



# *RELATIONSHIPS*

A STUDY IN REFLECTING GOD





## A NOTE FROM NATHANAEL STEEL

---

On behalf of my wife Lacey and me, it is an honor to share these studies with you. It is the result of our combined heartache, healing, education, and transformation.

The goal of the *Christian Living Study Booklets* is to encourage and equip Christians to live free, joy-filled lives. Our desire is that Christians truly live as disciples of Jesus. Today, the word 'disciple' is generally unfamiliar—especially outside the Christian community. It is often insufficiently defined as an apprentice or student. A disciple of Jesus is so much more. They devote their life to learning about Him—living their life fully submitted to, trusting in, and empowered by Him. Being a true disciple of Jesus will transform your life. To this end, we recommend that you participate in each study in two ways:

**First, choose a partner.** Due to the nature of the questions, we recommend, if married, your partner be your spouse; if you're not married, your partner be someone of the same gender. You and your partner will begin each study with prayer. Then, work through the study—reading the main Scriptures (indicated by ) , prayerfully discussing the *Response Questions* (indicated by ) , and implementing the *Next Steps*.

**Second, journal.** Personal journaling through the lessons will help solidify what the Holy Spirit is doing in your heart and mind. Write out your answers and conversation to the *Response Questions*; your experience with the *Next Steps*; and your own thoughts, objections, and struggles with the studies. This journal will be a record of God's grace, and transformation in your heart, mind, and life.

While each study booklet may be stand-alone, the *Christian Living* series is a process; a linear progression of theology and application. With this in mind, we recommend going through the booklets in order. A full list is available at the end of this booklet.

Our prayer is that you would be vulnerable; challenging yourself to openly discussing and answering the questions with your partner. Also, that you would allow Jesus to transform you. Finally, that the Holy Spirit would empower you to accomplish Jesus' mission for God's glory, for other's good, and for your joy.

Your friend,



Nathanael P. Steel



# *RELATIONSHIPS*

A STUDY IN REFLECTING GOD

## *KEY VERSE*

---

Leviticus 19:17-18

## *KEY THEME*

---

As Christians, we reflect the Father's character to others through our example and lifestyle in the relationships we are in. Our response to and interaction with others is the witness of our faith in Jesus. Our ability to love others—in all circumstances—provides opportunity for others to experience Jesus.

## *KEY TEACHINGS*

---

Influence • Parents • Dating • Marriage

# Study 1:

# INFLUENCE



1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

---

This study will reveal how we influence others through the verbal communication of our story and the visible communication of our life. The legacy we leave is determined by the lifestyle we lead. 'Influence' examines how we affect others through our lifestyles.

---



*How are you using the Gospel's impact on your life to affect and influence others toward Jesus?*

---

## LIFESTYLE OF INFLUENCE

---

**Influence** is the intangible ability earned over time coupled with the extended trust and respect of the one we desire to influence to affect the character, development, and behavior of another person. Our ability to influence others is not necessarily dependant upon our access or status in a particular person's life.

---

**“MOST PEOPLE DO NOT COME TO CHRIST AS AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO A SERMON THEY HEAR IN A CROWDED SETTING. THEY COME TO CHRIST BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL.”**

~JOHN MACARTHUR

---

**Access** is the opportunity—either through personal relationship or geography—to be in contact with or in proximity to an individual. While we may not have personal access to an individual we still have the opportunity to influence them (i.e. our use of social media, our reputation with others, etc.). Conversely, our proximity to someone does not guarantee access into his or her life. For example, not being relatable or personable, our unwillingness to be vulnerable, or our unrepentant sin toward them will hinder their ability to receive from us.



*How are you intentionally utilizing social media to influence others by reflecting the character of God and trusting Him in all circumstances?*

---

*Status is the authoritative position or social standing relative to another individual.* While we may not be in the same social order or have the same authoritative status as a particular person we still have the ability to influence them.

---

**“YOU CANNOT ANTAGONIZE AND INFLUENCE AT THE SAME TIME.”**

~JOHN KNOX

---

For example, through our response to their authority and leadership (good or bad) and the integrity of our own life we will be able to, at the very least, represent Christ to them. We will also be an example to those around us. Also, despite having a higher social standing or authoritative position relative to a particular person does not assume we will have influence in that person's life.



*How do you respond to individuals who treat you unfairly? How do you respond to people in the midst of your own difficult circumstances?*

---

The lifestyle we lead determines our reputation and ultimately our legacy. Influence involves the lifestyles of prayer, time, faith, and diversification.

---

## **INFLUENCE THROUGH PRAYER**

---

Our purposeful prayers for those we are influencing will impact their lives. Purposeful prayer is done with understanding the person's particular tests, trials, and temptations. It is knowledgeable, compassionate, and specific.



1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

---

The prayers of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy's influenced the Thessalonica church because they were specific to the church's needs—where to exercise faith, sacrificially love, and patiently hope. **See also Col 1:3, 9; 1 Thes 5:25; 2 Thes 3:1**

---



*Who do you purposefully pray for? Who is purposefully praying for you?*

---

---

## **INFLUENCE THROUGH TIME**

---

Our character proven over time will influence the people around us. Who we are will always be revealed over time.



## 1 Thessalonians 1:5b-10

---

Paul, Silvanus, and Titus influenced the Thessalonian church by proving their character over time by way of developing close intimate relationships.

---

**“A GOOD EXAMPLE IS FAR BETTER THAN A GOOD PRECEPT.”**

---

~D.L. MOODY

---

From **1 Thessalonians 1:6-10** we see that a Christ-centered lifestyle is revealed by our response to the follow:

- We respond to affliction (or suffering through trials, tests, and temptation) with joy from the Holy Spirit. **See v. 6**
- We respond to God's draw on our lives with faith and submission. **See v. 8**
- We respond to the conviction of our sin (lack of trusting God) and idolatry (trusting anything other than Jesus) with repentance (a changed heart, mind, and lifestyle). **See v. 9**



*How do you respond to suffering and conviction? When you suffer, who can you go to that encourages your walk with Jesus? How do you respond to other's suffering and conviction? Who comes to you when they are suffering?*

---

## INFLUENCE THROUGH FAITH

---

Our ability to trust the Father alone in all circumstances reveals to others our reliance upon Him and His goodness and provision toward us. Trusting God does not negate our responsibility, our effort, or our actions. It does however, acknowledge our inability to accomplish anything without His provision or grace.

---



## 1 Thessalonians 1:8

---

Who, what, and where we pour our time, talent, treasure, and intellect will reveal to others what we value or trust. The Thessalonian church visibly demonstrated a trust in God by how they stewarded their time, talent, treasure, and resources. Through the church's faith they impacted the communities around them. **See also Mt 6:21, 24; 12:33**



*How do you demonstrate to others your full dependence and trust in God's grace and provision in the midst of expected responsibilities, required efforts, or the necessary actions you must take in your life?*

---

## ***INFLUENCE THROUGH DIVERSITY***

---

Our ability to trust the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in other Godly men and women and direct those we are influencing to them will protect against ourselves becoming functional saviors or gurus. Also, acknowledging and directing those we are influencing to the specific wisdom, abilities, and experience of others will prevent a savior complex from developing within us.

---



1 Thessalonians 1:2,4,6, 8, 9

---

Through the many "we" statements we learn that Paul partnered with others' wisdom and abilities, especially those of Silvanus and Titus, in training and developing the Thessalonian church. **See also *Prv 11:14; 24:5-6***

---



*Do you allow multiple people to speak into your life?  
Are you encouraging those you influence to go to others?*

---

## ***STUDY RESPONSE***

---

**DISCUSSION:** Pray through and discuss the above questions (🗣️) with your partner. Journal your response to this study. Include any questions or differing opinions and thoughts that were shared in your conversations.

**NEXT STEP:** How will you guide those you are influencing toward multiple "counselors"? Who will you prayerfully seek out as people who will speak directly and specifically into your life?

## Study 2:

# PARENTS



Ephesians 6:1-2

---

This study will reveal that as children, we honor our Heavenly Father by honoring our earthly parents. As parents, we represent the Heavenly Father by being honorable. 'Parents' explores how our role and relationship within the family unit reflects and represents our relationship with the Heavenly Father.

---



*When is it difficult to honor your father and mother?  
When is it easy to honor your father and mother?*

---

## HONOR YOUR FATHER & MOTHER

---

Rebellion against our earthly parents is rebellion against our Heavenly Parent. God takes rebellion seriously. *See also Dt 21:18-21; Jas 4:4-10*

---



Hebrews 3:7-18

---

Today's culture teaches rebellion against parents. Especially television shows or movies geared to the pre-teen audience. If we "love the world"—readily accept, encourage, and promote this belief through our actions as children—we are accepting, encouraging, and promoting rebellion against God. This includes picking favorite parents or preferring one parent. That is, going to the parent you know will give you the answer you want.

---

***“A CHILD WHO IS ALLOWED TO BE  
DISRESPECTFUL TO HIS PARENTS WILL NOT HAVE  
TRUE RESPECT FOR ANYONE.”***

---

~BILLY GRAHAM

---

The way parents (husband and wife) interact with each other will either build unity within the family or rebellion against the family. Parents are a team. This is expressed through their unity. Willful contradictions between parents breeds rebellion and disunity.





*How are you intentionally guarding against rebellion in your home—as a parent, as a child?*

---

## **WHY WE HONOR**

---

There are two reasons we honor our parents.

---



DEUTERONOMY 5:16

---

### **1. God Blesses You**

Blessing can be either external or internal. **External blessing** (Dt 5:16) is God providing for a specific need. For example, He may provide us with honorable parents. **Internal Blessing** (Jas 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-5) is the God-given grace to walk through Christ-focused suffering. For example, the ability to live with and graciously respond to dishonorable parents.

### **2. Reflects Our Relationship with God to Others**

Our ability to honor our parents is revealed by the extent to which we trust God. Honoring our parents both proves and promotes our relationship with God to them and others.

---



*How are you cultivating a lifestyle and legacy of hope, joy, and fulfillment?*

---

## **HOW WE HONOR**

---

In honoring our parents, there are several principles to consider. Regardless of our experience, our ability to live out these principles will determine whether we cultivate a lifestyle and legacy of freedom or failure.

- 1. Grace:** As children we can place too high or unrealistic expectation on our parents. We may also not communicate our expectations clearly. To show grace is to not be quickly or easily offended (Prv 19:11).
- 2. Forgive:** This is releasing any conscious or unconscious offenses by our parents to God. This means we do not hold the offense against our parents. We require and expect nothing, concerning the offense, from them. Our forgiveness is to be thorough and quick (Eph 4:32).

3. **Honor:** *To life free we need to find respectable attributes or characteristics to honor. This can take the form of "saluting the uniform" which is done in the military when someone who takes a position of authority is dishonorable (1 Pt 2:13-17). We honor the position and responsibility they have.*
4. **Example:** *This can take on two different facets. The first is to be honorable; be the person you desire them to be. This can be done through forgiving past wounds. Being empowered by the Holy Spirit will enable us to be honorable. The second facet is to find people who example honor (2 Tm 2:1-2).*
5. **Thankfulness:** *Being thankful may take much thought, prayer, and humility on our part. We need to ask God to reveal to us anything that we can be thankful for. Also, we need to be willing to express our gratitude to our parents (1 Thes 5:18).*



*How are you cultivating a legacy of redemption, freedom, and grace?*

---

## ***WHEN WE HONOR***

---

The different life stages that we go through determine what honoring our parents looks like.

1. **Children ~ Obedient Submission**  
Although we honor our parents continually in all circumstances, we need to obey and submit to them for a time (childhood), in agreement with God's character and will (*Eph 6:1, Jos 24:15*).
2. **Adolescence ~ Respectful Cultivation**  
Respectful submission, meaningful conversation, and genuine interest in our parents will help cultivate our relationship (*Lk 2:41-52, esp. v. 51*).
3. **Adults ~ Caring Support**  
While we may be a child momentarily, we will be someone's child for a lifetime. As our parents age, responsibility is shifted from them caring for us to us caring for them (*Jn 19:27*).

How we demonstrate our love and honor toward our parents through obedience, respect, and care will reveal how we love and honor our Heavenly Father. As children, we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to honor our parents as Jesus honored His.



*How are you purposefully guarding against a lifestyle and legacy of abandonment?*

---

## **PARENTING HONORABLY**

---

As parents, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to parent as our Heavenly Father parents us. As parents, here is a couple principles to help parent honorably.

1. **Be Friends:** Being in a fun loving mutually beneficial marriage is vital to revealing honor to our children (**Sg 5:16b**). *As parents, cannot have favorite children. We must support each other and demonstrates disagreement respectfully (Col 3:18-21). While a mutually beneficial marriage may not always be possible, God's grace extends beyond our circumstances through our actions toward our children.*
2. **Be Blessed:** Our ability to view our children as a blessing is not dependant upon their actions. It is a response from a Godly perspective. We can either view children as a burden or a blessing; it is our choice (**Ps 127:3-5**).

As parents, how we love and discipline our children reflect, however imperfectly, the Heavenly Father's love and discipline toward us. Our ability, as parents, to repent of our sins reveals God's grace and mercy toward us.



*How are you purposefully instilling a lifestyle and legacy of love and discipline in your children?*

---

## **STUDY RESPONSE**

---

**DISCUSSION:** Pray through and discuss the above questions (🗣️) with your partner. Journal your response to this study. Include any questions or differing opinions and thoughts that were shared in your conversations.

**NEXT STEP: Children:** What hurts, wounds, or offenses do you need to forgive your parents? What rebellion do you need to repent for?  
**Parents:** What characteristics or attributes of your children can you encourage, build up, and express appreciation? **TELL THEM!** What failures as a parent do you need to repent for?

## Study 3:

# DATING



*Song of Solomon 5:16b*

---

This study will explore how Godly dating for a joy-filled marriage is a process. This process goes from friendship to beloved through the means of experiential observation and communal participation. 'Dating' reveals that our current relationships are not a practice for a future relationship. We are to be purposefully in relationship.



*How are you looking at dating: as a means to satisfy personal desires or to fulfill God's design?*

---

## THE PURPOSE OF DATING

---

Our ability to glorify God is not dependant upon our marital status. Rather, **our purpose**, despite our marital status, *is to glorify God (i.e. reflect His character to others and trust Him in all circumstances).* See 1 Cor 7:25-28



*Ephesians 5:31-32*

---

Marriage is about accurately reflecting God's character, purpose, and plan not fulfilling our own personal and physical desires.



*How are you preparing for a Christ-focused marriage rather than self-focused gratification? What attributes are you looking for in whom you will marry?*

---

While "dating" may not be found in the Bible how to be in mutually beneficial relationship with the opposite sex is. See also Gn 2:18; Ps 119:9; Prv 4:23; 5:18-19; 12:4; 15:22; 16:3; 18:22; 19:2; 28:18; 29:3; 31:30; Sg 2:7; Rom 12:10; 1 Cor 6:18-20; 7:1-16, 25-39; 15:33; 2 Cor 6:14-15; Eph 5:3; 1 Th. 4:3-5; 5:22; 1 Tm 4:12; 5:1-2; 2 Tm 2:22; 1 Pt 3:7



In summary, these verses lay out two basic philosophies when looking at dating: Godly View and a Worldly View. These two philosophies are outlined in the following categories.

---

***“WHEN MARRIAGE IS IDOLIZED, YOU ARE PRONE TO OVERLOOK THE FAULTS AND FLAWS THAT YOU AND THE OTHER PERSON IN YOUR DATING RELATIONSHIP HAVE... WHEN MARRIAGE IS DEMONIZED, IT LEADS TO INDEPENDENCE. [IF MARRIED] YOU’D BE FORCED TO CONSIDER THEM, ACCOMMODATE THEM, AND SERVE THEM.”***

**~MARK DRISCOLL**

---

### **DATING & IDENTITY**

**Worldly Dating:** Performance Driven ~ *Performance-driven dating gains one’s identity and worth through whom they date. In addition, it is changing one’s identity for the attention and approval of the one being sought after.*

**Godly Dating:** Observation Driven ~ *Observation-driven dating embraces ones identity and worth in Christ. It seeks out and strives to enhance the Christ-like qualities in the other person.*



*How are you ensuring that your relationship is not based on how you act but rather who you are?*

---

### **DATING & ACTIVITIES**

**Worldly Dating:** Feelings Based ~ *Feeling-based dating seeks out activities that focus on the sexual needs and emotions of those involved — often gratifying insecurity and compromising integrity.*

**Godly Dating:** Friendship Based ~ *Friendship-based dating seeks out activities that reveal and work toward mutual interests and goals — often hobby, talent, or ministry based in nature.*



*How are the activities you participate in enhancing what you know about the other person’s interests, goals, passions, and talents?*

---

### **DATING & COMMITMENT**

**Worldly Dating:** Provisional Based ~ *Provisional-dating is conditionally focused. As long as certain personal needs and desires are being gratified, the relationship is maintained.*

**Godly Dating:** Purposeful Based ~ *Purposeful-dating is commitment focused. Regardless of personal desires the aim and goal of dating is friendship culminating toward companionship in marriage.*

---



*How is your relationship enhancing your friendship?*

---

### DATING & TRAJECTORY

**Worldly Dating:** Isolation Based ~ *Isolation-based dating seeks out secrecy and privacy. It is marked by a lack of desire for others to speak into or be involved in the relationship.*

**Godly Dating:** Community Based ~ *Community-based dating purposefully seeks out and is receptive to the advice of others, especially that of older couples and is marked by its candidness.*

---



*How have you purposefully sought out and involved other couples into your relationship?*

---

## *GUIDES IN DATING*

---

In pursuing a God-glorifying relationship, there are two primary guides to direct the course of our dating relationships.

### 1. THE COUNSEL OF OTHERS

When we allow others, especially those who have had years of experience in a life-giving, joy-filled marriage to speak into our relationships, we gain their wisdom, knowledge, and experience.

---



*PROVERBS 11:14*

---

Seeking out the wisdom and guidance of friends, leaders, and multiple couples, especially those who may speak hard words, will enable the Holy Spirit to speak into our relationships. God speaks through the Bible, friends, leaders, and other couples. When we isolate ourselves within our relationship, we inhibit our ability to hear the voice of God.

---



*How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to speak into your relationship? What quality and experience are the people you are inviting to speak into your relationship?*

---

## 2. THE TRAJECTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP

In determining what the relationship is producing in us, we need to begin with a confidence in our passions, strengths, and calling from God. If we lack certainty in those areas before entering a relationship, we will mold ourselves to fit the desires of the other person. This may result in a false sense of being “connected” that may have detrimental consequences later in marriage. *See also Lk 6:43-45.*

---



1 Thessalonians 2:12

---

The fruit that our relationship produces in ourselves and in the other person can be a guide for the health and compatibility of the relationship. For men, we must maintain gentleness and trustworthiness. We can evaluate this by our ability to be vulnerable. If we are unwilling to disclose our faults and weaknesses and seek counsel in those areas, we will be unable to receive grace (gentleness) and therefore extended grace. For women, we need to be confident that our security and identity are in Christ alone. We can evaluate this by how we receive compliments (do we either seek compliments or reject compliments?). If who we are is not firmly rooted in Christ then we will be unable to receive love and will seek out methods and people to medicate our insecurities.

---



*What “fruit” does this person cultivate in their life? What “fruit” does this person cultivate in me? How does the relationship encourage my passions, talents, and calling? How does this person supplement my limitations and disabilities? How does the person I am pursuing demonstrate that they are teachable, repentant, forgiving, and faithful? **Men:** Where does she draw her security? How does she receive compliments? **Women:** Where does he draw his worth? How does he respond to his own weaknesses?*

---

## *STUDY RESPONSE*

---

**DISCUSSION:** Pray through and discuss the above questions (🗣️) with your partner. Journal your response to this study. Include any questions or differing opinions and thoughts that were shared in your conversations.

**NEXT STEP: Single:** What are you passionate about? What are your talents? To what are you called? In what areas are you weak or limited? **Married:** How has your spouse encouraged your abilities? How has your spouse supplemented your inadequacies?

## Study 4:

# MARRIAGE



*Ephesians 5:22-33*

---

This study will reveal that if we trust the Holy Spirit in every area of life, we will have a fulfilling marriage. Our marriages are not for our happiness but for our holiness. 'Marriage' examines how the only way to have a life-giving, joy-filled marriage is to be individuals who trust Jesus for their fulfillment.

---



*How do you purposefully seek to serve one another?*

---

## THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

---

*Marriage is the unity of a man and women for the expressed purpose to reflect God's character and plan. It is about glorifying God to make us holy not to fulfill our desires to make us happy. Marriage is perhaps the most difficult relationship you will ever have. However, it can also be the most life-giving, joy-filled relationship we ever experience.*

---



*Ephesians 5:31-33*

---

Within the tri-une God there is perfect relationship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While they are equal in power and honor—having the same attributes and perfections—they have differing roles and responsibilities. This relationship is accomplished through mutual trust, love, and respect. As His creation, which reflects His image, we were created to be in mutually trusting, loving, and respecting relationship. Both men and women reflect God equally but have differing roles and responsibilities within the marriage relationship.

---



***Married:** How do you reflect God's character to your spouse? **Single:** How do you reflect God's character to those around you?*

---



### THREE UNBIBLICAL APPROACHES TO MARRIAGE

- 1) **Male-Dominate:** This view of marriage comes from unrepentant men who compensate for their inadequacies and insecurities by emotionally, physically, or spiritually abusing their wives into unbiblical submission. This behavior is encouraged when their wives reject their God-given identity. They enable their husbands to be bullies or abusive by not confronting them and reporting them to church leadership or authorities.
- 2) **Female-Dominate:** This view of marriage comes from unrepentant women who compensate for their inadequacies and insecurities by emotionally, physically, or spiritually abusing their husbands into unbiblical loving them. This behavior continues when husbands avoid their God-given responsibilities. They enable their wives to be bullies or abusive by not confronting them or reporting them to the church leadership or authorities.
- 3) **Egalitarian:** This view of marriage is defined as men and women being equal in both roles and responsibilities. This view is perhaps the most deceptive as it obscures the image that husbands and wives portray of Christ and the church.

The **Biblical approach to marriage** is one that is **complementarian**. This view, while affirming the equality of husbands and wives in their identity, value, and importance, distinguishes between the different but complimentary roles and responsibilities they have. Complementarian marriages are the most fulfilling because they are based upon the Creator Himself. God is complementarian.



*John 14:23-31*

---

As previously stated the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal in power and honor yet they operate in different roles and responsibilities. The Holy Spirit is submitted to Jesus as He is submitted to the Father. As we read through **Ephesians 5:22-33** we see that marriage is the ultimate image of Christ's relationship with the Church—His loving and respectable leadership and her faithful and trusting submission.

---

**“THERE IS NO MORE LOVELY, FRIENDLY, OR  
CHARMING RELATIONSHIP, COMMUNION, OR  
COMPANY, THAN A GOOD MARRIAGE.”**

---

~MARTIN LUTHER

## MEN: LOVE YOUR WIVES

---

We see Christ loving his bride, the Church, through sacrificial investment, faithfulness, gentleness, and love. *See also Col 3:19; 1 Pt 3:7; Eph 5:2; Rom 4:25; 8:37*

---



*Ephesians 5:25, 33*

---

There are two primary ways men fail to live up to Jesus' example of a loving husband:

1. **Apathetic and Lazy:** We see Jesus taking an active role in caring for his bride emotionally, physically, and spiritually (Ti 3:5; Gal 2:20). Husbands ought to take an intentional role in their wife's physical, spiritual, and emotional health.
2. **Harsh & Aggressive:** We see Jesus' patience and kindness in dealing with his bride's sin (Eph 4:32). Husbands ought to be gracious, loving, and forgiving toward their wife.

Husbands reveal and reflect Jesus' relationship with the Church by how they love their wives.

---



***Married:** Men, how are you demonstrating the same grace, love, and gentleness toward your wife that Jesus extends toward his bride? **Single:** Men, how are you demonstrating the same grace, love, and gentleness toward others that Jesus extends toward his bride?*

---

A husband's faithfulness to loving his wife is revealed by how well he "holds fast" to his wife. That is, provides and protects her heart, mind, soul, and body.

---



*Ephesians 5:31*

---

## WOMEN: RESPECT YOUR HUSBANDS

---

We see Christ's bride, the Church, submitting to him with courageous influence, encouragement, confidence, trust, and respect. *See also Col 3:18; 1 Pt 3:1-2, 5-6; Heb 4:16; Jas 4:7*

---



*Ephesians 5:22-24, 33*

---

There are two primary ways women fail to live up to the Church's example of a respectful wife:

1. **Appease & Enable:** The Church is dedicated to and submitted to Jesus (Mt 16:13-20). Appeasing a lazy husband or enabling an abusive husband and not confronting unrepentant sin is not living in line with who Jesus is.
2. **Contentious & Loud:** The Church's submission to Christ is based upon Her trust and respect for Him and His righteousness (Eph 5:24-27). A wife who continually questions or argues the decisions her husband makes reveals her lack of trust and respect for him and her lack of trust in the Lord.

Wives reflect a Christian's relationship with Jesus by how well they respect their husbands.



---

***Married:** Women, how are you demonstrating the same courageous influence, encouragement, confidence, trust, and respect toward your husband that the Church extends toward Her Husband, Jesus? **Single:** Women, how are you demonstrating the same courageous influence, encouragement, confidence, trust, and respect toward others that the Church extends toward Her Husband, Jesus?*

---

A wife's willingness to be loved by her husband is revealed by how well she allows herself to be held by her husband; that is, allowing her heart, mind, soul, and body to be provided for and protected.



*Ephesians 5:31*

---

How one receives love and respect is dependant upon each individual. Therefore, each relationship will look different.



---

***Men:** Specifically what makes you feel respected?  
**Women:** Specifically what makes you feel loved?*

---

## ***STUDY RESPONSE***

---

**DISCUSSION:** Pray through and discuss the above questions (🗣️) with your partner. Journal your response to this study. Include any questions or differing opinions and thoughts that were shared in your conversations.

**NEXT STEP:** **Single:** What characteristics and attributes would you like your spouse to possess? How will these characteristics and attributes compliment you? **Married:** What characteristics and attributes do you admire about your spouse? Why? **TELL THEM!**

## **RESOURCES FOR THIS BOOKLET**

---

**The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts**

*Gary Chapman*

Northfield Publishing, ©2015

**The Book of Romance: What Solomon Says About Love, Sex, and Intimacy**

*Tommy Nelson*

Thomas Nelson, ©2007

**The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to your adoptive family**

*Dr. Karyn B. Purvis, Dr. David R. Cross, and Wendy Lyons Sunshine*

McGraw-Hill, ©2007

**His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage**

*William F. Harley, Jr.*

Revell, ©2011

**Keep Your Love On: Connection Communication and Boundaries**

*Danny Silk*

Red Arrow Publishing, ©2013

**Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs**

*Dr. Emerson Eggerichs*

Christian Large Print, ©2010

**Loving Your Kids On Purpose: Making a Heart-to-Heart Connection**

*Danny Silk*

Destiny Image, ©2008

**The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God**

*Timothy Keller*

Riverhead Books, ©2013

**Parenting With Love and Logic**

*Foster Cline and Jim Fay*

NavPress Publishing, 2006

**Real Marriage: The Truth about Sex, Friendship, and Life**

*Mark and Grace Driscoll*

Thomas Nelson, ©2013



## INFORMATION

---

**SCRIPTURE** All Scripture quotations, verbiage, terminology, and abbreviations come from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing company of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved.

**NONPROFIT STATUS NOTICE** Nathan & Lacey Steel receive funds through *World Outreach Ministries* (WOM), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) federal tax exempt organization. Any contributions given to the Steels through WOM are tax deductible.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** The Christian Living Booklets are provided free of charge. If you would like to contribute to the development and distribution of them or the general ministry of Nathan & Lacey Steel, please visit their website at [www.NathanLaceySteel.com](http://www.NathanLaceySteel.com).

**CONTACT INFO** P.O. Box 3020 • Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.NathanLaceySteel.com](http://www.NathanLaceySteel.com) • [Hello@NathanLaceySteel.com](mailto:Hello@NathanLaceySteel.com)

---



**NATHAN & LACEY STEEL** were married in 2004. They met at Alaska Bible Institute, located in Homer, Alaska. Nathan graduated from ABI's Biblical Studies 2004 and Christian Ministry programs in 2006.

Nathan was born with a genetic disease called Cystic Fibrosis. This disease led the Steels to adopting their two girls, Lydia and Arianna. Through God's grace and provision, the Steels have shared Jesus' love, grace, mercy, and truth all over the world. They currently reside with their two girls in Homer, Alaska.

Nathan and Lacey's mission is to *Encourage & Equip Christians to Live Free, Joy-filled Lives*. They designed the *Christian Living Study Booklets* as a catalyst for one-on-one discipleship, a curriculum for church small groups, and a course for discipleship schools. They developed and teach the *Christian Living Course* at Alaska Bible Institute (ABI). ABI exists to *Train and Equip Christians for Life & Ministry*. You can find out more at [www.AlaskaBible.org](http://www.AlaskaBible.org). For more information about the Steels, visit their website at [www.NathanLaceySteel.com](http://www.NathanLaceySteel.com).

## CHRISTIAN LIVING STUDY BOOKLETS

---



### 1. SALVATION

Origin • Rebellion • Freedom • Submission



### 2. IDENTITY

The Past • The Old • The New • The Rebuild



### 3. FORGIVENESS

Love • Resolution • Opposition • Process



### 4. REPENTANCE

Pardoned • Conviction • Redemption • Victory



### 5. CONFLICT

Confrontation • Indignation • Expectation • Reconciliation



### 6. RELATIONSHIPS

Influence • Parents • Dating • Marriage



### 7. FAITH

The Father • The Son • The Holy Spirit • The Church



### 8. PRAYER

Introduction • Lord's Prayer pt. 1 • Lord's Prayer pt. 2 • Garden Prayer



### 9. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Battle • The Weapons pt. 1 • The Weapons pt. 2 • The Cost



### 10. STEWARDSHIP

Time • Talent • Treasure • Intellect



### 11. EXPERIENCE

Suffering • Grieving • Fear • Thankfulness



### 12. SCRIPTURE

Library • History • Authority • Response

