

I. Review

- A. SOTM – The SOTM is the unveiling of the heart of the King and an invitation to walk in the fullness of the life of the Kingdom that He made available to us through the New Covenant. Jesus puts forward six particular aspects of the law in which the outward action of obedience was being walked out by the scribes and Pharisees, but the death within the heart still remained. Jesus places the priority on righteousness in the inward parts that produces outward righteousness. (Mat. 5:17-48)
- B. Spirit of Treachery - The word “treachery” literally means to disguise oneself and to act deceitfully, and is only used when speaking of the intentional breaking or using of a relational covenant in order to benefit one’s self. It carries the idea that an individual used the covenant for unrighteous selfish gain in mind. The spirit of treachery works in our hearts to directly undermine the four main dynamics of relational covenant and specifically focuses on self-interest rather than covenantal relational love. (Mat. 5:31-32; Mal. 2:13-16. 10:1-12)
1. **Relational Fullness** - Treachery abandons relationship if it becomes too difficult rather than understanding or embracing the idea that the difficulty produces greater depths of love.
 2. **Offers Pure Hearted Strength** – Treachery only gives if receiving and withholds love if they believe the other party has not earned it.
 3. **Interdependence in Fullness of Destiny** – A treacherous heart will be focused upon personal density or purpose. It will use the relationship for personal gain or detach when it no longer of benefit.
 4. **Eternal Covenant** – Treachery views all relationships as conditional contracts that become null and void when the other party does not “live up” to their part of the relationship.
- C. Jesus is passionate about confronting and eliminating treachery from our hearts and upon the fullness of our salvation we will no longer need marriage counseling. In the meantime, confronting and putting to death treachery in our hearts through the transformation will be the most effective way forward in seeing healthy marriages in our day.

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Mat. 5:48)

II. Glorious Marriages through Divine Order

- A. God has all wisdom and knowledge of the human heart and He pours out His wisdom and knowledge upon us for our good, our fullness, and His glory. His desire for our marriages is the fullness of goodness, life, and love through the process of maturity in Him.
 1. The divine order of headship, and submission in relation to headship in marriage, is a roadmap to the fullness of the intention of God for your marriage. Just as God has a divine leadership order for the fullness of His church, so to He has a divine order for the fullness of marriage. (Eph. 4:11-16)
 2. The proper of function of all divine order depends upon the nature and character of Jesus being formed in us through the Holy Spirit's work of transformation by revelation. Therefore just as it would be very wrong to insist on an instant maturity of Christian character, it is very wrong to insist on an on demand or instant maturity in headship and submissiveness in marriage. (Col. 2:1-5)
 3. In light of how Godliness is formed in us, it is abusive and idolatrous to attempt control someone's character through browbeating and domineering. This only leads to frustration, pain, and relational separation. (Gal. 4:19)

III. Common Questions - "Headship"

- A. Biblical Headship Defined - Headship is a divine authority and order that leads to the fullness of life. It demands a servant leader to love another in both the spiritual and physical arenas by taking primary responsibility to bring health, protection, and provision. (Eph. 5:25-29)
- B. Husband is the Head – Some bible teachers consider "head" to mean nothing more than source, in the sense that the head of a river is its source. Even though the word can mean this in Biblical thinking the source has inherent authority. If something comes from you, there is some level of authority you have over it. (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23)
- C. Four essential understandings concerning headship:
1. **Headship is not based upon superiority in ability** – Honoring or being under authority has nothing to do with equality in ability or capacity. Jesus was completely under the authority of God the Father, yet He is equally God. God calls women to recognize the headship of their husbands, not because women are unequal or inferior, but because there is a God-ordained order that produces the fullness of life.
 2. **Headship is not relative** – The husband is "not called to be" but rather "is the head" of the wife no matter if he deserves the position or not. This is a principle of divine order. God would still be our head even if he was cruel or negligent of our needs.
 3. **Honor of headship is voluntary** - Jesus desires voluntary love but never forces it, one aspect of voluntary love is that it produces voluntary submission in both men and woman.
 4. **Headship authority belongs to husbands only, not to men in general**– In every passage of scripture that talks about the headship of the man it is always and only in the context of marriage.
- D. To current and future Husbands – Your role as "head" demands you lay down your life out of love and serve to bring life to your wife both physically and spiritually. Leading in any other fashion is to step outside of biblical headship and into a perverted form of dictatorship. Many men stumble in this and attempt to dominate by demanding submission from their wives. (Mrk. 10:42-45)
- E. You take initiative – Servant leadership doesn't mean doing it all or calling every shot. **It means taking the initiative** to put things in motion that solve problems and fosters the life of God.

IV. Common Questions – “Submission”

- A. Biblical Submission Defined – The Greek word translated submit means to “rank yourself under” and is primarily to speak of honoring military rank.
- B. Wives Submit to the Headship of your Husband – Wives are called by divine order to honor and affirm her husband's leadership as the head. Submitting is the choice to rank under his role by coming along side him through her strengths and gifts to help to carry their relationship and destiny to its fullness. (1 Pet. 3:1-6)
- C. Essential understandings concerning submission:
 1. **Submission does not mean you agree with your Husband on everything or stop thinking for yourself** - Submission does not mean you must agree with the opinions, values, and convictions of your husband, even on things as fundamental and serious as the Christian faith.
 - a. You're a thinking being, and biblically faith by definition demands that you have your own beliefs and convictions. If something is true, you believe it. If he says, “You can't believe that,” you humbly do not agree with him. Submission never leaves the brain at the altar. All throughout the marriage, the two independent hearts and minds must both fully function to walk out the “two become one” reality.
 2. **Submission does not mean you stop influencing your husband** – Submission does not mean avoiding the effort to influence or see change in your husband. Peter calls submissive wives to “Win him”. Her life is devoted to winning this husband from an unbeliever to a believer, not through demanding or nagging, but through supporting Him as the head. If your husband is living in sin or unbelief, you want them to change, and you wouldn't be a loving person if you didn't.
 3. **Submission does not mean you look to get your spiritual life from your husband** - The scriptures are clear that a submissive wife does not look to her husband for her life in God. She looks to God for that. He may or may not be a strength to her spiritually, but he is still her head and she can still biblically be submissive and honoring to him.

V. Fighting for Fullness

- A. The Lord is highlighting His desire to strengthen marriage in this season in the context of community, and intercession. I strongly encourage you to be honest with your life groups about marital struggles, don't allow the any weeds of death to grow in your heart concerning your covenant with your spouse. (Mat. 5:31-32)