

 **ACTS 29**
WIVES' TRACK



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WHAT DOES A HELPMATE DO?

We Were Created As Helpmates

- a) Genesis 2:18: *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*
- b) 1 Corinthians 11:8-9: *For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.*

Two Kinds of Helpmates

- a) Proverbs 12:4: *A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.*
- b) Genesis 3: "attempts" to help can be harmful, since we are easily deceived as Eve in the garden.

Being a Decay

- a) Proverbs 7:10-11: *Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. She is loud and defiant; her feet never stay at home...*
- b) Proverbs 9:13: *The woman Folly is loud; she is undisciplined and without knowledge.*
- c) Proverbs 11:22: *Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.*
- d) Proverbs 21:19: *Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.*
- e) Proverbs 25:19: *Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.*
- f) Proverbs 25:24: *Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.*
- g) Proverbs 26:20: *Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.*

Being a Crown

- a) Proverbs 5:18-19: *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer--may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.*
- b) Proverbs 11:16: *A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.*
- c) Proverbs 19:14: *Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.*
- d) Proverbs 31:12: *She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.*
- e) Titus 2:3-5: *Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*
- f) Ephesians 5: 22-24: *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*
- g) Ephesians 5:33: *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

Practical Ways You Can Be a Crown

- a) Maintain your own walk/relationship with the Lord.
- b) Encourage your husband.
- c) Allow your husband to fail, if need be.
- d) Make sure your husband is healthy (i.e. food, sleep, etc.)
- e) Pray for your husband.
- f) Take care of sexual needs for both of you.
- g) Keep your husband priority above the kids and church.
- h) Ask your husband what HIS needs are and continue to ask as he/life seasons change.

NOTES

BUILDING A HOME OR BUILDING A MINISTRY?

What is a Home?

According to Scripture, a home is a dwelling place for God and His people where ministry is conducted.

In addition to the family home Scripture also speaks of the following dwellings as homes:

- a) The temple as God's home – *Matthew 21:13* It is written, "he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers."
- b) The church as God's home – *Ephesians 2:19* Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.
- c) Christians as God's home – *1 Peter 2:5* ...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- d) Heaven as God's home – *John 14:2* In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Proverbs 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

Home/ Ministry Building

- a) *Proverbs 24:3-4* Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
- b) *Titus 2:3-5* Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted too much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.
- c) *1 Timothy 5:14* So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.

Home/ Ministry Destruction

- a) *Matthew 6:19-21* Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is there will your heart be also.
- b) *Ecclesiastes 10:18* Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks.
- c) *Proverbs 11:29* He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind...
- d) *Proverbs 15:25* The Lord will tear down the house of the proud...
- e) *Proverbs 17:1* Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.
Proverbs 15:17 Better is a dish of vegetable where love is than a fattened ox served with hatred.
- f) *Proverbs 25:24* Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

Hebrews 13:7: Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Home/ Ministry Building Responsibilities

- a) Childrearing – *Genesis 1:28:* God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number fill the earth and subdue it.”
- b) Training /Teaching Children - *Proverbs 31:26:* She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- c) Make sure husband is welcomed - *Proverbs 27:8:* Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home
- d) Diet and nutrition - *Proverbs 31:14-15:* She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
- e) Stewardship - *Proverbs 31:16:* She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- f) Clothing - *Proverbs 31:21:* When it snows, she has no fear for her household, for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- g) Home décor - *Proverbs 31:22:* She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. .
- h) Hospitality – *Acts 5:42* And everyday, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on preaching and teaching Jesus as the Christ.
1 Peter 4:8-10 Above, all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Psalm 26:8 O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

Wisdom for Home building

- a) Know God and seek His praise – *Psalm 111:10* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.
- b) Work hard – *Proverbs 31:17* She set about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- c) Don't be idle – *Proverbs 31:27* She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- d) Organization/ Planning – *Proverbs 21:5* The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

- e) Be Pleasant – *Proverbs 25:24* Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
- f) Be trustworthy – *Proverbs 31:11-12* Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm all the days of her life.
- g) Recognize times and seasons – *Ecclesiastes 3:1-6* There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain , a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

NOTES

HOW TO RESIST YOUR ENEMY

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." --
C.S.Lewis.

Who is Our Enemy?

- a) Satan is an angelic being, created by God. (Ezekiel 28:14)
- b) Satan is not equal in power to God. (Job 1:6-12)
- c) He desired to be equal with God, declared war against God, and took one third of the angels with him. (Isaiah 14:11-23; Ezekiel 28:1-19)
- d) God cast Satan down to earth, Satan succeeded in tempting Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:1-24)
- e) God told Satan he would ultimately be defeated through the seed of the woman. (Genesis 3:14-15)
- f) Satan's work on earth now is to deceive as many sons of Adam and daughters of Eve as possible before his final demise. (John 8:44, I Peter 5:8)
- g) The motivation for all of Satan's work is pride and self-glory instead of humility and God-glory. (Ezekiel 28:2; James 4:6-7)

Who are His Allies?

- a) Demons (the one third of the angels who fell with him) (2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 9:1; 12:3-4)
- b) False Prophets (2 Peter 2:1)
- c) False Apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13)
- d) False Christians (Galatians 2:4)
- e) False Teachers (2 Peter 2:1)

What are His Names?

- a) Abaddon - Rev. 9:11 "Destroyer"
- b) Accuser - Rev. 12:10
- c) Adversary - 1 Peter 5:8
- d) Apollyon - Rev. 9:11 "Destroyer"
- e) Beelzebub - Matthew 12:24
- f) Belial - 2 Cor. 6:15
- g) Deceiver - Rev. 12:9
- h) Devil - Luke 4:13
- i) Enemy - Matthew 13:28, 39
- j) Evil One - Matthew 13:28, 39
- k) Father of Lies - John 8:44
- l) The god of this world - 2 Cor. 4:4
- m) Great Dragon - Rev. 12:9
- n) Lawless One - 2 Thess. 2:18
- o) Liar - John 8:44
- p) Morning Star - Isa. 14:12
- q) Prince of the Power of the Air - Eph. 2:2
- r) Ruler of this World - John 12:31
- s) Satan - Acts 26:18
- t) Serpent - Rev. 12:9
- u) Tempter - 1 Thess. 3:5

How Will He Attack?

Satan attacks us each in different ways, depending on our weaknesses. But, let's go back to Eve in the Garden to observe some of Satan's tactics, so that we can be prepared.

Satan's Tactics

1. Causing us to doubt the _____ of God. (Gen. 3:1)
 - ❖ John 8:44: *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
 - ❖ Psalms 33:4: *For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.*

2. Causing us to doubt the _____ of God. (Gen. 3:4-5)
 - ❖ Psalm 34:8: *Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.*

3. Tempting us to give in to _____ . (Gen. 3:6)
 - a) Lust of the Flesh
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:3-5: *The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

 - ❖ I John. 3:8: *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

 - b) Lust of the Eyes
 - ❖ I Timothy 6:3-10: *If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

 - ❖ "All the time the joke is that the word "mine" in its fully possessive sense cannot be uttered by a human being about anything. In the long run either [Satan] or [God] will say "mine" of each thing that exists, and specially of each man."
C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

 - c) Pride of Life
 - ❖ Romans 12:3: *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

4. Tempting us to take the _____ in our Marriages and Churches (Gen. 3:6)

- ❖ *“Therefore, while many women today need release from male domination, the liberating alternative is not female rivalry or autonomy but male headship wedded to female help. Christian redemption does not redefine creation; it restores creation, so that wives learn godly submission and husbands learn godly headship.”*

–Ray Ortlund, *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*

- ❖ *Ephesians 5:24: Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

5. Causing _____ (Gen. 3:7)

- ❖ *Romans 8:1-2, 31-39: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

6. Causing _____ (Genesis 3:11-13)

a) Gossip

- ❖ *1 Timothy 5:11-15: As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.*

b) Bitterness

- ❖ *Ephesians 4:22-27: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."*

How Do We Resist Our Enemy?

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- a) Understand that Christ was victorious over Satan at the cross.
 - ❖ Colossians 2:13-15: *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*
- b) Study your enemy's tactics, especially the ones he uses on YOU!
 - ❖ I Peter 5:8: *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
- c) Pray.
 - ❖ Ephesians 6:18-19: *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.*
- d) Arm yourself with the Word.
 - ❖ Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*
 - ❖ Ephesians 6:14a, 17b: *“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*
- e) Confess your sins regularly.
 - ❖ Proverbs 28:13: *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Deceptive Lies

- a) Regarding Gender
 - ❖ There is no such thing as gender difference, but rather mere cultural conditioning.
 - ❖ To be equal men and women must be the same.
 - ❖ Women should be tougher and men should be softer.
- b) Regarding Work
 - ❖ The workplace is more important than the home.
 - ❖ A woman does not have a career or ministry unless she works outside of the home.
 - ❖ Every family needs two incomes to have a decent life.
 - ❖ Being a housewife is an outdated and degrading career.
 - ❖ Teaching in the domestics will do a disservice to women.
- c) Regarding Sexuality
 - ❖ A woman's body belongs to her.
 - ❖ Women should be sexually promiscuous like men.

d) Regarding Marriage

- ❖ Women should never be financially dependent upon men.
- ❖ Household duties should be divided equally between the man and woman, like roommates.

e) Regarding Motherhood

- ❖ Professionals can better raise children than mothers.
- ❖ Children are a burden and limit the freedom and independence of women.
- ❖ Schools and daycares should extend hours and services to free career women for more work.

NOTES

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Speaking the truth in love is a challenging subject because it hits us where we live. Because it involves the use of our tongues, we are subject to the dangers mentioned in the Book of James. Because it has so much potential for good, it is hotly contested by our enemy. Because it has so much potential for pain, and because we are human, it can be misused and misunderstood. Pray for those with whom you interact, that your speaking will bear the fruit of righteousness.

I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Ephesians 4: according to this, speaking the truth in love is...

- a) is a mark of maturity
- b) expected among mature believers
- c) can be used to call each other on, to motivate each other in righteousness
- d) will be required of all believers at some point in our Christian life

As it relates to those of us in ministry, how can we speak the truth in love to those around us? How can we best follow this into maturity in our home, in our church, and among those who are in leadership with us? As leaders, we should not fall into the sin of pride when we are asked for advice, consulted on personal matters, or in a position where we must confront sin, negative behaviors, and destructive actions. We should examine our hearts, ask God for wisdom, and not fall into the sin of pride.

Pride:

Things we tell ourselves:

- a) I've been asked! (I'm so flattered to be consulted.)
 - b) I have authority in this person's life.
 - c) I've got responsibility in this church.
 - d) I have to preserve my husband's reputation.
 - e) I have to preserve my own reputation.
 - f) I have an opportunity to create change. (I can manipulate the situation to suit my purposes.)
-
- ❖ Proverbs 11:2: *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 13:10: *Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 16:18: *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 18:12: *Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 25: 6. 7a: *Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; it is better for him to say to you "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 25:27: *It is good not to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 26:12: *Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 30:32: *If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!*

An Answer to pride: the example of Noah

Noah first found favor in the eyes of the Lord, the first instance of grace in the Old Testament. *After* he found this grace, *then* he was righteous. He was not first righteous, then deserving of grace. He was not chosen for his righteousness. In the same way, we are not chosen because *we* are good, but because *God* is good!

- ❖ Genesis 6: 8, 9: *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord...Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.*

Reasons We Don't Speak the Truth in Love

- a) Fear of man. Romans 2:29 *But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*
Proverbs 29:25 *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.*
- b) Guilt. Romans 5:1 *Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*
- c) Intimidation. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God.*
- d) Immaturity and lack of understanding. Ephesians 4:13-14 *...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming...*
Hebrews 5:13-14 *For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*
- e) Lack of love. 1 Corinthians 13:6 *[Love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.*
- f) Fear of consequences. John 6:66 *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him any more.* John 7:43 *So there arose a division in the multitude because of Him, and some of them wanted to seize Him...* See also the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7.

Reasons We Should Speak the Truth in Love

- a) Fear of God. Proverbs 1:7, 29-31 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord, they would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof* Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.* Proverbs 31:30 *Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.*
- b) Obedience. 1 Samuel 15:22 *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.* 2 John 6 *And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.* Ephesians 4:15, 16 *...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.* The good result of speaking the truth in love is threefold: we grow up in Christ, which causes the growth of the body, and the body is built up in love.

Making it Practical

a) SPEAK

- ❖ How we say something matters; if it is possible to say it kindly, with a smile, with tenderness, then do so. If you intend to keep silent, know your reasons for doing so before God, making sure it is not out of fear.

b) THE TRUTH

- ❖ This truth is not our own definition; this should be scripturally based, Biblical, theologically accurate truth. James 1:5 *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*
- ❖ Truth is always redemptive when spoken in love. It always points to Jesus. John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one come to the Father, but through Me."*
- ❖ Truth sets us free. John 8:32 *...and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*
- ❖ Truth does not withhold scriptural realities in order to be polite. It is not watered down. It is clear and bold. Paul prayed for this boldness in Ephesians 6:19.
- ❖ Truth is the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27, 28 *For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

c) IN LOVE

- ❖ Speaking in love involves:
 - active listening before we speak
 - believing in faith that God will work
 - desiring the best for the person with whom we speak
 - approaching without offense
- ❖ If offense is to come, let it be the offense of the Truth, not the presentation, lest they shift the blame to the delivery in order to avoid facing the consequences. *Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.* Romans 9:33

Relationship is important – “you can’t carry a 100 lb. word over a 10 lb. bridge.”

When we are asked “What do you think?” so often our first answer begins with, “I think...” before considering what a husband might think, or what God would say on the matter. We would do well to reverse this order to reflect our priorities:

- a) What is God saying? (in scripture, through prayer)
- b) What does my husband think?
- c) What do I think?

Questions for Reflection

- a) How do we give counsel to those who approach us?
- b) When do we defer to our husbands, or share the matter with them?
- c) How do we avoid participation in gossip?
- d) How can we speak boldly?
- e) How do I address the following categories of people: weak willed women (2 Tim 3:6), fellow leaders, emerging leaders, needy, busybodies, lonely, disgruntled?
- f) What if my counsel/confrontation is not well received? How far do I go to pursue the matter? (examine your heart, motives, approach, delivery, accountability structure)

NOTES

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE: SELECTED SCRIPTURES

❖ Ephesians 4

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- ❖ Proverbs 17:28: *Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.*
- ❖ Proverbs 10:19: *When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*
- ❖ Proverbs 12:18: *Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- ❖ Proverbs 15:1: *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- ❖ Proverbs 17:27: *A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.*
- ❖ Proverbs 26:22: *The words of gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.*
- ❖ Proverbs 17:9: *He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*
- ❖ Proverbs 25: 9, 10: *If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence, or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.*
- ❖ Proverbs 9:8: *Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.*
- ❖ Proverbs 25: 9, 10: *Who ever says to the guilty "you are innocent" –people will curse him and nations denounce him. But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them.*
- ❖ Proverbs 25:11, 12: *A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reproof to a listening ear.*
- ❖ Proverbs 15:23: *A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!*
- ❖ Proverbs 12:25: *Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.*
- ❖ Proverbs 28:4: *Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law resist them.*
- ❖ Proverbs 28:23: *He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.*
- ❖ Proverbs 29:27: *The righteous detest the dishonest; the wicked detest the upright.*
- ❖ Proverbs 13:10: *Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*

❖ Psalm 141:3: *Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.*

❖ James 3

Taming the Tongue

¹Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

RECOMMENDED READING

Gender Issues

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism by John Piper and Wayne Grudem

The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism is Harming Our Young Men by Christina Hoft Sommers

Five Aspects of A Man: A Biblical Theology of Masculinity by William Mouser

Different by Design by John MacArthur

The Feminine Mystique by Betty Freidan

Domestic Tranquility by F. Carolyn Graglia

Dating and Courtship

Her Hand in Marriage by Douglas Wilson

Wives/ Homemaking

The Creative Counterpart by Linda Dillow

Praise Her at the Gates by Nancy Wilson

The Fruit of Her Hands by Nancy Wilson

The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace

Real Love for Real Life by Andi Ashworth

Standing Firm in a World of Opposition A Woman's Devotional Bible Study by Cas Monaco (also, Ruth and 2 Timothy studies by Monaco)

The Hidden Art of Homemaking by Edith Schaeffer

The Hospitality Command by Alexander Strauch

The Personal Touch: Encouraging Others through Hospitality by Rachael Crabb

Open Heart, Open Home by Karen Burton Mains

Verses of Virtue by Beall Phillips

Treasuring God in Our Traditions by Noel Piper

Stepping Heavenward by Elizabeth Prentiss

Feminine Appeal by Carolyn Mahaney

For Women Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men by Shaunti Feldhahn

Marriage

Reforming Marriage by Douglas Wilson

Families at the Crossroads by Rodney Clapp

Intimate Allies by Dan Allender

The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas

Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas

Child Rearing

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Ted Tripp

Raising Your Children For Christ by Andrew Murray

Standing on the Promises by Douglas Wilson

Future Men by Douglas Wilson

What is A Family? by Edith Schaeffer

War of Words by Paul Tripp

Male Sexuality

Fidelity by Douglas Wilson
Intended for Pleasure by Ed Wheat
How to Give Her Pleasure by Lou Pagett (non-Christian)
A Lifetime of Sex by Stephen George
Sex: A Man's Guide by Stefan Bechtel
A Celebration of Sex by Douglas Rosenau
Song of Solomon tape/CD series by Mark Driscoll
Love Life for Every Married Couple by Ed Wheat
To Have and To Hold by Robert Moeller

Female Sexuality

Intended for Pleasure by Ed Wheat
Intimate Issues by Linda Dillow
How to be a Great Lover by Lou Pagett (non-Christian)
A Celebration of Sex by Douglas Rosenau
Song of Solomon tape/CD series by Mark Driscoll
Love Life for Every Married Couple by Ed Wheat
To Have and To Hold by Robert Moeller

Sexual Abuse

The Wounded Heart by Dan Allender
The Healing Path by Dan Allender

Pastor's Wives Biographies

Susannah Spurgeon, wife of C.H. Spurgeon
Mrs. C. H. Spurgeon by Charles Ray

Katharina Von Bora, wife of Martin Luther
Katharina Von Bora by Rudolf K. Markwald and Marilyn Morris Markwald

Edith Schaeffer, wife of Francis Schaeffer
L'Abri by Edith Schaeffer

Ruth Bell Graham, wife of Billy Graham
Ruth, A Portrait by Patricia Cornwell

Sarah Edwards, wife of Jonathan Edwards
Marriage to a Difficult Man by Elizabeth Dodds

Joy Davidman Lewis, wife of C.S. Lewis
C. S. Lewis Through the Shadowlands: The Story of His Life With Joy Davidman by Brian Sibley
And God Came In by Lyle Dorsett