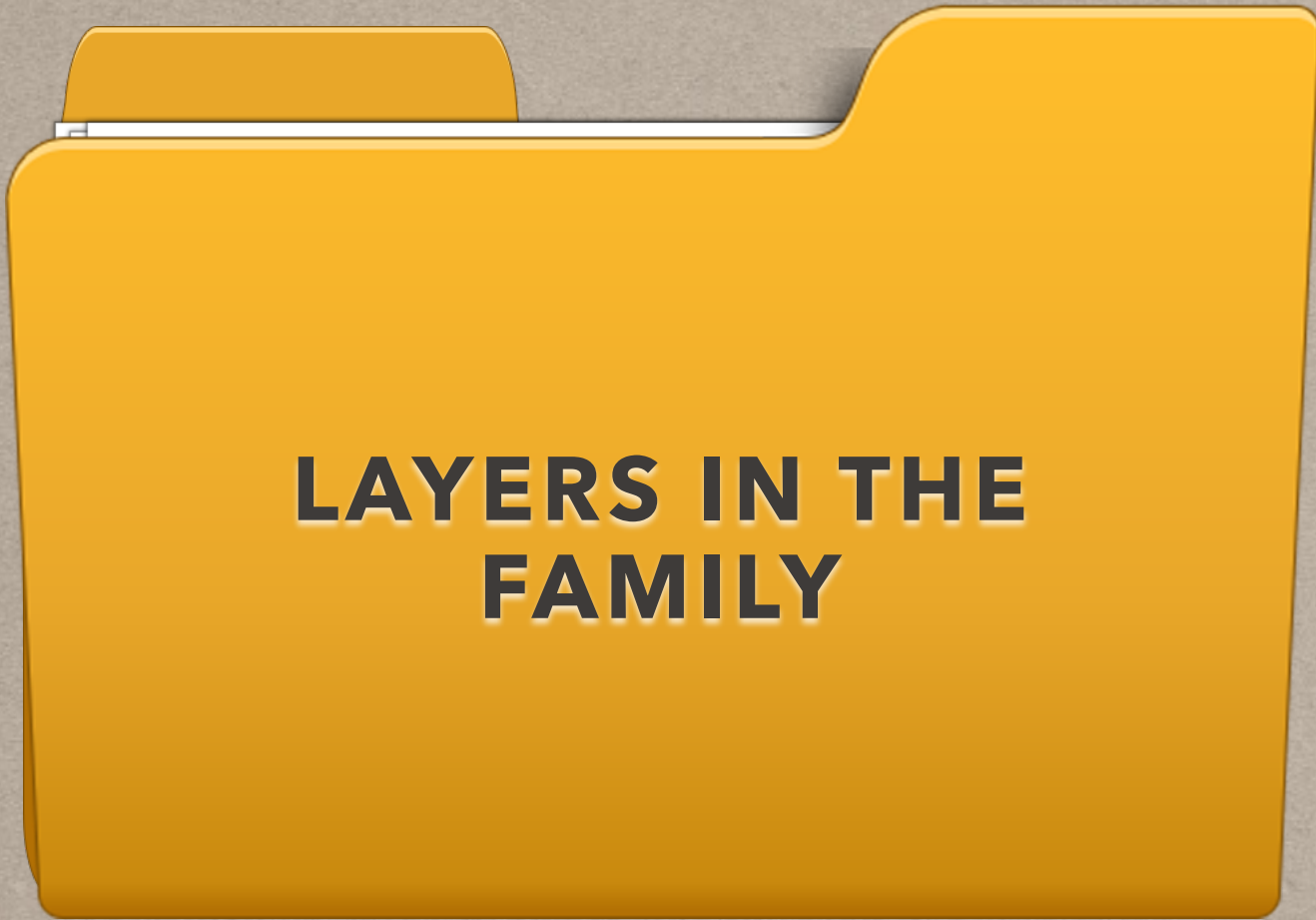


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FOLDERS ON THE FAMILY

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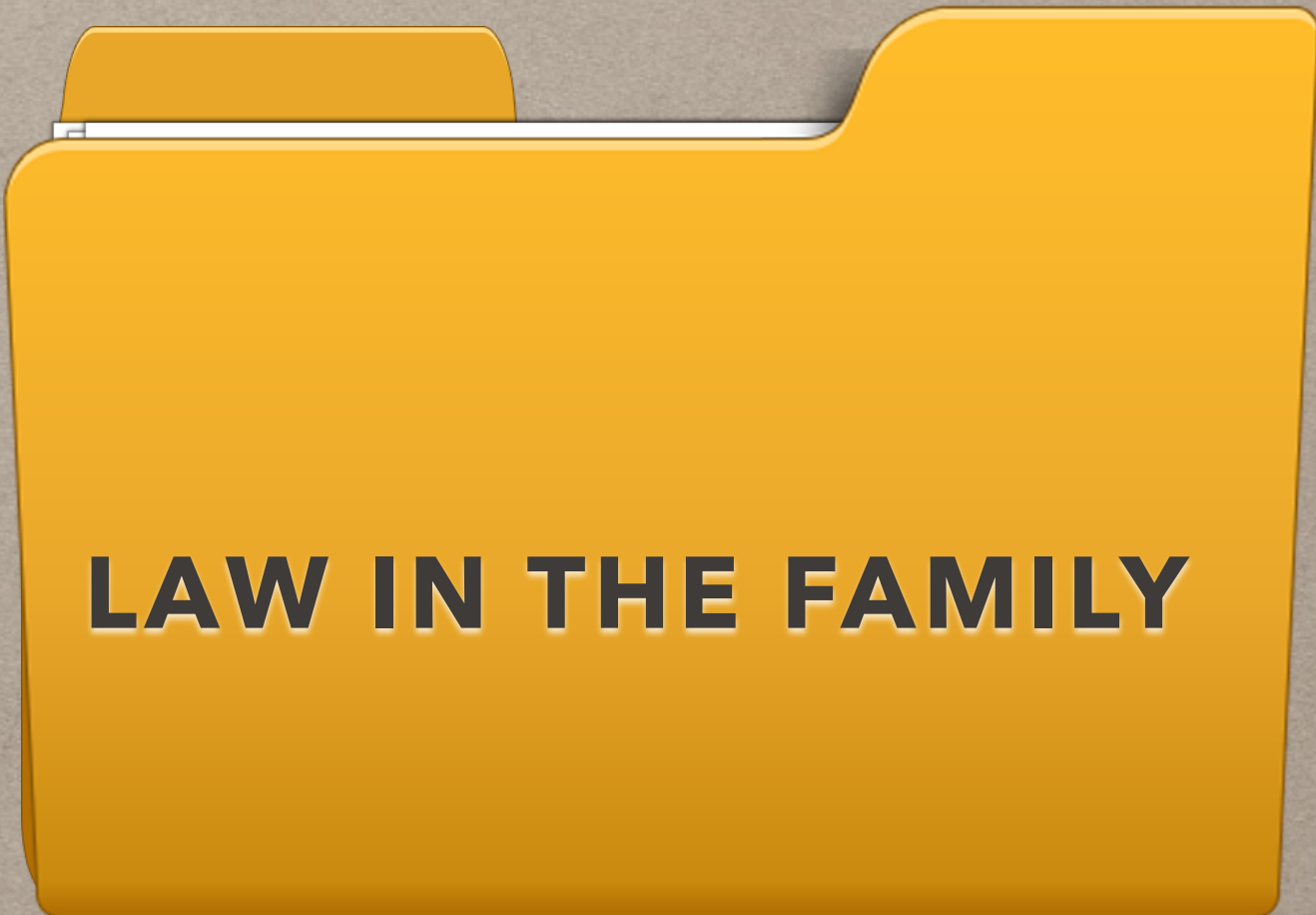
**LAYERS IN THE
FAMILY**

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LOOKING IN THE FAMILY

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LOVE IN THE FAMILY

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LAW IN THE FAMILY

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LOVE IN THE FAMILY

SUBMISSIVE LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:22-24)

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

SUBMISSIVE LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:22-24)

The issue of submission is not just a marital problem. With some, it is a Spiritual problem.

When Paul calls upon wives to submit, he gives two reasons for it.

- a. Lordship of Christ (verse 22)
- b. Headship of man (verse 23)

A vital key is discovered in verse 24 as the church subjects herself voluntarily and joyfully.

SACRIFICIAL LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:25)

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

SACRIFICIAL LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:25)

1. He certainly challenges men-husbands-by calling for a love that is equal to himself.
2. When a husband loves his wife, in the true meaning of the word, he is willing to give of himself freely.
3. His will, interests, and desires become secondary to that of his wife
4. The loving husband will strive to bring joy, happiness, and fulfillment to his wife (Romans 15:3).

SANCTIFYING LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:26)

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

SANCTIFYING LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:26)

The love that should be present in the marital relationship is one that ought to have a purifying quality and character.

Consistently in counseling situations, preachers hear pitiful confessions from a wife that her husband is constantly downgrading her, and making her feel small.

1. He criticizes her cooking, weight, housework, etc. and her love withers and slowly dies.

2. Her mind becomes cluttered with anxiety, frustration, depression sets in and suddenly the criticism begins to gain credibility.

SENSITIVE LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:28,29)

Ephesians 5:28-29 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body

SENSITIVE LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:28,29)

Husbands and wives both have needs but are unique to themselves.

1. Males seem to have a greater need for identity.

a. He needs to feel important, successful, accomplished. His emotional health is important to him.

b. Wives who take time to compliment their husband for their work and career advancements are wise.

SENSITIVE LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:28,29)

2. Wives, on the other hand, have greater needs of intimacy.

a. They need to be shown they are loved and important. b. Need to be held, told how good they look, and feel appreciated for what they do.

c. The husband who takes time to show tenderness to his wife is truly a wise man.

Let us, as Christian mates, be attuned to the needs of the one to whom our love has been pledged.

SUSTAINING LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:31)

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

SUSTAINING LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:31)

When the apostle spoke of the husband leaving the home of his parents to be joined to the wife, he was offering no new doctrine or ethics regarding marriage.

1. Every couple must remember the formula to deal with every problem ever encountered in marriage.

2. Failure to follow this counsel in some form or other is the cause of all marital misery today.

3. The secret is found in twenty-two important words of Genesis 2:24.

SUSTAINING LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:31)

God expects us to leave the most intimate bond outside of marriage to make a full commitment in marriage.

1. This means other things are to receive a lesser priority, if it is work, school, recreation, etc.
2. Some parents make a mistake of giving all attention to children until nothing is left for each other.. When the children grow up and move out, the marriage is suffering from bankruptcy, nothing left for them.
3. So, unless one is willing to leave all else, that "mountaintop" level of happiness will never happen.

CONCLUSION

No marriage is ever hopeless until we accept it as so. Man has a great capacity to be transformed and changed, if we will only believe in the power of God and put His word into our lives. If husbands and wives would look to God for daily guidance, many potential problems would be bypassed.