My Wife, The Stranger

Ken Chapman · Ephesians 4:20–32

INTRODUCTION

- We generally speaking will treat our neighbors, our friends, and even strangers, sometimes better than we treat our own family, sometimes our own spouses.
- Sometimes I'm more courteous and kind and generous to a stranger I'll meet in public than I am to the people who are closest to me.
- Everything is different in Christ. You have not so learned Christ. My marriage, my relationship with my spouse is different, is better because I have learned Christ.

1 Communicate Honestly

Ephesians 4:25; 1 Peter 3

- Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor. For we are members of one another.
- Be honest about your finances. Be honest about your struggles.
- Be honest about your temptation. How many heartbreaks could be averted, and how many marriages could be saved if husbands and wives could have the level of trust and honesty.

2 Be Angry and Do Not Sin

Ephesians 4:26

- Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.
- Anger is an open doorway to sin.
- Don't let this anger fester and grow, talk it out, deal with it.
- I need to learn to just suffer wrong. The principle of equaling things up is not a biblical principle.

3 Fulfill Our God-Given Obligations

Ephesians 4:28; Leviticus 19:13

- Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
- Husbands, you owe something to your wives. Wives, you owe something to your husband. And if you refuse to pay it, that's stealing in God's eye.
- I owe my wife certain duties and responsibility. And I owe them to her, even if my spouse is not fulfilling their responsibility.
- Marriage is rarely 50-50. And marriage is very rarely 100-a hundred. But marriage is sometimes 80-20. And sometimes it's 20-80.
- My responsibility is my responsibility because it's been given to me by God. And I'm going to fulfill it.

4 Be Careful With My Words

Ephesians 4:29–31; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 18:21

- Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth. But what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers.
- There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword. But the tongue of the wise promotes health.
- Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit.
- Relationships, marriages have been killed by words.

5 Be Kind to One Another

Ephesians 4:32

- Be kind to one another. Tenderhearted. Forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave us.
- So many problems could be averted if we could simply just be kind in our marriage.
- If you see a husband and wife who are being nice to each other, you go. That's weird.
- Just that common courtesy that we would show a stranger. We'll change our marriages drastically.

6 Submitting to One Another

Ephesians 5:21

- Submitting to one another, submitting to one another in the fear of God.
- If husbands and wives could both learn to submit to one another.
- Put the other person first. Seek not your own interest, but the interest of others.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you submitting to Christ as you ought? Do you love him as you ought? Do you respect him as you ought? Would you become a child of God today?**

MY NOTES