Point Man

Chapter 6

Husband & Wife Teamwork in the Marriage Cockpit

How tragic that the "family plane" crashes every day simply because husbands and wives have never understood how they are to operate and function as a **TEAM**.

Necessary principles to promote and have **TEAMWORK** in your marriage:

- Mutual *understanding/honor*
- Mutual *trust/respect*
- Mutual *accountability*
- Mutual *submission*

The word "understanding" carries with it the idea of insight and tactfulness. No one enjoys being misunderstood. It's one of the truly miserable experiences in life. The woman who has a husband who knows when to put his arms around her and simply hold her close will inevitably feel understood. Sometimes that's the most insightful and tactful thing we can do.

The word translated "honor" carries with it the idea of value. A mature man provides the kind of leadership to his wife that lets her know how valuable she is to him…You may deeply appreciate your wife in your heart, but when was the last time you verbally expressed your appreciation to her? Perhaps you don't remember, but I would be willing to bet that *she* does. It's easy to forget the importance of verbal praise in the routine of day-to-day living.

It all starts with "trust." Trust is what motivates people to follow our leadership, *whether at work or at home*. And trust must be earned!

Scripture indicates that God holds the man responsible/accountable for decisions made in the family.

But how does a wife measure the sacrificial love of her husband? For some reason, wives have the uncanny ability to measure our sacrificial love with the accuracy of a yardstick. They can recognize it from miles away. They intuitively know there is a direct correlation between service and sacrifice. And it usually comes out in the little things that spring from a right attitude.

"Accountability" is a willingness to explain your actions. Mutual accountability simply means that husband and wife are to be accountable to one another. You explain your actions to her and she explains hers to you.

One of the main reasons marriages are going down in flames is the husband has a distorted or incorrect understanding of the word "submission."

We need to get one thing straight. "Submission" is NOT just an issue for wives…Submission is a responsibility that applies to every one of us. Submission is inescapable and universal. Everyone submits… we are all under God's authority.

Let me be really clear here! Mutual submission *does not mean* that the husband and wife take turns being the head of the home. That is the man's main and primary assignment. It means that the husband demonstrates and models the concept of submission in his own life when the situation calls for such a response…It means, gentlemen, that you take the lead in your submission to Christ to such an extent that you become a model for your wife. A man's willingness to serve his wife and meet her needs will provide an environment and a stimulus for her to respond in submission to his leadership.

<u>A mature Christian husband leads and is recognized by:</u>

- He loves his wife *sacrificially/unconditionally* and with *understanding/respect*

- He encourages his wife with *verbal praise* and *encourages* her to use her gifts

Bottom line: There are only two words a man/husband has to remember about leading his wife/family and they are "*just as*." Jesus is our role model! Love your wife/family "*just as"* Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for it.

<u>Bible references:</u>
Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 3:7, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10