

WIVES WHO ARE LIKE THE CHURCH

David Halbrook

In Ephesians 5:24, God instructs wives to act toward their husbands “just as” the church does toward Christ. Consider two ways that should be true.

“...let the wife see that she respects her husband.” (Eph. 5:33) Do you respect your husband? He deserves respect because he is God’s appointed leader, not because he is a perfect leader (yes, he knows he isn’t perfect). Wives who “settle” disputes by calling their father, shouting, or pouting have not learned respect.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands” (Eph. 5:22). Many churches will not preach this anymore (does yours?). Scripture could hardly be more plain, but when ladies who claim to follow Jesus remove this from their vows and lives, the word of God can be blasphemed (Titus 2:5). This does not mean that the wife is inferior since we all submit to someone every day. When you pay taxes or meet a work deadline, you are submitting. God has entrusted the wife with duties significant enough to prove that this is no insult.

For further study, contact us and request a CD of a recent sermon by this same title. Contact us with comments or questions.

-- *Editor’s Note*: Find and use our article in the *Arkansas Weekly* this week. These simple truths are typically ignored, even by modern “marriage counselors” who say they are “Christian counselors.” Let’s not be ashamed of His message but spread it.

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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WEATHER PROPHETS QUIT!

Steve Wallace

The November 27, 2006 Tampa Tribune contained an article which included the following news:

It was not the hurricane season we expected, thank you. With cataclysmic predictions that hurricanes would swarm from the tropics like termites, no one thought 2006 would be the most tranquil season in a decade. ("Hurricane Predictions Off Track As Tranquil Season Wafts Away," by Neil Johnson, tampatribune.com).

Weather prophets did not learn from this but, early the next year, confidently predicted, "The Atlantic hurricane season will be exceptionally active this year" (3/21/07; Reuters.com). Their predictions were progressively walked backwards in the following months (cf., 7/24/07 reuters.com news article; 8/9/07 yahoo.com news). The following year an article was published explaining why the 2007 hurricane season was not as active as had been predicted (8/18/08, www.nasa.gov).

It seems trite to note that the above two incidents were hardly the first two strikes for the weather prophets, who, in spite of their increasingly accurate short-range forecasts, have a long history of failed predictions. We have gotten used to their mistakes and have even learned to laugh at them. However, not all the weather prophets are laughing. Some take their work seriously enough to recognize a difference between the science of forecasting and less developed arts. This is seen from a surprising article in the Ottawa Citizen under the equally surprising headline, "Hurricane predictors admit they can't predict hurricanes." The article began with the following surprising lines:

(continued inside)

Two top U.S. hurricane forecasters, revered like rock stars in Deep South hurricane country, are quitting the practice because it doesn't work.

William Gray and Phil Klotzbach say a look back shows their past 20 years of forecasts had no value. (Tom Spears, 12/12/11, ottawacitizen.com)

They quit after only twenty years of unsuccessful predictions. Please compare the "science," witnessed in just the last 200 years, of predicting Christ's return and other events mentioned in the Bible such as the battle of Armageddon.

In the first part of the 20th century brother J.W. Saunders listed the following dates set by self-proclaimed "prophets" in the 19th century alone: 1835, 1838, 1839, 1843, 1844, 1866, 1867, 1870, 1873 ("A Brief History of Premillennialism," J.W. Saunders, Gospel Advocate, 3/19/36, pp. 274-275). On his fine web site brother Steve Rudd lists 93 separate predictions of the end of the world in the 20th century (<http://www.bible.ca/pre-date-setters.htm>). This list could be lengthened considerably were we take account of the failed predictions of the previous centuries.

Those who claim the gift to make such prophecies in modern times have had plenty of time to experiment with regards to the accuracy of their craft. They have a 0% success rate! On top of this they are faced with clear statements of scripture stating that mankind will not know the time of the main object of many of their attempted predictions, Jesus' second coming (Matt. 24:36; 24:43-44; 25:13; Lk. 12:39-40 1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10; a proper understanding of the Bible's teaching shows that the end of the world will take place when Jesus returns). Rational thinking weather prophets actually quit after realizing the impossibility of what they were trying to do. We call on all our end-is-near-predicting friends to do the same. If they will cease their erroneous, presumptuous predictions professed believers in God will be a step closer to the unity for which our Lord prayed (Jno. 17:20,21).

***A SELECTION FROM THE COMMENTARY "BARNES' NOTES"
ON EPH. 5:33 (PART II)***

(8.) Wives should manifest such a character as to be worthy of love. They owe this to their husbands. They demand the confidence and affection of man; and they should show that they are worthy of that confidence and affection. . . and, as a wife expects that a husband will love her more than he does any other earthly being, it is but right that she should evince such a spirit as shall make that proper. A wife may easily alienate the affections of her partner in life. If she is irritable and fault-finding; if none

of his ways please her; if she takes no interest in his plans, and in what he does; if she forsakes her home when she should be there, and seeks happiness abroad; or, if at home, she never greets him with a smile; if she is wasteful of his earnings, and extravagant in her habits, it will be impossible to prevent the effects of such a course of life on his mind [Prov. 14:1; 19:13]. And when a wife perceives the slightest evidence of alienated affection in her husband, she should inquire at once whether she has not given occasion for it, and exhibited such a spirit as tended inevitably to produce such a result. [Mt. 7:12]

(9.) To secure mutual love, therefore, it is necessary that there should be mutual kindness, and mutual loveliness of character. Whatever is seen to be offensive or painful should be at once abandoned. All the little peculiarities of temper and modes of speech that are observed to give pain should be forsaken; and while one party should endeavour to tolerate them, and not to be offended, the other should make it a matter of conscience to remove them.

(10.) The great secret of conjugal happiness is in the cultivation of a proper temper. It is not so much in the great and trying scenes of life that the strength of virtue is tested; it is in the events that are constantly occurring; the manifestation of kindness in the things that are happening every moment; the gentleness that flows along every day, like the stream that winds through the meadow and around the farm-house, noiseless but useful, diffusing fertility by day and by night. Great deeds rarely occur. The happiness of life depends little on them, but mainly on the little acts of kindness in life. We need them everywhere; we need them always. And eminently in the marriage relation there is need of gentleness and love, returning each morning, beaming in the eye, and dwelling in the heart through the livelong day.

Editor's Note As with last week's article, everything in [brackets] have been added by me, to help you to see the connection between some of these statements and Scripture. All of these comments are related to Eph. 5:22-33. Read that text along with these human comments. Though the wording may be challenging at times, because it was written in the 1800s, your time working through that challenge is better used than watching TV. To get even more benefit, read and discuss this with your wife and later as a family.