

John 14:8-11

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

I have always found this passage to be so fascinating on a couple of levels. First of all, Jesus emulates for us how our lives are to be lived in the flesh and He gives us an example to follow. He was submitted to the Father in all things; so much so that the Father had free reign over Jesus' life. In fact, Jesus was so surrendered to the Father that He could actually say: "He who has seen me has seen the Father."

Second, as a result of Jesus' submission, the Father lived in and through Jesus; and this is not to be taken in some mystical way, but we are to understand this quite literally. After all, it was proved out in very real, tangible, and demonstrative ways—though the words Jesus spoke and the works that He performed. These both were the evidence, the hard proof, that the Father abided in Jesus (literally made His home in the human body of Jesus).

This passage illustrates what I have been emphasizing over the last few weeks regarding the spiritual reality being proved out and played out in the realm of the

physical. In this instance, the intangible God became tangible to others through their interaction with Jesus.

This is to be our experience as well as we have been chosen to participate in the greatest exchange ever: we get to give up our *old sinful nature* in order to receive His life. And I mean that in the most literal of terms. Paul said: it is no longer I who live but Christ in me (***Galatians 2:20***). This is to be our reality—His life in and through ours such that others get to experience the intangible God in a very tangible way through our bodies. In fact, others will believe based on the words that He speaks and the works that He completes through us (***John 13:35; 15:8***).

Again, this can only happen when we stop living first and foremost as physical beings in a physical world trying to grab the spiritual and make it play out in our lives and we begin to live as spiritual beings—as sons of God. Now this exchange does not occur automatically. As we have discussed, it happens step by step, as we make the choice to open each door within the corridor of our soul and invite Jesus to come in and literally invade our kingdom, completely destroy and demolish the enemy, conquer our fear, and let Him teach us why we can trust ourselves to Him and how we can trust ourselves to Him.

The why and the how are so important because we have to know—we need answers to the things that have happened in our life. We need to know there was meaning, purpose, and that we are loved and have always been loved before we are willing to push through our fear, let go of our control, and trust ourselves to Jesus.

When you start to learn about the why you will come to find that it is always

enveloped in some aspect of Jesus' character and nature and His desire for us to be like Him in all things. The how is a bit different; it turns our understanding of the why into active belief or faith. The why and the how therefore operate to expand our knowledge of and our personal experience with Jesus. According to **2 Peter 1:3-4** this knowledge is what allows us to partake of His divine nature and enjoy all the rich and wonderful promises He has made to us. In other words, this knowledge is the reason we can walk by faith in the Spirit of God.

I know I have been repeating some variation of this message each week and that is because I know that many of us are still afraid and are still holding back and we have not let Jesus into some of these places within our soul. As a result, we don't really know God and we are not filled replete with the Spirit. This means that we are going to continue to bang our head against the wall hoping there is more to Christianity and never experiencing it on a sustained basis.

Well, the truth is, there is a lot more to Christianity, but there also no short cut to experiencing God. The exchange must be made; there is no other way for the Holy Spirit to take up permanent residence in each room of your heart. It will not happen by magic and God will not force you; rather, you must choose to let it happen door by door, room by room.

This exchange is about redemption and possession of the territory within your soul by the living God. It's about the vanquishing of enemies which squat on the land rightfully belonging to Jesus; and it's about relinquishing control over your life to His rule. This is why I have been teaching you that Christianity is about a mutual relationship—you give Him your trust and in exchange you get to experience the love which He has already lavished upon you.

And while all that sounds simply wonderful, practically you need to be fully assured of His love for you before you will ever open the doors, let Him in, and submit to His taking possession of you. Providing the example, Jesus was fully assured of that fact that His Father loved Him and so He trusted Himself to the Father and only did what the Father wanted Him to do.

John 5:19-20

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. **For the Father loves the Son**, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

Do you understand; love was the reason Jesus submitted to the Father. Jesus believed that the Father's plans for Him were good even though it involved great suffering. Of course, as a physical man, Jesus had to understand this from the perspective of the spiritual played out into the realm of the physical and then on through to the eternal. It makes no sense the other way around. After all, when you look at Jesus' experiences from the perspective of the physical first His life was not to be envied.

But He knew—in the sense that He was willing to bet His life on the fact—that in a very short time the Father would sit Him at His right hand and establish Him, for all time, above all rule and authority and would give to Him the most amazing

reward He could ever imagine—and that is you and me. Yes, we are His reward. Jesus fully trusted Himself to the Father’s love and was therefore obedient to the point of death just so that He could call us brothers and sisters and for all of eternity share with us His glory (***Hebrews 2:11; Ephesians 1:18; John 17:22***).

In the same way, love is the basis for our submission to Jesus. But if we are not convinced of His love, we simply will not submit; as a result, we will not be filled replete with the Spirit. Jesus, therefore, wants you to know how much He loves you. When you finally become convinced that God is good (that you are not) and that you need His goodness; when you finally become convinced that you are radically and passionately loved by God (and have always been loved in this way) and that you need to be loved in this way; then, and only then, will your submission be complete and your reward (being filled with the Spirit) fully realized.

This is why the Spirit spoke to you of all those wonderful and marvelous truths in Chapters 1-3. The Spirit wants you to be fully convinced that in the same way that Jesus knew it was safe to bet His life on the love of His Father, it is safe for you to bet your life on His love for you.

Now, the reason I am focusing so much on this is that being filled with the Spirit is the secret to living the Christian life—everything hinges on it. In fact, our obedience to all the Biblical commands is fulfilled when we are filled with the Spirit. Further, our enjoying all those wonderful promises, like knowing the will of God, is a fruit of being filled with the Spirit. This is why the Spirit wants us to know that there is no safer place to be than wrapped securely in the love of God.

Did you catch the fact that I said He wants us to “know” we are safe (in the

Biblical sense of full experiential realization) and I did not say He wants us to “feel” safe. As you have experienced, trusting yourself to Jesus does not always feel safe (in fact quite often just the opposite), nevertheless it is safe. Sometimes I think we forgot who we are dealing with. We are talking about the Lord God who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth (*Isaiah 51:12-13*). He is so much bigger and greater than any of us can imagine and yet He has chosen to lavish His love upon you and upon me.

Again, this is where your mind must be transformed such that your spiritual reality is the basis for making all your decisions in this life despite your physical experience. You must know, believe, and bet your life on the fact that you are loved like no other and you must be filled with the Spirit; or better said, every moment of every day you must let the Spirit fill you complete.

Now because the spiritual always plays out in the realm of the physical, you must know that being filled with the Spirit will have radical implications on all of your most intimate of relationships. It will impact the relationships with your brothers and sisters in the Lord; it will impact your marriage; it will impact your relationship with your parents and parents with your children; as well as the relationships between masters and servants (or in our case, employers and employees).

With that said, this brings us into what has been a very misunderstood and badly abused portion of scripture. Honestly, I have been kind of scared to teach it because of the historical and emotional baggage that comes with not only the passage but the individual words like “submit.” But God would not let me skip this section of scripture, so here we go.

Ephesians 5:21-24

Be filled with the Spirit...and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives, to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives to their husbands in everything.

This is from the NASB, but I eliminated the words which are not in the original text but are added by translators to make the English translation flow. So what we have here is more of a literal word for word translation. I did this to help us avoid the reaction that can be induced by those added words as I believe they contribute to the misunderstanding and cultural bias normally associated with this passage.

First and foremost, the order of this passage is critical. As a fruit of the Spirit we are to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ and that mutual submission will then play out in the submission that is also to exist between a wife and her husband, and so on.

But I want to make something very clear at the onset. In the Greek this verb (“be subject”) is not an imperative; in other words, this is not a command. You have heard it taught as a command and you have probably read it as a command (I know I have). But to do so is complete error; an error which has sadly led to all manner of abuse, authoritative power plays, damage, and suffering within our

most intimate of relationships. But again, it is a flat out error!

Just so you know; “be subject” is in the present, passive, participle, masculine, plural, nominative tense. I know that does not mean much to you on the surface, but the fact that it is not an imperative should be huge. In contrast, “be filled” with the Spirit, is a command—it is in the 2nd person, plural present passive imperative. In addition, “understanding” the will of the Lord is also an imperative; but “be subject” is not!

Furthermore, because it is in the passive tense, it is not something that you are to go and try to do; for you will fail. Just like you can’t go and fill yourself with the Spirit, you can only let the Spirit fill you up. In the same way, if we are willing to be filled with the Spirit, He will submit us to one another and wives to their husbands, and so on; it will be a natural result of trusting ourselves completely to Jesus and letting the Spirit operate in our lives.

Jesus said: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (**Matthew 11:28-30**). As such, He does not drop some heavy commandment on us (like telling us to go and submit) and then sit back and watch us fail. That is nonsense. The reason this passage has caused so much trouble is that we have failed to understand (probably due to our cultural bias and the darkness of our *old sinful nature*) that submission, like love, and like knowing the will of God, is a result of being filled with the Spirit.

Now just to clarify, we have to do our part. Yes we have work to do; but that is always and only to come to Jesus and experientially believe—to trust ourselves to

Jesus and make choices accordingly—or as I have said, “to actively believe the truth.” And, just for the record, even though we must choose to believe, He is actually the one working in us to give us the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him (***Philippians 2:13***); for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things (***Romans 11:36***). Praise Jesus, even our obedience is His work in and through our lives. This is why His burden is light.

Now, we are to be subject to one another in the fear of God. Let’s stop right there and understand what that means. The fear of the Lord is to hate all evil—to hate everything that is not God (***Proverbs 8:13***). So in our hatred of evil, we must hate our *old nature* and all that our *old nature* desires. Therefore we are to war against evil and willingly let the Spirit fill us so that He can subject us to one another.

What do you think “being subject to one another” or mutual submission looks like? First of all, it makes no differentiation between male and female or between races or colors; it is entirely non-discriminatory. Mutual submission is a beautiful picture of how the body of Christ must work together, and not against each other, in order to be healthy and whole. This does not mean that everyone has the same role, function, responsibility, or authority. Not at all; it just means that everyone has a role to fill in the body of Christ and everyone is equally dependent upon others to do exactly as God has asked them and gifted them to do.

For example, in the same way that you receive from me as a teacher (and, in so doing, are subject to me), I receive from you who are gifted with prophecy, discernment, encouragement, exhortation, mercy, compassion, and so on (and, in so doing, I am subject to you). We all have a role, we all have a function, and we

all need the unique gifting and expression of Jesus of each other to be operative in our lives.

As such, submission is not about power and it is not about position, but it is about living according to the spiritual truth that God has intentionally put all the pieces together in the body in order to help the entire church (**1 Corinthians 12:7**). We simply are not able to be healthy and whole (individually or corporately) unless we receive the unique expression of Jesus from our brothers and sisters whom God has sent to be a part of our lives—and this is the truth despite how we might feel about this issue. We are dependent upon each other.

Now, I do not think it is an accident that the Holy Spirit said that we are to be subject to another before He included this instruction about marriage. The Holy Spirit is always intentional and I believe that He purposely wanted to put a stake into the heart of our historical and cultural bias and prejudices and make it clear that man or woman, woman or man, we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ and are all one in Christ (**Galatians 3:28**); and that is how a husband is to deal with His wife. In fact, just so you know how serious this is, the Spirit makes it clear that a wife is an equal partner in God's gift of new life and if a husband does not treat her as he should, his prayers will not even be heard (**1 Peter 3:7**). This is pretty intense and I am amazed at how the collective "we" in the "religion" of Christianity have been able to mess this one up so badly.

So let's understand this next part of the passage. A wife who is filled with the Spirit will be subject to her husband, as to the Lord. Clearly this is not about power or position; but like our mutual submission, it is about function and authority. So let's toss aside all the ways that this passage has been misapplied to

lead women into some form of relational bondage and compulsion and understand why there is both a functional and authority difference in the roles.

First of all, let me say that this is one of the mysteries of Christ and, according to *Ephesians 5:32*, it is a great mystery. This is why the uniqueness of the functions and the authority in the marriage relationship cannot be understood separate from the intimate and very personal relationship between Christ and the Church—which He refers to as His bride (*Revelation 19:7*).

Second, it is all to be understood and played out from the perspective of the spiritual down into the physical. In other words, we may not understand for sure why the husband is likened to Christ (other than the fact that man was made in the image of God) and why the wife is likened to the church (other than the fact that woman was made from man and is the glory of man). But, from God's perspective, the marriage relationship is a picture presented to all of creation of our relationship with Him. Therefore, this relationship is a Biblical type that He protects and preserves as it is a reflection on His character and His nature. We simply cannot try and manage this passage from the perspective of the physical out to the spiritual or else we defile and desecrate the Biblical type.

So let's think about this. Without question, Christ is the head of the church. After all, "God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and He gave Him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with His presence" (*Ephesians 1:22-23*). Christ was given this authority and this function by the Father for our benefit. You see, the Father knows that we are never safer and more secure than when we are found in Christ because Jesus has proven that He loves us more than He

loved His own life and even more than He loved His glory with the Father. He willingly set His glory aside and gave up His life so that we can be presented to Him without spot or blemish (**5:27**); and this gives the Father great pleasure (**1:5**).

And all He asks of us—as His bride—is to be open to receive His love—to say “I do” to His offer of love. That is it. Just like salvation was a free gift and we did nothing to earn it, we just had to receive it (**Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12**), living as sons of God is also a gift. All we have to do is believe that He loves us, open ourselves up to His love and let the Spirit fill every nook and cranny within our soul. That is it. The rest will be up to Him.

In the same way that the Father lived through Jesus, Jesus will live His life, speak His words, and do His works in and through our lives (**Ephesians 2:10; John 15:8**) and it will be demonstratively shown to others through our words and our deeds. In fact, He will place within our hearts His desires so that our desires are His desires (**Psalms 37:4**) and we will understand His will and walk in the path that He has stretched out before us.

The work of the church is to believe; to say “I do.” It is our saying, “Ok, I am convinced that you love me and so I am going to let you have me.” This is why marital sex is also a cherished Biblical type or a picture of the church willing letting herself be loved by Jesus, as He is the Savior of the body. Accordingly, we are to be open to His love in every area of our lives. Now as we discussed, when we are not convinced that we are loved, we don’t give ourselves to Jesus in this manner. We hold back. We let Him enjoy pieces of us but we don’t let ourselves be lavished in His love.

So let’s take this parallel into the marriage relationship and complete this

picture.

Ephesians 5:25-33

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Now, unlike the instruction that wives are to let the Spirit fill them and submit them to their husbands, men are actually commanded (yes, it is an **imperative**) to agape love their wives. It is a present active imperative. There is no way around this one. Every moment of every day He is to agape love her as Christ has always loved the church. Since we have been made in His image, we must love as He loves. The Spirit wants us to understand how extreme this command is and He

likens our responsibility as men to love their wives to the manner in which He loved (and has always loved) the church.

Jesus gave up His own life so that you and I can be holy having been cleansed by His word. We have been made into His image righteous, holy and true (**4:24**) and we have become this marvelous work of art fashioned by His hands (**1:10**). And one day we will be presented to Him, in all our glory, having been made ready, adorned for our husband with our righteous deeds (**Revelation 19:7; 21:2**).

So men, swallow hard, clear your throat, and understand that there is no room for you to deal with your wife out of selfishness, insecurity, taking, demanding, or some authoritative power trip. Rather, you are to humble yourself before your wife, in the same way that Jesus humbled Himself, laid aside His glory, became a man, and gave up His life for the ones He loved (**Philippians 2:8**). You have been made in the image of God and therefore you are to love as He has loved.

Now of course, there is no way possible for you to obey this command unless you are filled with the Spirit. For unless you do the hard, hard, hard work of opening the doors within the corridor of your soul and learning why and how you can trust yourself to Jesus with the core of you manhood and personhood, and unless you are convinced that you are loved you are going to fail. And remember, like the church who constantly fails, we should not expect our wives to always deal with us as we would like; still we are commanded to love her regardless.

In a very strange way, it's actually a very narcissistic thing, in a good way, to agape love your wife. Let me explain. If you lavish your wife with God's agape love, with all its various faces (and you can go to the website and listen to the **Faces of Love** series if you want an idea of what agape love looks like), you will

greatly increase the likelihood of her honoring you and respecting you—which is your greatest need as a male. Now, let me just say that it is not a guaranteed reaction (as she still must choose herself to walk in the Spirit), but the likelihood is greatly increased.

After all, in this spiritual mystery which is entwined with Biblical types, when we are married we become one with our wives and who does not look after their own body. All of us guys have as one of our top priorities caring for our own needs. We just need to start to see from the spiritual and not the physical and understand that loving our wives is caring for our own needs.

Now, again, this is all talking about Christ and His woman (the church) but nevertheless, it also applies to us in marriage and each man is to love His wife as He loves himself and the wife must respect her husband.

Let's circle back around to her part. Respect and honor (which I believe is at the core of this notion that a wife is to be subject to her husband in all things) are actually the fruit of a wife being loved. In effect she says, "Since you love me with God's agape love, I know I can trust myself to you, I know that you are trustworthy because He is trustworthy, so I am going to freely and willingly open myself up to be loved by you. I am going to let you lavish me with God's love." Do you understand? Her willingness to honor you and respect you will be a natural result of both her submitting to the Lord and her feeling safe, secure and loved by you.

Now as we discussed, when we are not convinced that we are loved, we don't give ourselves in this manner to Jesus. We hold back. We let Him enjoy pieces of us but we don't let ourselves be lavished in His love. This will be the same reality

if a husband does not agape love His wife. However, a husband was given this authority and this function by the Father for the benefit of his wife. You see, the Father knows that a woman is never safer and more secure in this physical world than when she is loved (with God's agape love) by her husband knowing that it will result in her honoring and respecting her husband. The spiritual map into the physical of this mutual relationship is simply beautiful.

However, for a marriage to bring the fulfillment that Jesus desires both husband and wife to experience and for this relationship to reveal the glory of God to those who get to observe it in action, both parties need to let themselves be filled with the Spirit—it is the only way. Do you understand now why I have been hitting this issue of opening up the doors in our hearts so repeatedly? I know I sound like a broken record, but it is the only chance we have to not repeat the errors and the mistakes of history and actually be able to enjoy and thrive in the marriage relationship.

Sadly, in most marriages that you and I have observed both parties are still so centered on selfishness, taking, need, greed, covetousness, and insecurity; and the light that Jesus desires to shine from this relationship is merely a flicker. But we have the opportunity to do it different. You and I are being taught by Jesus Himself how to love and how to be subject to Him so we can be subject to one another. Praise Jesus! He chose us for this!

Before we leave this topic, I want us to jump to a passage about marriage that is at first glance is troubling for most women and that is in **1 Peter 3** where the Spirit talks about the women of old who trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands. For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, when she

called Him lord (which is from **Genesis 18:12**). The passage in Peter also says: “You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do” (**1 Peter 3:5-6**).

This passage has often been used as a weapon against wives telling them that they must obey their husbands; no if, and or but. But that understanding obviously fails to capture how the Spirit treats this issue of marriage across the board. For instance, we would have a problem applying this passage in such an aggressive fashion if a husband was verbally, emotionally, or physically abusing their wife or children or placing the family in some kind of jeopardy. My point is that everything about the marriage relationship must be understood first through the lens of an individual’s responsibility to be filled with the Spirit, to know the will of the Lord for their circumstance, and second through the requirement for mutual submission as joint heirs of Jesus Christ. Remember, there was a reason the Spirit gave us the order in the way He did.

Therefore, a wife **must know** how God is instructing her to handle any situation (normal or extreme). Therefore, she **must be filled with the Spirit** to know the will of God and know what He requires of her in each and every situation. Being filled with the Spirit **she will understand** the face of God’s agape love that she must express, and it will likely be different for every situation. Sometimes it will be in a physical yielding way and other times God just may ask her to be a part of the war that He is waging against her husband’s ***old sinful nature***. Remember; do not put God in a marriage box!

A wife is subject to her husband as unto the Lord which means that when she follows God’s leading in her life she is being subject to her husband in all things;

however, her husband will only understand this when he considers things from the perspective of the spiritual and not from the crazy drama of the physical.

Furthermore, if you take this passage in Peter and go back and study the relationship between Abraham and Sarah, you will find that although Abraham made a lot of mistakes, he was moving forward in the direction that the Lord gave Him and as such Sarah was submitting to the Lord in choosing to follow Abraham. They were, in effect, traveling the same path. Also, we have no record of Abraham ever commanding Sarah or treating her harshly as if she was just some personal slave. Even when he made some terrible decisions, he still asked her to go along with his plans and he did not command her and force her to submit.

He was also mutually submitted to Sarah in that he acquiesced when she suggested that they have a baby through her servant Hagar and in how they subsequently dealt with Hagar and Ishmael. Now, although in this situation mutual submission was a big mistake, the point I am making is that Abraham deferred to his wife in an attempt to love her and satisfy her emotional and practical needs. No wonder when she was 90 years old she could call him lord. She felt safe, secure and knew that he was God's chosen and that he sought to follow God.

Remember, when you are studying the Bible, context is everything. But the point the Spirit was making in Peter is that women who are subject, by the Spirit, to their own husbands (yes, the word "submit" is in the passive tense) may actually win them over by the mere fact that they honor God with their lives. They can be the example that their husbands follow. When a wife is not obsessed on their looks and on worldly possessions but on honoring God, God will honor them

even if their husbands (like Abraham) are disobedient to the Word.

We must not forget that the marriage relationship is a spiritual mystery entwined in Biblical types that must be understood from the perspective of our spiritual reality and not from the perspective of the physical hum drum of our daily lives.

In closing, I also want to talk a little bit about biology and the unique way God designed men and women and how that fits into this whole instruction on marriage. From the time a boy is in his mother's womb, his brain is washed over with testosterone which is responsible for the huge difference between men and women. Whether he is a baby or an adult, a man's high level of testosterone and vasopressin (which triggers male aggressiveness) leads him to respond to respect and admiration, appreciation and approval. It is built into our system.

We need a woman to be proud of us and accepting of us. This is very practical and is why we like our mothers, our sisters, our wives, our girlfriends, or just practically any woman, to be proud of how hard we work, how we do things, how fast we can throw the ball, and how tough we are, and so on. It is why we like you to watch and then say something to us that affirms us. It is also why we do not take very well to criticism for instance over the aggressive ways we drive as it is not just driving but it is part and parcel of how we do things and our being men.

If a man's needs to be valued and respected are not met, often he shuts down, closes himself and in effect leaves his wife emotionally for sure and sometimes physically. It may even cause him to spend more time at work or at personal hobbies than at home with her. A man's need to be respected is real and it is backed by biology. This is why the Spirit says that wives are to have respect for

their husbands. It is what he needs!

Similarly, a woman is structurally wired in her brain to respond to (and to provide) love and nurture. Her need for repeated and repetitive love is based on design. When she is cared for and loved—when she feels safe and secure—her brain will be inundated by a release of hormones, specifically oxytocin, which is understood to increase within her a desire to bond and to be given over to her man.

However, when she does not feel safe, secure and loved, she either: shuts down, withdraws, becomes very passive aggressive, becomes emotionally out of control, she becomes hyper-aggressive and challenges your authority to lead the family, and she becomes controlling and in effect steps into your role as a husband, or some combination of all of the above. (By the way, women, if you have not listened to the “Way of a Woman” teaching, I strongly encourage you to go to the website and listen. You will find it under “Miscellaneous Teachings”.)

So when a man agape loves his wife he indeed loves himself as she will be given over to him and the respect and honor will flow. So men, if you consider your wives as more important than yourself and you do not merely look out for your own personal interests, you will have a chance at a fulfilling and long lasting marriage relationship (assuming she does her part).

Anyway, there is so much more we could go into in terms of the biology, but I just wanted to give you a little glimpse into the genius of God and how His design of the physical is actually a map of our spiritual reality. I think God is amazing.

Let's Pray