

Lesson #3 for Text Chapter 4

Accepting Your Husband As He Is

Goal:

To learn how to deal with your husband's actions and attitudes which irritate you and thereby liberating you and him to maximum development and fulfillment..

Scriptures:

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Romans 5:8 | Romans 2:1 |
| Romans 7:8 | II Samuel 6:14, 20-23 |
| I Corinthians 7:20 | Malachi 2:14b |
| Romans 8:28 | Philippians 14:6-9 |
| Romans 5:3-5 | I John 5:14,15 |
| Luke 6:35 | Matthew 7:1-5 |

Assignment:

1. Show your husband by work and deed that you accept him as he is.
2. Pray, "Father, help me to see my husband through Your eyes, and to focus on his positive traits rather than his negative qualities."
3. Read Chapter 4 from the text.
4. Memorize: Philippians 4:6-9

Quiet time Meditations:

Breathe deeply as you turn your complete attention to Jesus. Whisper to Him, "My Lord, hush my heart to listen to You." Wait in the stillness for a time, just focusing on Him ... His loveliness, His complete love and acceptance of you. Let Him draw you to Himself.

Prayerfully read Ephesians 2:10 and Galatians 2:20. Ponder for a brief time the magnanimous capabilities of your God: Meditate on His creation – the awesome and splendorous heavens and his detailed exactness in the plants and animals. Then concentrate on the phrases, "we are His workmanship," and "Christ lives in me." Meditate on the wonder of these truths.

Embrace the wondrous truth that your God, your Savior, and your Lord lives within you and YOU are His workmanship. Ask Him to allow you to grasp how privileged you are. Bask in it! After a short while, completely release your self to Jesus, telling Him you are glad you are His workmanship. Then tell Him you want Him to do as He pleases in your life. Wait before Him briefly as you yield yourself to Him. Thank Him for His splendid work in you even when you are not aware of what He is doing or that He is working. Pause and consider that fact that He is always, 24 hours a day, working in you. Praise Him.

Verbalize to Jesus, "I approve of Your wonderful workmanship in me. I am pleased with who I am 'in Christ.' Thank you for the character You are perfecting in me."

Notes:

Questions – Lesson #3

1. What did God do for you when you were His enemy, opposing Him? Read Romans 5:8

2. How did God accept you, personally?

As a sinner—a rebel against Him, or did you have a list of changes you had to complete before you were accepted into His family?

Read Romans 5:6-11 and explain: _____

3. Because God accepts us as we are when we come to Christ, forgiving all our sins., what should be our response to Him? We should react as David did in Psalm 56:12,13. Read and write in your own words. _____

4. We learn how to respond to others by the way God treats us. Since God took the initiative to accept us just as we were, what should we do for our husbands as their helpmates? Read Romans 15:7 and Philippians 2:5 for your answer. _____

5. Fill in your name and your husband's in the designated blanks and think about what God is telling you to do.

“....So _____(wife) shall give an account of herself—give an answer in reference to judgment to God. Then let _____(wife) no more criticize and blame and pass judgment on _____(husband), but rather decide and endeavor never to put a stumbling block or obstacle or a hindrance in the way of _____(husband)” Romans 14:12,13.

In light of this verse, for whom are we accountable? _____

Keeping our lives straight before God is a full-time job! Right?

6. Whose job is it to change others' lives? Read John 16:7-11 and John 6:44 for your answer.

Knowing that God the Holy Spirit is the only One who can change lives should completely free us from such efforts or responsibilities.

7. List ways you have consciously or unconsciously told your husband that you disapprove of him or wish he would change after reading thoroughly Chapter 4 in the textbook.

8. Have our attempts to change your husband worked?

9. What does God point out in Proverbs 25-23,24 and Psalm 101:5 that is the result of a backbiting tongue (or a non-accepting spirit)? _____

10. One of the results of not accepting our husbands as they are is concluding that we're married to the wrong man. What does God say about that? I Corinthians 7:20 and Malachi 2:14-17.

11. Using your list from #7, list corresponding ways that you can consciously show your husband that you do now accept him as he is by either word or action.

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

12. According to God's Word in Romans 5:3-5, why has God allowed the current problems in your life? _____

13. What will God do with your failures and mistakes as you turn to Him trusting his plan for your life? Romans 8:28 and Joel 2:25? _____

14. When we are critical of another, we are assuming an "I'm better than your are," attitude. What does Jesus say about this? Read Mathew 7:1-5 and summarize in your own words.. _____

15. Using your list from #7, list corresponding ways that you can consciously show your husband that you do now accept him as he is by either word or action.

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

16. Read the Biblical account of a woman who was critical of her husband and the results. II Samuel 6:14-23. Describe: _____

17. List in the left hand column the traits or habits your husband possesses which you find most offensive. In the right hand column list how God can use this to conform you into His image.
Example: Is always late Example: To develop your patience

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

18. Read Philippians 4:6-9 and fill in the blanks giving God's formula for solving problems, including accepting your man as he is---

$$\frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(verse 6)}} + \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(verse 8)}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(verse 7)}}$$

19. Read the account of Abraham laying on the altar before God his most precious possession, his son, in Genesis 22. Now take the attitudes, actions, and habits that you've listed in question 7 and 17 and visually one by one lay on the altar giving them to God. After you have given it all to Him, thank Him that He is perfectly capable of handling your husband and trust Him to do so

20. List according to Philippians 4:8 the good things you can concentrate upon – both about your family, home, and your God. Then think upon them.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Family and husband | | Heavenly Father & Savior | |
| Have food to eat | Husband bathes | God loves me | Christ is in me |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

When the above thoughts no longer sustain you, write out one of the following verses and put it over your kitchen sink or some noticeable place. Say it over and over to yourself. Meditate on each phrase, thinking about what it says to you about God and about yourself.

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|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Philippians 4:19 | Philippians 4:13 | Psalm 55:22 |
| Isaiah 26:3 | Psalm 37:4,5 | Psalm 56:3 |
| James 1:5 | Isaiah 41:10 | Jeremiah 17:7 |
| II Timothy 1:7 | I Corinthians 10:13 | Psalm 37:23,24 |

21. Is applying the formula in Philippians 4:6-8 a one-time decision or dose it have to be practiced over and over? Read Philippians 4:9 for your answer. _____

Notes: