

## Relationship Responsibilities

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication 2nd: *Deryck Corey Daniel Krause* - Rebekah & Thomas Krause.
- B. Slide3-6 Larry: Fundraiser. Married Couples. Colina.
- C. Slide7 Divorce Care - Rick & Lorrain DeLeon
- D. Slide8 Prayer Night Tonight - 6:30-7:30pm.
- E. **Prayer:** *We ask you God to break us, then shape us, and remake us.*

### II. Slide9 Intro: Relationship Responsibilities

- A. A man once asked, *is so-and-so a Christian?* and 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 esp family.*
  - 2. So Paul gives **concrete advice** about **Christian living**. Or, our **Relationship Responsibilities**.
- B. **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**.

### III. Slide10 6 GROUPS (3:18-4:1)

- A. Slide11a **HUSBANDS & WIVES** (we'll take together)
- B. First, **submission** in Scripture is **not** isolated to wives.<sup>1</sup>
  - 1. It's something **Christ** did when he yielded to the will of the Father to lay down his life for us. It's something **all Christians** are called to do. (eg. **all of us** are to submit to the governing authorities. **Children** are to obey their parents. And in the body of Christ, **believers** are to submit to one another)
- C. Slide11b Paul shows us that the **purpose** of marriage is to *reflect the gospel*.

<sup>1</sup> Content taken from Designed for Joy. <https://www.onfaith.co/text/the-beauty-of-biblical-submission>

1. A husband's call to **lead** and a wife's call to **submit** reflect the relationship between Christ and the church...a living message of the gospel.
  2. **The husband** models the love that Jesus portrayed in laying down his life for the church. **And a wife** then models the church's submission to her Bridegroom, the church's trust and respect.
    - a) The **gospel of grace** is beautiful, the **marriage relationship reflecting the gospel** is beautiful. As a **husband and wife** live out their **unique callings** in marriage, they share in this beauty. They shine a light in this dark world, pointing to Jesus and his grace.
- D. **Slide11c Submission is not about forced control.** When a man **leads** his wife, **he is leading her to depend on Christ, not on himself.**
- E. **Slide11d A wife's submission is also not blind and absolute...as is fitting in the Lord.** Ultimately, Christ is the wife's final authority.
- F. **Slide11e So the husband is to Love her:** spiritually, sacrificially, sensitively. **And, Lead her:** be the 1st to humble yourself. 1st to repent. 1st to die to self.
1. **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]
    - a) 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."***
- G. **Do not be bitter** - being sharp, harsh. [perpetual irritation, fault finding]
1. The present imperative w/the negative **forbids a habitual action.**
  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**. **But guys what does an oyster do with an irritant...makes a pearl...something beautiful out of it.**
    - a) I guarantee, **If you can't respect *this* spouse because she is prone to certain weaknesses, you will never be able to respect *any* spouse.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Gary Thomas; Sacred Marriage; pg.69.

- H. Slide12 The German philosopher *Friedrich Nietzsche* suggested that *marriage is a long conversation, urging us, therefore, to marry a friend.* [neet-CHa]
- I.  This section looks *beyond marriage*: **Spiritual growth** is the main theme; **marriage** is simply the context.
1. 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)
- J. Slide13a **CHILDREN & FATHERS**
- K. The thought of *giving pleasure to Christ* is an **incredible** & **inspiring** reason for children/youth to obey their parents.
- L. Dan sent me a great article from **Dr. Tim Elmore's** blog. I loved it & downloaded his book Slide13b *Marching Off The Map*. Some quotes from it...
1. He got this title from Alexander the Great. Because he was not satisfied to merely conquer the **known** world. He continued to march into **unknown territory** where his men had never traveled before. There were no maps. In fact, he transformed some of his soldiers into **map makers** - requiring them to draw new maps as they discovered new lands, sketching out the rivers, the hills, the plains, the mountains and the valleys. They literally had to draw the maps as they marched. [as we need to do today, w/our younger children]
  2. It sounds cliché, but our kids today are growing up in a *radically different world* than we did, it's time for **new maps** to guide them into this new territory.
  3. This is the first generation that...
    - a) Doesn't need **adults** to get information.
    - b) Can broadcast there **every thought** or emotion in **real-time**.
    - c) Has **external stimuli** at their fingertips 24/7.
    - d) Are **socially connected at all times**, but often they *connect* in **isolation**.
    - e) Will **learn more** from a *portable device* than from a classroom.
    - f) Uses a phone that *tells time, provides entertainment, takes pictures, gives directions, connects with friends and broadcasts their messages*.

Designed to make life simpler, this *nonstop information center* has made them the most *stressed out* generation to date.

4. **Slide13c** They need help navigating all of this.
  - a) **Educators** roles must change as we teach a generation of students who **don't need adults to get information**.
  - b) **Parents** roles must change as we raise kids in **a time of terrorism, economic recession, racial unrest, underemployment & ubiquitous technology**.
  - c) **Coaches** roles must change as we train young athletes who have **8-second attention spans**, and may arrive a practice *with little resilience or grit*.
  - d) **Youth Workers** roles must change as they mentor students who have **few life skills or values** because adults either *over-functioned or were absent*.
  - e) **Employers** roles must change we bring on young employees who **may have never had a real job before**, and may ask *when spring break will be*.
5. **Slide13d** We must be able to **either adapt** to the new world that's emerging, **OR** we must **explain why** a timeless virtue or value is **still relevant** in our 21st-century world. **So our job as we serve the next generation is 2-fold:**
  - a) **To adopt or adapt**. We must **seize what is new and** help kids leverage it well.
  - b) **To explain and equip**. We must relate to them the **timeless ideals** every generation needs.
    - (1) **We must help kids grasp new skills** for the future world they'll be living in, **but also hold fast to old skills** that never go out of style, such as *integrity, discipline, and empathy*.
6. **Slide13e** Some have called this generation in America *the snowflake generation* **because they're delicate, live in a soft environment, are protected from life's harsh realities and responsibilities. They've been coddled & swaddled in bubble wrap.**<sup>3</sup>
  - a) **Helicopter parents** hover over their children ensuring they get all the benefits they deserve. **They're preoccupied with the safety and self-esteem of their kids.**

<sup>3</sup> Tim Elmore, How to Build Snowmen from a Snowflake Generation. <https://growingleaders.com/blog/how-to-build-snowmen-from-a-snowflake-generation/>

Some of these parents do their children's homework. Some will even **join them** in their **first job interview**.

b) In the 1960s the average grade given was a **C**. **Why?** because **C** means *average*. Today, the average grade is an **A**.

7. Parents let's remember snowflakes are products of our making. Raising children is not just about protecting **but preparing**.

a) *We wouldn't let them fail. We remove the consequences of poor decisions. We praised the wrong qualities in them. We risked too little, we rescued too quickly and we raved too easily.*

8. This next generation **should be** more educated and have greater advantages than the past generations. **Yet** a mammoth % **moved home** after graduation.

a) According to [monster.com](http://monster.com) the five-year period between 2010-2014 between 60-80% returned home following their college experience.

b) 1/3rd of all American males between the ages of 22-34 **still live** at home with their parents. **At least the women** returned w/a plan. The **guys** usually had no plan at all. And mom was far too ready to **cook, clean, & cater to them**.

9. **As adults we need to be supportive & demanding...**and it accomplishes something amazing. We need to communicate *I believe in you and your ability to handle this opportunity*. Maybe that's an overseas trip, or a job, or even fund raising for a significant cause.

a) **Slide13f** We created the snowflakes, it's now our job to build snowmen.

M. **Slide14a SERVANTS & MASTERS**

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

O. **Slide14b** The most striking feature of all of this is the way in which *everything is related to God*:

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

#### IV. Slide15a **6 PRAYERS (4:2-6)**

- A. (2) Pray **continually** with **mental alertness**. And let **thankfulness** be your environment for good informed praying, concerning what God *has done, is doing, & is going to do*.
1. *Whatever the attitude of the body, the **soul** should always be on its knees.*  
Maclaren
- B. Slide15b **WATCH YOUR WALK (5)** (*then, Watch your **mouth***)
- C. **Walk in wisdom** means to **live a life of conduct** in such a way as to impress & win them that are without.
1. **The Christian is the worlds bible**. They're watching to see whether there is any **reality** in our religion.
- D. Slide15c **WATCH YOUR MOUTH (6)**
- E. Be careful **what** you say & **how** you say it. *It calls for Christian graciousness & sensitivity to the specific person & situation.*
- F. **Seasoned with salt** - it should have such a **spiritual flavor** that it will never be **bland**.
1. **Bland Christian speech** - like **spiritual platitudes**, lines that have been used **too often**, they have become dull, *"have faith", "God knows", "it's a God thing"*.
    - a) **Jesus didn't use spiritual platitudes** - Have **content, depth, & salt!**

#### V. Slide16 **6 CO-WORKERS (4:7-15)**

- A. **Aristarchus** - There's a time to be **active** for Christ, & **other times** to sit in prison cells of **inactivity**.
1. An old woman, full of **action & activity**, was laid aside, & her friends wondered how she could possibly bear the **inaction** after her constant restless service. When they asked about this, she replied, "When I was able to do it the Lord said, *Betty go here, & Betty go there, but now He says, Betty, lie still & cough.*
- B. Paul names 6 men who were working at his side & encourages them in the Lord.

#### VI. Slide17 **1 BLESSING (4:16-18)**

- A. **Grace be with you!** Paul ends with the blessings of **God's Grace** to be upon **us**.

1. We're always so afraid of cheapening God's grace.
  2. **Let me end with this exhortation from a Robert Farrar Capon.**
- B. You're worried about permissiveness - about the way **the preaching of grace** seems to say it's okay to do all kinds of terrible things as long as you just walk in afterward and take the free gift of God's forgiveness... While you and I may be worried about seeming to give permission, **Jesus apparently wasn't**. He wasn't afraid of giving the **prodigal son** a **kiss** instead of a **lecture**, a **party** instead of **probation**; **and** he proved that by bringing in **the elder brother** at the end of the story and having him raise pretty much the same objections you do... [He's angry about the party. He complains that his father is lowering standards and ignoring virtue - that music, dancing, and a fatted calf are, in effect, just so many permissions to break the law.] And to that, **Jesus** has **the father** say only one thing: **“Cut that out! We're not playing good boys and bad boys any more. Your brother was dead and he's alive again. The name of the game from now on is resurrection, not bookkeeping.”** *Robert Farrar Capon, Between Noon and Three*
- C. **End Prayer:** We are all in the **gutter**, **but** some of us are **looking at the stars**.