

**A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS**

**PROGRAM 17 (#910147)**

**WEEK 4 (910332)**

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## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets**

**TITLE: Program 17 – How Is Love Expressed?**

### **TUESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

You are commanded by God to love your wife as Christ loved the church. What happens when a man doesn't love his wife as Christ loved the church? What happens when he refuses to love his wife? What happens when he doesn't care for her or when he doesn't meet her needs, when he doesn't seek to make her comfortable, when he doesn't seek to show her that she is special, when he doesn't respond to her love? What happens? God judges that man.

#### **PART ONE**

Do you realize that in the Scriptures, in the book of Ephesians, in the fifth chapter, that God commands a husband to love his wife? He commands a husband to love his wife as, and He gives him the example, as Christ loved the church. Do you realize that in the book of Titus, in the second chapter, in the fourth verse, that God tells the older women to teach the younger women

how to love their husbands and how to love their children? Love is essential for a healthy marriage. Love is essential for a healthy home. Love is essential for a healthy human being. How is love expressed? How do we first experience love? Well, number one: love is expressed by making another person comfortable. It happens when we're born. We have a child. The child cries. We want to make the child comfortable. The child's telling us, "I'm uncomfortable. I'm uncomfortable." We don't know why, but we know they're crying. We know that they're screaming. And some people that are without a natural affection, some people that are not restrained by God's agape kind of love, will take that child and brutalize that child because the child won't shut up. The child won't be quiet. The child won't stop screaming. And yet, the minute that we treat that child abusively, we're cutting off love from that child and we're shaping the course of that child's life. Love begins by having our needs met, by making us comfortable. So when a child is screaming, or a child is crying, what do we do? We change its diapers. We feed it. We burp it. We change the way it's looking. We coo. We dance for it, etc. We do that for a child because we want that child to know and experience the security of love, because that child is our child, because that child has worth, because that child has significance to us. It's our child. And because we have a natural kind of "storge" kind of love, a natural affection, the affection of a mother, the affection of a father, the affection of a human being, that's why we move towards others: to make them comfortable, to help them in their distress. Many of you watch television and you see people in anguish and people in need. You see them starving. You see them, victims of a flood. There's a natural love that flows out of you towards them because you want them to be comfortable. Well, Precious One, don't you think that ought to be in marriage? Let me ask you a question. What do you do to make your mate comfortable? I know men that their wives have a hard time waking up and what they do, and these are some men on our staff. They open their wife's eyes with a greeting and the

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aroma of a cup of coffee. What are they doing? They're saying, "I love you and I want you to be comfortable." You know if we would just stop and think about the other person's comfort in our marriage, if we would think about making the house comfortable, making the home comfortable, making the situation comfortable, we would be saying, "I love you." And you know what we would do is, we would begin building this strong love relationship that creates a healthy and whole person. So that's the first thing I want you to see. The second way that we show a person love is by showing them that they're special. There's something very special about you. You know I love to watch my daughters-in-law. I love to watch them with my grandchildren. Because I see those two daughters-in-law really making their kids feel special. They will put down whatever they're doing to talk to the child, to hear the cry, to hear the complaint, to settle the problem, to dry the tear. I see them do that. I remember when we went to Israel and my daughter-in-law, and I call them both my daughters-in-law. And Leslie and I were over there and we were there with our grandsons. And one of our grandsons was sick. And he wanted his mother's attention. And I watch my daughter-in-law miss seeing Capernaum, which is just absolutely incredible. It's the city where Jesus lived. It's the synagogue where Jesus said He was the bread of life. It's the house of Peter that's over here in front of that synagogue. She missed all that. Why? Because she had a son that needed her, because she had a son that needed to be made comfortable, because she had a son that needed to know that he was special. What an example that was to me. And you know what I have? I have healthy whole grandchildren. Why? Because they're loved that way. Now listen, this is the way we're to love our mates. We're to seek to make them comfortable. We're to let them know that they're special. So many times we forget this. And when we forget this, the romance goes out of marriage. I mean, we'll do something special for strangers that come in the house. Or we'll do something special for the people that we work with. Or we'll do something special for people in need

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and yet somehow we blind ourselves to the comfort and the need of our mate. You know one of the things that my daddy taught me and I watched my mom and dad. And I watched them and more than anything else I wanted to have a marriage like them. When my son Mark, that's married to Leslie, went through the trauma of a divorce, the divorce I had before I came to know Jesus Christ, when he lived without a father, when he didn't see a husband and wife interacting, I didn't know it, but my son was watching my mom and dad very carefully. And you know what? He used them as a pattern, a pattern for his marriage. He told Leslie, "When I marry, I'm marrying for life. I'm marrying with an unconditional kind of love my main concern is going to be my family and their welfare and my wife and her welfare." And you know what? I've seen him live that way. I've seen him live that way as an executive. His kids always have access to him. He wears a beeper. If their number comes up or Leslie's number comes up, he's right back on the phone with them. You know why? Because they're special to him. They're special. Now other people can call him, business clients can call him and he will make them wait, but never his wife and never his children. They're special. We need to keep the romance in our marriage. And we need to know that when we love with God's agape kind of love that what we're saying to another person is that, "You are special to me. And I want you to know this." You may not be special to anyone else, but you are special to God. And it's my prayer, it's my prayer that you will believe this. It's my prayer that you will take this by faith, because the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, testifies of how special the individual is to God the Father and to God the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit. So, I want you to know that you express love by making a person comfortable. You express love by making a person know that they are special. And you make a person experience love, now listen, by responding to their love. Do you know how awful it is to reach out to someone in love, to say loving words, to do loving actions and to have them totally, absolutely ignored? I know you do. I know

that you have experienced this at one level or another from one individual or another. And its worse isn't it, when it's from your mate? When you're totally ignored, when you move out to do something special and they absolutely ignore you. I know that you have possible experienced this with your parent. You knocked yourself out. You wanted praise. You wanted admiration. You wanted to know that they were looking, they were watching. Listen. My boys, on the field, whether it was soccer, or whatever it was, their eyes would constantly flit back, to where was mom, where was dad, were we watching, did we see that? And you and I need to learn to respond. You know, we need to learn to hold hands. We need to learn to touch. And touch is so important. It's an expression of love. We need to learn to give words of kindness and to recognize that those are words of kindness and say back to the person, "Thank you so much for doing this." You know my husband hates the kitchen. He just hates the kitchen. He wasn't raised in a kitchen. He never had to do any work in a kitchen. He was raised on the farm. He was always outside. I mean he'll put the dishes in the sink. And I think, you know, somebody's got to put them in the dishwasher. And we're both busy people. I'm busier than he is. He's eight years older than I am and he's slowed down and I haven't. I feel young. And I'm so busy and I want him to put it in the dishwasher. Well, the other day, he did. And I said, "Oh Jack, honey, thank you for doing that." Then he emptied the dishwasher and I said, "Honey, this is wonderful." That's a response. He's doing it because he loves me. He's doing it because he knows it's important to me. And that's the way we express love. Now, we've looked at "storge", the natural affection. We have looked at "eros", the erotic kind of love, the sexual, sensual kind of love. We have looked at "phileo", the friendship kind of love, something that's called out of you because of something delightful or admirable or pleasing in the other person. And we've looked at the "agape" kind of love. Now I want us to look at how all of this is put together. And I want to take you to Ephesians, chapter 5. In verse 25,

“Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” Ideally, this isn’t usually the way it happens. And I hate to say that. But ideally, if we were living the way God would have us live, the man is the initiator and the woman is the responder. And so where is love to begin? Love begins with God. So it begins with God, here in His love. Not that we first loved God, but that God loved us. God is the initiator.

## **PART TWO**

Well, in God’s economy, the man stands as God to his wife. In other words, God is the head of Christ and the man is the head of his wife. Now you may not like that, but that’s the way God says. But that headship is not dominating and putting you down and putting you under your thumb and grinding you in. That headship means responsibility. That headship means that because you’re the head, you’re initiating. It’s the head that tells my body what to do. All right, so it’s the head, not in a demanding way that motivates and moves the body. So God is saying that man is the initiator and the woman is the responder. The head initiates the action the way that God made us, the head says, “Move hand.” So the head tells the hand to move and the hand moves for the benefit of the whole body. And so God’s saying, “Okay, man, you’re the initiator. Man you are the responsible one. You are the one that I’m going to hold accountable.” Are you listening, guys? You are commanded by God. This is in the imperative tense. You are commanded by God to love your wife as Christ loved the church. What happens when a man doesn’t love his wife as Christ loved the church? What happens when he refuses to love his wife? What happens when he doesn’t care for her or when he doesn’t meet her needs, when he doesn’t seek to make her comfortable, when he doesn’t seek to show her that she is special, when he doesn’t respond to her love? What happens? God judges that man. And you say, “But I can’t love my wife that way.” Well then you are really under the judgment of God. I mean, if you can’t love your wife that way,

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because you don't have that love in you, that means Jesus Christ is not in you and excuse me, sir, but you're going to hell. You're going to hell and you're going to perish forever. And God doesn't want you to go to hell, because God loves you. God wants to make you comfortable. He wants to give you heaven and not hell. He wants to give you peace and joy and everlasting contentment, not eternal destruction and fire and torment, "Where the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched." God loves you so much that what He did was He sacrificed His Son for you so that you wouldn't have to have the punishment of hell that you and I and every human being deserves. God loves you so much that you're so special that He gave you His Son. And God has responded. God has given you love and God wants you to respond to that. So if you don't love your wife, if you enter into marriage whether you believe in Jesus Christ or not, if you enter into marriage, you've entered into a covenant. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement. And God is the sovereign administrator of every single covenant. So that means that a God above is looking down on His creation below and God knows what you were doing to your wife. God knows whether you are loving her as you should or as you shouldn't. God knows whether you're faithful or not. God knows whether you abuse her or not. And God says there's a day of reckoning. And so God commands you to love your wife and now listen. Any time God commands something then it is always possible. It is always possible. God cannot command an emotion. But God can command an act. So you can know this. When He says, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the church." He's not talking about an emotion. He is talking about an act of obedience. And when God calls you to obey, then God will supply for you the means for you to obey. I want you to see, remember man's an initiator. Man is the one that is commanded to love, to agape his wife. Do you know that God does not command a woman to agape her husband? He doesn't command that anywhere. Now God commands us as Christians to love one another and He

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says, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one toward another.” And so we are to love in that way. But in Titus, chapter 2, he’s saying in verse 3 that the older women are to teach what is good and that they are to encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children. Now this is so interesting. And girls, pay attention to this. If you are a woman, just know that this is so important for you. An older woman can take a younger woman and teach that woman how to love her husband. Now what is the word for loving a husband? It’s “p-h-i-l-a-n-d-r-o-s”. “Andros” is the word for man or husband. There’s no separate word for husband. So it’s either man or husband. “Phileo” is the kind of love, the fond affection for this husband. All right, now. He says that a wife is to learn. She can learn how to be pleasing to the husband, how to love him in a way that builds this strong relationship, how to enjoy him. And we’re going to look at that. We’re going to look at the very practical things that you can do to love your husband, to build a strong marriage relationship. But right now we need to get the basics. All right, so you are to love your husbands and you are to love your children. Now what’s the word for loving your children? It’s “p-h-i-l-o-t-e-k-n-o-s”. All right, now, you see, p-h-i-l, that’s phileo. All right and then tekno, t-e-k-n-o-s, that’s for children. And so we are to learn to love our husbands and we are to learn to love our children. In other words, we’re to build this relationship. A woman is a responder. And if you men will love your wives and seek to love them with that agape kind of love then you’re going to build a healthy wife, and by the way, when a person is not secure in love, they are very fragile and they have a hard time responding as they should. Love is a great healer. Each individual needs to know that they have significance. Each individual needs to be secure, to know that there’s another person that cares about them. Now God cares about us, but there should be a person here on earth that is God’s arms and God’s mouth and God’s affection and God’s heart, and God’s mind towards that person. And so as you do this to your wife, remember the man’s the



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initiator, the wife's the responder. She's going to respond. As she responds, she's going to begin to admire you. Why? Because of the way you treat her. Because of the fact that you're there to meet her needs. Because of the fact that you're noticing her and, and you're saying that you're special and that you're different than all the other women around. The more that you love in that agape kind of love, the more she's going to respond. So let me just ask you a question. What's your wife like? How loving, how appreciative is she? If she's not loving and appreciative towards you, stop and examine where you are as a man and see if you're really loving your wife as you ought to. And you say, "But Kay, I'm married to a man that doesn't love me that way. I'm married to a man that doesn't know Jesus Christ. What am I going to do?" You're going to love your husband. You're going to submit to your husband. You're going to admire him. And as you do this then you're going to put him into a position where God can really deal with him. And you know what? I've seen many a marriage turn around when a woman decided that she was going to "phileo" her husband regardless of what he was like. Precious one, if you will obey God and do what He says God will meet you there and He'll do miracles.