

# TIMELESS TRUTHS FOR A BLESSED MARRIAGE

## OBEDIENCE - THE FOUNDATION

- As a Christian I am bought at a price. Because He loved me, I love Him. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me obey My commands." If we love God we will want to obey Him.
- In Titus 2 we read, "the older women likewise.....that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.....*obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed.*"

## LIVING THIS OUT DAILY - A FEW PRACTICAL IDEAS

- Be more sober about our sin than his - All too often his sins seem huge because we are staring at them too closely. His likes/dislikes/personality are not sin! Our *reactions* are often worse than his actions or lack of.
- Race him to the cross! - Be quick to put things right. A soft answer turns away wrath - yours and his! Get a little space if you can to calm down, hear his perspective, try to understand him. Treat him as you would another person. Live at peace with all men as far as it depends upon you.
- Pray for him - he really needs it to stand firm in this world. He needs to know you're cheering him on. Through prayer the Lord changes us and our husbands without the mess we make in our attempts!
- Pray for you! - it's so important to be real with the Lord about our struggles. He already knows them but we need to bring them to Him for His perspective, giving Him time to change and shape us first. We cannot be a godly wife without Him but with God all things are possible (Matt 19:26) - now there is hope!
- Be thankful - 1 Thes 5:18 says to give thanks in everything for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. We're obeying when we're thankful! In dark times, list what you can be thankful for. Anything and everything. Practice this simple form of obedience. It is a wonderful way to get perspective again.
- Take thoughts captive - In 2 Corin 10 Paul warns us saying, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." Take thoughts captive, obey God's word, get perspective .
- Walk in humility - Sometimes we are wrong! Humility listens and tries to understand the other person - isn't determined to be heard no matter what the cost.
- Be Correctable - Our husbands can see our sin better than we can! Maybe the Lord would use our husbands to bring us gentle rebuke if we let him know we're open to hearing his insights into how we tick/what motivates us/how we react and respond?
- Communicate - Talk! Tell him nicely that you would like to talk at some point soon so he can prepare himself to hear and not be defensive. Keep to the point and try not to bring up the past.
- SUBmission - We have been created to be helpmeets. When we marry, our mission is no longer the main goal in our lives. We now have a SUB mission, one that comes under his mission. We are designed to be his helper for the mission God calls him to.
- Intimacy - care for his sexual needs, they are God given and his drives are the way God has made him. Make time for him. 1 Corin 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time..."