

He Said/She Said
Fireproof Your Relationships: Sermon One
Ephesians 5:21-33

According to the dictionary, “**FIREPROOF**” means, “**CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING OR PREVENTING DAMAGE BY FIRE.**” I’ve eaten Mexican food that barely qualified for that definition, but in the next 40 days, I want to give you principles and practices from the Bible that will fireproof your marriage, your friendships, and your relationships at work, school and play.

Three principles, which if practiced, will come close to fireproofing your marriage:.

FIREPROOF PRINCIPLE #1 MARRIAGE WORKS BEST WHEN BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE GIVE UP THEIR RIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE OTHER.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” – Ephesians 5:21

Definition of “*submit*” **HUPOTASSONMENOI = TO LINE YOURSELF UP UNDER, or, TO GIVE UP YOUR RIGHTS.**

1 Peter 3:7 – “*Husbands, be considerate as you live with your wife.*”

FIREPROOF PRINCIPLE #2 MARRIAGE WORKS BEST WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AND TREAT EACH OTHER ACCORDINGLY.

“Each of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” – Ephesians 5:33

How should husbands love their wives? “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*” – Ephesians 5:25

What is our assignment as husbands and wives?

- A. MEN NEED RESPECT.**
- B. WOMEN NEED LOVE.**

FIREPROOF PRINCIPLE #3 MARRIAGE WORKS BEST WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND AND REMEMBER THAT SOMETHING MORE THAN MARRIAGE IS TAKING PLACE – YOU ARE LIVING OUT A PREVIEW OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS IN HEAVEN.

*“This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church.” –
Ephesians 5:25*

If you are married, or plan to be married, treat your marriage carefully, sacredly. Give up your rights. Build it with fireproof materials like love and respect. Recognize that you will never fully understand all that is involved in a life-long commitment to a single spouse, and revel in the fact that you do not pretend to understand it.

What we do with marriage matters because it is in some mysterious sense a rehearsal for what God’s Son will do one day with all who call on His name.

THE LOVE DARE CHALLENGE #1:

WIVES: What makes your husband feel respected by you? And therefore, what would you like to do this week to make him feel respected by you?

HUSBANDS: What makes your wife feel loved? And therefore, what would you like to do this week to make her feel loved by you?

SINGLES: In your work, school, or home environment, whose life would you like to add value to by giving them greater love or respect? What can you do this week to make that happen?