, but be obedient to them. If for no other reason...because it puts a smile in My heart & you don't need any other reason than that.

Fathers, what often starts as merriment ends in discouragement. You say you were just playing, but at someone else's expense. Mine! You offend me when you discourage My kids. Remember they are my kids. At their baby dedication you understood they were only *yours on loan*. Kind of a manager over them, but they are truly Mine. Encourage, don't discourage. Your job is to inspire, motivate, cheer on & spur on, stir up & fire up, stimulate & empower them. Teach them how to live, how to dream, how to risk, & how to truly live...for something bigger than themselves.

Employees, show Me you know how to take directions from someone else. Show Me you are humble by taking orders & carrying them out. Show Me you're aren't so small as to only be able to take directions from someone older, wiser, & in higher rank than yourself. And did you know its pretty embarrassing explaining to all the angels what you're doing when you only work when being watched. If you don't love your boss, how can you say you love me? Remember you serve Me! That ought to get you through anything your boss throws at you.

Employers, Do the right thing. Be just & fare with every employee. If they're not performing deal with it *with them*, not by talking about it with others, or ignoring it, or by being bitter towards them. Did you know I desire to use you & your company in teaching them how to serve, & obey, & follow, so they'll know how to do it spiritually with me. Yes, your business is simply a practical application to spiritual life. How you treat your employees is how I'll treat you. Love them. Show them servant leadership.

FF.**End Prayer:** We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.