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The right way...

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John Chapter 14 verse 6 KJV) – this day and age it is hard sometimes to really understand how far we have fallen away from the truth, it is tough when you look at situations where back advice is abundant and everyone is trying to figure out what seems right knowing very well what is really “right” is what has been right for thousands of years. God is always right. We are only right when we agree with the Word of God. Its plainly simple but we tend to over complicate it, make it harder than it needs to be. I was once talking with someone I love dearly who put it best “God was not trying to make some deep mystery when He inspired the Word, He made it plain so we could understand”, so many times we try to take a scripture that plainly tells us something and over complicate it... when Jesus Christ said “I am the way, the truth, and the life” He meant exactly that. Jesus Christ is the WAY and any other way is not the WAY for Jesus Himself simply declares “I am the way”. Jesus Christ is the TRUTH and anything that goes against that truth is simply put the opposite of truth: a lie. Jesus Christ is the LIFE and anything but Him is the opposite of life: death. As we enter in to day 10 of the 30 day challenge I pray you would ponder this question: are you playing Christian? If the answer is no which I pray that it is the next question is: does Christ reign supreme in your life? Is His WAY the Only Way in your heart? If not I pray you would spend time in prayer asking the Lord to reveal His truth to you.

Jesus Christ can give you peace, He can give you wisdom, He can give you healing, but please understand that you must be willing to give up everything for Him. After all did He not give everything for us? **He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew Chapter 10 verse 37-39 KJV)** – trust me, I know that is a hard pill to swallow. We must put Christ before everything, above everything, and love Him more than anything. Once you begin to realize who you were before you found Christ you can begin to understand how we can be called to do this. Jesus Christ the creator of the universe left His throne in heaven, in glory and comfort, to be born a humble birth in a manger, of a virgin, to live a perfect life, to die a cruel, beyond anything we can imagine, torturous death, because of us and for us. Did He not put all above us? As you enter in to day 10, examine that question in your heart!

Daily Devotional

by: Pastor Richard Webster (abcpastor@bellsouth.net)

Because I made it that Way

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. Isaiah 40:28

I have many wonderful childhood memories. One of the things I remember was having a dad who liked to build things. He didn't just want to build something normal. He liked to create unusual things. He would build things like an air boat made from airplane pontoons to a windmill he could hang in a tree. One of my favorite things my dad built was a wooden football. In order to make it look like a football, it took 78 pieces of wood. Many times I would ask my dad why he made the things the way he did, and he would say, "I am the creator and that's how I wanted to make it". After he laughed about his comment, he would explain why he made it that way.

God is the creator of all things. He designed the world and he designed the family. Because He is the creator, He can make it however He wants to make it. He made the man the head of the house. He made the woman the helpmate. He made the parents to be in control of their children. He not only set up the way it should function, but He can help it to function. If God is going to help it function, He must be in control of it. What have you taken away from the Creator in your home today? What do you need to give to Him? This week we are going to focus on roles and responsibilities in the home. I will be sharing some of my childhood memories with you to help you see how a home should function.

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

Yesterday as we read God's plan for the husband and the father as the head of the home, how we as men are called to love our wives as Christ loved the church, knowing that we are called to give everything for her as Christ gave everything for the church I know what joy it must bring to most women to know how desperately their husbands are to love them, and in that I say amen! Men our wives deserve to be loved, they deserve to be treated as we are commanded and I pray you ponder in your heart God's plan for you as the man of the home. Moving closer today we will take a look at the role of the wife, the mother, and especially in my case: the better half! Again as I reminded you yesterday Biblical views on marriage may not be popular but as we read when we opened God is the WAY and His WAY is the ONLY right way. Please pray that God would open your heart and mind to His truth and may the Holy Spirit touch you in a powerful and unique way to help you understand His truth.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Genesis Chapter 2 verse 18 KJV) – in the 21st century it is easy to think that the current condition of families, the current condition of society is normal and acceptable. The truth is... it isn't. Today's society is not a reflection of God's plan and because of this you see a divorce rate well above 50%, you see unspeakable pain and suffering through abortion, families breaking apart and hate flows from the mouths of those who are called to be as "one flesh". Why? As a modern society we think we know better than God's plan. Because of this we see pain and suffering like no time in history. God created Adam, then from His rib God created Eve. God created Eve that Adam would not be alone... God created Eve as a "help meet" or a "help as his counterpart". Today I pray wives and mothers that you would understand God did not create you as a door mat, you are His prized princess and to be loved as Christ loved the church. Men you are not to beat, mistreat, hurt, or cheat on your wives for doing so would imply that Christ did so to the church. Women you are to be loved, put above the man by the man, you are to be treated as God has commanded, as Christ loved the church. But God did appoint Adam, God has appointed every husband and father as the LEADER as the HEAD of the home.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 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. (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 22-23 KJV) – did I lose you there? I know, I know "its the 21st century", it doesn't matter. The world is wrong, society is wrong, the Word of God is sufficient in all things and has authority over all things. The Word of God is the FINAL authority on all matters of faith and practice and regardless of what this "modern" world thinks we have seen time and time again that the worlds definition of marriage and family is not sufficient. Can you disagree? Can you tell me "I am not subject to my husband and no woman should be" and also tell me that the divorce rate has not skyrocketed over the past century? What has been the cause? People thinking their way and their understanding is better than God's. Women if your husband loves you as Christ loved the church, if He is fulfilling God commanded role, are you? **Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 24 KJV)** – again I ask you, are you allowing your husband to fulfill His God given command? Are you fulfilling yours? Yesterday I pray every woman reading the "food for thought" would

have felt as beautiful and loved as they should be but women you must obey God's command. You must be subject to your OWN husband, He must be allowed to guide the home you share with you as his helper. You husband is not called to be subject to you, you are called to be subject to him.

Let me be crystal clear for all the men that are reading this message, if you are beating your wife, if you are lying, cheating, or not fulfilling your command to love your wife as Christ loved the church you must my brothers focus on yourself. You must pray for God to reveal to you how to lead by example. Remember our study of Jesus Christ washing His disciple's feet. You must serve your wife, love your wife, and put her above all things, willing to give your life for her as Christ gave His life for the church. Women it is your responsibility in the family to be the "help meet" to be the helper, the "better half" to be the body of the family. As Christ was the head so is your husband the head of your family. You should talk about all things and try your best to reach a Christ honoring mutual agreement on all things but if a decision must be made it is that of your husband. Do you not know that your husband will be judged in accordance with God's word? As will you. God will judge men not on the 21st century definition of the "head of household" but on God's ancient, perfect definition.

As you enter in to day 10 I pray that men you would examine your hearts and begin to search how you can love your wife more. How you can treat her like the love she is, how you can fulfill your command. Women I pray that you would search your heart and pray, ask God how you can continue to make yourself subject to your own husband. You must fulfill your roles with all your heart, and soul, and strength in order to face the cruel and dark world. You must be prepared to work together to find the truth of God's plan for you. As we leave I give warning once more to the men reading this: are you loving your wife as Christ loved the church? Then surely as Christ did not beat you, as Christ did not scream at you, as Christ did not lie to you, as Christ did not cheat on you, as Christ treated you as worthy and above His own life so you must do to your wives. Women if you are enduring physical violence my call to you is simple: leave. No man has the right to beat or torture his wife and doing so is a direct violation of God's word. We must endure many things but physical attacks by our spouse is unacceptable by any view of God's word. Love one another as Christ loved you both and: **Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 21 KJV).**

Meet the family

As we continue to prepare for the next family to share their testimony brother Timothy of My Emanuel requested that this testimony be shared. I can confirm to you that this testimony is real, this brother is desperately wanting you to know as God has called him to remind you and I of the blessings we already securely share in. Please read this testimony and ponder in your heart what God would say to you now.

My name is Timothy Higginbotham. I am 20 years old and am not a husband. I however DO have something that needs to be heard. You have something I pray for daily. In the morning, in the evening, at night before I go to bed, when I wake up in the middle of the night. I pray that God will send me Love, a wife that I can stand with. So that I may not be lonely. So I may one day have kids. I have prayed and will never stop praying for this. I want a companion, to stand beside me. To love with, to learn with, to follow Gods plans and to lead others together.

Do you not know the amazing gift you have been given? God created them man and women to be one flesh, to love each other. He declared that it was not good for man to be alone so he made him a helper. This person knows you inside and out, when your angry, when your sad, when your happy. How to brighten your day, what your favorite things are, your passions, your dislikes, your spirit. I ask you with all that is in me. PLEASE don't take them for granted. They are your other half! Those whom God has put together let no man put asunder. Never forget in the happy times, in the dark times. In the health and in the sickness.

It may not always be perfect but know there are millions of people out there who want what you have. That hope for what you have. That cry desperately for what you have. Even in the pain, the arguments, the suffering. Love remains. All those people that want a significant other, that pray for what you have.... I am one of them. Please Love, forgive, and never forget the precious gift you have received.

Prayer Suggestions

Today before you pray I would like you to understand the beautiful promise the Lord gives us about our prayer: **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew Chapter 7 verse 7-8 KJV)** – today God is giving you the opportunity to demonstrate His power and grace... while you take it? Bow your head, humble yourself before Him, open your heart and your mouth in prayer!

Today pray for:

- That God would open your eyes to your role in your family and expose any shortcomings
- That God would bring you closer to your spouse and continue a healing that we are all in desperate need of
- That God would allow you to accept His plan for your marriage and His guidance as He brings you to that plan
- That God would bring you and your spouse together in a powerful way that you may face the struggle together
- That the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ would pour out upon you and your family

About

The My Emanuel 30 day challenge came about through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and we pray that God would be glorified and praised as a direct result of this program. It is the deepest desire of all those involved with this program that the healing grace of Jesus Christ would be abundantly felt throughout the families with a member participating in the challenge. The program is a direct result of the power of the Lord and a demonstration of His wisdom and foresight in bringing both the paths of Pastor Richard Webster, myself, and all those who have helped with the program together in a way to use us and our individual talents to profess the wonderful Good News of His salvation and wonderful grace, mercy, and abundant love.

Throughout our lives we have seen and directly felt the chaos and tragedy caused in the destruction of divorce. In interacting with brothers and sisters from all walks of life we have seen again and again the damage caused by the wedge the enemy drives in between a man and wife. It has been our greatest displeasure to see the tragedy, pain, suffering, and grief caused by the life altering decision in which so many couples make out of anger only to realize later that not only was it not what they wanted but so far from what they needed they couldn't even remember what they were separating for. It is our desire for all couples to understand the truth, God desires marriage to be a life long commitment and made us for this exact purpose: **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis Chapter 2 verse 24 KJV)** – to become one flesh as we will examine later on through the program is a physical alteration that to reverse would be a mutilation and a physical destruction of ones own flesh and is the furthest thing from God's desire for any family. It is our dearest hope that God will reveal His glory and that Jesus Christ will pour out His grace upon all those who participate in this program regardless of the purpose. The truth is that Jesus Christ is not “a hope” He is the ONLY HOPE and the only way for families to make it through the stress and destruction of today's society is through keeping Him always at the center.

Pastor Richard Webster is the Pastor of Adairsville Baptist Church in Adairsville, Georgia. Brother Richard has been a powerful influence in my own walk with the Lord and I pray that as God has used this brother for His glory and has shared much wisdom to me through him that you would pay special attention to the message God has blessed this brother to share. Pastor Webster is both a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a friend, and a pastor who is determined to serve the Lord and bring glory and honor to our Savior. I pray that you would understand that this brother has seen first hand the destruction of divorce, the pain and suffering that comes at the hands of the evil of the enemy as satan tries to relentlessly destroy families. Know that the daily devotionals are the ultimate inspiration of Jesus Christ and may the Lord be seen through every word.

It feels strange even now trying to write about myself, my name is Daniel Higginbotham and simply put I am a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my desire and hope that the Lord God Jehovah would make His presence known and that you would feel the Holy Spirit interacting and interceding in your life. I thank God for this opportunity and I will pray for you and your family over this next 30 days that God would reveal the beautiful truth to you as He has me: **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV).**