

HOMEGROWN

Growing a Thriving Marriage through Love and Respect

Trouble in Paradise

I. Satan attempts to weaken Adam and Eve

1. Satan's attempt to bring distance

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" —Genesis 3:1

2. Satan's attempts to deceive

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" —Genesis 3:1-3

3. Satan uses God's good design for evil purposes

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. —Genesis 3:6

- Eve's misuse of "helping"

"Your desire shall be contrary to your husband . . ." —Genesis 3:16b

Wife's desire to help: *"I was just trying to help."* —Wife 2:6a

- Adam's misuse of "serving"

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' . . ." —Genesis 3:17a

Husband's desire to please: *"I just want you to be happy."* —Husband 2:6a

II. Understanding our fallen tendencies

1. Wired to "help"

2. Wired to "satisfy"

III. Reestablishing Paradise

1. Be willing to “do your job.”

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

—Ephesians 5:33

Husbands:

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 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.

—Ephesians 5:25–30

- Pursue your wife.

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

—John 1:11–12

- Lead your wife.

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church . . .

—Ephesians 5:23a

- Serve your wife.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . .

—Ephesians 5:25

- Lead her spiritually.

. . . and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word . . .

—Ephesians 5:25b–26

- Help her become more radiant.

. . . and to present her to himself as a radiant church . . .

—Ephesians 5:27a (NIV)

Wives:

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

—Ephesians 5:22–24

- Submit to your husband.

- Show your husband respect.

- Be a respectful “helper.”
- Don’t enable sinful behavior.

2. Seek to cooperate with the purposes of Christ rather than the devil.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

—1 Peter 5:8

I am most satisfied when He is most glorified in my life.

Discussion Questions

1. How have you seen distance, deception, or dissatisfaction harmful in your marriage?
2. Wives, finish this sentence: “I feel most loved by you when . . .”
Husbands, finish this sentence: “I feel most respected by you when . . .”
3. Wives, finish this sentence: “I don’t feel loved by you when . . .”
Husbands, finish this sentence: “I don’t feel respected by you when . . .”
4. Wives, what specifically can you do to show more respect for your husband?
Husbands, what specifically can you do to express love to your wife more fully in the coming week?