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**LANDMINES**  
**WALKING WISELY IN EVIL DAYS**



***Session Four – “Tethered Leadership”***

Our base text, home text – Ephesians 5

When you are on patrol in a military mission, the point-man, you need to be aware. You are critical.

- Ephesians 5:15 – Be careful how you walk...
- We've spent enough time being foolish.
- Ephesians 5:18 – Don't be drunk with wine. You can't walk carefully if you are drunk. Be controlled by the Spirit.

Colossians 3:16 is a parallel passage to Ephesians 5:18.

- The spirit of God controls me as I let the Word Christ richly dwell within me.

Romans 12:2 – Don't be conformed, but be transformed by the word of God, by feeding on God's word.

“When I see someone who is walking in maturity in Christ and is growing in Christ... When I see someone... When I see someone who has a walk that is authentic, that is stable, that is maturing... there's no way of getting that without feeding consistently on the Bible. You just can't do it. There is no other path, there's no other way, there is no other way that occurs into our lives, that that accrues into our lives, other than the scriptures.”

- Psalm 119:9 – How can a young man keep his ways pure?
- Psalm 119:11 – They word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against you.
- Psalm 119:18 – Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

There's power in the word of God, it transforms us, it changes our perspective.

- Matt 4:4; Luke 4:4 – Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.
- You can't live by breakfast, lunch, and dinner alone.
- You've got to feed the soul.
- Deuteronomy 32:37 – It is not an idle word for you, it is your life.

The Spirit of God takes the Word of God, and he uses it to control me so that I'm not walking foolishly any more. I'm growing. It is a slow growth, but it is growth.

*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* – Eugene Peterson

When the Spirit of God is in operation, it should be evidenced in our family life.

All family relationships are addressed by God. The Spirit of God wants to make a difference in how we live our lives, wants to improve the quality of our lives, the quality of our marriages. This is where Christianity is lived out. This is the real battlefield.

- Ephesians 5:21 – Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. – *Submission*

It isn't just wives, it is applicable to every Christian. *Everyone* submits. We're all under authority.

- John 5:22 – All judgment has been given to the son.
- Hebrews 13:17 – Spiritual leaders have authority over a church congregation.
- Romans 13:1 – God has established government – governing authorities, police officers.
- Ephesians 6:1 – Parents have authority over children.
- Matthew 28:18 – All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus. Over everything.

In the context of Ephesians 5, there are some basic fundamental principles of how Christian marriage is supposed to work.

There is a very unique *tether* found there. Christian marriage is *tethered* to Jesus Christ and his relationship to the church.

- Ephesians 5:23-24 – For the husband is the head of the wife, *as Christ* also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But *as the church* is subject to Christ, *so also* the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Last time spoke about submission, what it is, what it isn't.

- A wife is never to follow her husband into sin.
- Our submission is to glorify Christ who put authority into place. But we never dishonor Christ by submission into areas that violate scripture or violate our conscience.

Ephesians 4:25 – Husbands, love your wives, *just as Christ* also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...

- Recurring phrase – “as Christ”, “just as”
- Some guys get that they're the head of the family. But there has been a lot of abuse of that idea.

### ***Two Landmines***

1. Landmine of Self Interest Over Self Denial
2. Landmine of Unexamined Assumptions

We have a position of leadership, a position of responsibility. But we are to lead, *just as* Christ loved the church. *Just as* Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. He was killed, beat up, tortured, spat on. He got so beat up that you couldn't recognize who he was.

That's called *self-denial*.

This concept of being a husband is absolutely *tethered* to the example of *self-denial* that we see in Jesus.

- Matthew 20:17-19 – Jesus tells them he's going to suffer, die, and be raised up. He tells them the immediate future.
- Matthew 20:20-21 – In response the mother of Zebedee's sons ask for positions of power for her sons?
- Matthew 20:22-24 – You have no idea what you're asking for. The others get angry.
- Matthew 20:25-28 – You must become slaves, servants, just as...

Jesus did not come for his own self-interest. He came for *our interest* and it cost him everything.

- Philippians 2:3-11 – Just as Jesus. It is all tied to Jesus, our leadership, and self-denial.
  - He didn't say don't look out for your own interests. But don't stop there. Look out for the interest of others too.

Our leadership is tied to Jesus and self-denial.

Article by *Don Carson* – Dr. Farrar reads the entire article. (*Provided as an attachment to this session*)

"How do I do this?" – You look at Jesus and do it *just as*. Jesus, he's your model.

- Steve DeVore, started a company called *Sybervision* in the 1980's that taught via video how to be just as someone else to learn a skill. (*Not attached to this session, link provided if you're interested*)  
<http://www.sybervision.com/about.htm>

### **Just As**

- Nobody had a perfect role model
- You can learn as much from a bad role model as you can from a good role model
- If they're bad, just do it "just as" they didn't

Pat Robertson about Alzheimer's

- Randy Alcorn article is found at: (*Not attached to this session, link provided if you're interested*)  
<http://www.epm.org/blog/2011/Sep/16/robertson-mcquilkin-and-joni-eareckson-tada>
- Christianity Today article is found at: (*Not attached to this session, link provided if you're interested*)  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2011/september/pat-robertson-backtracks-on-divorce-alzheimers-comments.html>
- He said there was justification.

The Landmine is not Self-Interest, it is Self-Denial.

## The Landmine of Unexamined Assumptions

- Sam Storms – Male Headship found here: *(Provided as an attachment to this session)*  
<http://www.samstorms.com/enjoying-god-blog/post/10-things-you-should-know-about-male-headship>  
*(Dr. Farrar mentions this and then talks about other things for a while. He does get back to it eventually.)*

If you're single, you still might want to listen up. It applies to leadership too. It even applies to business.

Book - *Good to Great*, by Jim Collins. Published in 2001.

He studied companies that dropped and then turned it around, that succeeded and found principles such as:

- They had to confront the brutal facts
- Hedgehog Concept
- Get the Right People on the Bus...
- The principles can be found here: *(Not attached to this session, link provided if you're interested)*  
<http://www.jimcollins.com/concepts.html>

Pretty much all of the principles are biblical

The first principle they came across is *Level 5 Leadership*. The leaders all had something in common.

- A compelling modesty
- Servant Leader

Dr. Farrar now reads from the Sam Storms article section (2). See attachment.

- Keep loving her

It says in Genesis that the wife is to be a helper. Among two equals she supplies what he is lacking. They are equal, but different.

- If your wife is better at something than you are, why don't you let her handle it?
- If you handle some things better, you do it. Don't put it on her.

Pray with her. A lot of guys get tripped up with the idea of praying with their wife. Walk over, grab her hand and just do it. Start praying. She'll love you for it because you're leading her to the savior.

**Prayer:** Father, we're all in process. Help me to not focus on the weakness in my wife, but what I need to do to step up to love my wife. Please bring one thing to my attention that would help me that I can apply. Thank you that you are with us, enabling me to do what is right in your sight. In Jesus' name, Amen.