

THE BASE

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Ephesians 5:21-33 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Three Steps to Build a Base of Love

1. DEFINE LOVE.

Ephesians 5:25 “Love, just as Christ loved the church.”

Three Views of Marital Love

- **The Traditional View:** I love you for what you **GIVE** to me.
- **The Hollywood View:** I love you for what you **DO** for me.
- **The Bible View:** I love you for **WHO YOU ARE.**

Ephesians 5:1-2 "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us."

Don't fall in love – WALK IN LOVE and you'll find LASTING LOVE.

2. DISPLAY LOVE.

Ephesians 5:33 "Each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Ephesians 5:21 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Ask this question: How Can I HELP You?

Mutual Submission means: I am here for you, regardless of your place in the family. I will leverage my power, influence, and resources for your benefit.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

3. DETERMINE to LOVE.

A good marriage doesn't just happen. It requires effort!

Your marriage will work when you work for your marriage.

Ephesians 4:2-3, 15 "Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."

What you did to WIN each other's love you must continue to do to KEEP each other's love.

Proverbs 5:18-19 "Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. May you always be captivated by her love."

Emotions follow motions.

When you choose to act in love, the feelings of love will follow.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us."

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