



06 Mutual Submission

0:00:00.5 Speaker 1: Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual progress, feeling stuck without knowing why even after deliverance, prayers or years of therapy? Recover your dignity, find your purpose and discover the thrill of walking with God once again, explore spiritual consultations with Sonja at biblestudyevangelista.com. Click Go Deeper on the home page and then One-on-One and find out how to cooperate more deeply with the Holy Spirit's action in your life with a spiritual consultation. If you like having Bible study in your pocket and you have an iPhone or iPad, why not leave a review? Search Bible Study Evangelista in iTunes and tell everyone how you're loving and lifting all you've been given. Here's Sonja.

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0:00:52.7 Sonja Corbitt: Welcome to the Bible Study Evangelista show, I'm Sonja Corbitt your catholic evangelista. We are in our sixth show, our sixth episode of The cherished series, and since we've been in the weeds a little bit for the last couple of weeks talking about relationships and learning how to love properly in those, I'd like to pull out all the way to a bird's-eye view one more time, and just talk about why we're doing that, because we are trying to learn how we can experience being cherished. And in the first couple of episodes, we talked about the fact that the need for love is primary, it is the beginning and the end, we come from love, we proceed to love, and love is the end of everything. John of the Cross said that, "In the evening of our lives, we will be judged on our love." So we have to know how to love properly, and so the first episode was about love and our need for that, our biological need, and not just biology, but in every way, to grow and develop, a human person needs love biologically and physically, emotionally, spiritually and cognitively or our minds, everything it all needs love to thrive. And so our deficits in love, the wounds against love that we received as we grew up are what calls us to search for love, as they say, in all the wrong places. And it's that deficit of love that God wants to heal, it's our woundedness that God wants to heal, and he does so with His own love.

0:02:41.5 SC: Now, it seems that He is hidden, and in part, that's because love is so foundational, it is self-evident. It should be. But when we grow up though, without any sort of background in faith, then we don't know that, and if we experience trauma as children, then we haven't experienced that, and we have deficits of love, we have shortfalls in knowing what love is and knowing how to love properly. And we bring that with us into every single relationship that we have, primarily into our vocation. So if you are a religious then very quickly when you enter community, you start to realize that you have issues with certain kinds of people, whether it's a religious order or it could be the priesthood, if you're called to the priesthood, then you're gonna have problems with certain kinds of people, and they're gonna trigger you in certain kinds of ways. And particularly in a marriage where you're living and sleeping and eating and everything with the same person for years and years, the same one person for years and years at a time, you have brought in baggage to your relationship, and you have to teach one another how to love properly. And in so doing, what we also learn is how to love ourselves properly. So ultimately, cherished means finding love in ourselves first.

0:04:18.3 SC: Now, I know that sounds so esoteric and probably a little bit new age, but I mean that because God is in us, and so His love is in us, and we have to learn how to tune into that and tap into that and live from that. That's what Jesus called, abiding. "Abide in me and I in you." And He says, "Abide in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," From those perceptions of what love is that are in error. And so as we abide in that love, as we learn to abide in God's love, we heal. We learn how to love ourselves properly, not with this creepy self-love that we hear all the time, just go get a massage and just go comfort yourself and just go do whatever makes you feel good. That's not love. True love, as we saw last week, has certain characteristics, the main one being putting oneself out for the spiritual progress of another person, that person meaning you, if because you are your closest neighbor, we have to also know how to love ourselves properly. And that means putting proper boundaries in place for ourselves and the other people that we relate with, and as we do that, then we learn how to give and receive love properly, we know what authentic love is. But we have to learn it, and that's partly because we are finite creatures who receive knowledge and learn in increments of time, through senses, through our bodily senses, that's how we learn.

0:06:00.4 SC: It takes time to learn inauthentic love or fake love or pseudo love, we learn it over time, and so we have to unlearn it over time, and God can't just poof it immediately into us because our psyche could not hold it all, our psyche can only receive limited amounts of truth at a time. So He can't just fix things for us because it would cause such a disconnect in the heart, mind and soul, it would be damaging. So God works with our nature, grace is added to nature, and so nature then has to be respected, so we can't expect God to just show us everything and give us everything we need all at one time, we have to come into that relationship with Him, and as the Bible says, we learn it, precept upon precept, line upon line, truth upon truth, faith to faith. Now, I kinda combined several different references, one in Isaiah, one in Romans, a couple of places, but the point is, it has to be gradual, it is a process, but we do get these infusions of love from God, especially in prayer, when we're in direct contact with Him in prayer, whether we feel Him or not, we are being affected and healed by His love. Contact with God is healing whether you feel it or not, and He uses the other people around us, He uses the relationships that we're in, our pop quizzes, our difficulties, He teaches us little by little what love is, what it's not, how to love ourselves properly and how to love other people. We cannot love other people properly until we know how to love ourselves.

0:08:02.5 SC: What is good for you spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically? What is good for you? Now, that doesn't mean we don't sacrifice sometimes, but we sacrifice with the full knowledge of what we're actually doing. So for instance, if my father comes to me and says, "Hey, I want a really deep relationship and there should be water under the bridge, and why don't you come have a family vacation with me and my wife." So if I were in my 20s, I would have done that automatically and been afraid the whole time, I would have been afraid not to go, first of all, I would have been compelled by this unhealthy attachment that I had to him, I would have been compelled by a fear of a loss of his love, that's the main thing. A fear of the loss of his love would have compelled me to do something unhealthy, and I would have done it. That is a decision based in fear. But if my father called me now and asked me, "Would you like to go on a family vacation?" Now, I would not drag my whole family necessarily, I know I wouldn't take my kids, but possibly my husband and I might think about that because I've been healed enough that I can deal with him and he can't hurt me anymore, but I would still very seriously consider that and weigh it very carefully.

0:09:36.9 SC: "Is this something I really wanna do? Is this healthy for me to be in this constant state of watchfulness? And is that something that I want to do?" If I felt like it would be good for my dad and it would be good for me, I might say yes. Now, this is all hypothetical y'all, but I'm just trying to give you an example. I might say yes as a sacrifice that would be good for him, so long as it were also good for me and my family or my husband, not my kids, 'cause I wouldn't probably allow them to come, but maybe my husband and I, would it be okay for our marriage? Would it be okay for me personally? And would it be good for my father? So that's the difference though. It would be the same decision, whether I were 20 or I'm 50, but one decision would be made out of fear and the other would be made out of love, and so the time in between was the time of my healing where I know what real love is now, I know how to love myself properly, I know how to love other people properly, not that I always make the right decisions, but I know what love is and what it looks like, and so do you.

0:10:55.7 SC: Here's the thing, love is such a primary first principle that you have never met anyone who didn't know what you meant by the word love, everybody knows. Everybody knows and everybody's searching for that, everybody's searching for how to be cherished, everybody is searching for that because that's what we're made from. So all of our decisions are made out of a search for love, all of them, all of our good ones, all of our bad ones, they're all in a search for love, and when we don't know what real love is, we make bad decisions searching for it. That's why it's so important that we know what it is, and we gauge what we're giving and receiving by the truth of what love really is, and God shows us that.

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0:12:19.1 S1: Sonja created the Love the Word Bible study method just for you, based on Mary's personal practice and formulated for your personality and temperament. Get your Love the Word meditations every Monday morning by signing up at biblestudyevangelista.com. Now, here's Sonja.

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0:12:47.7 SC: Love is reality. It's the reality of where we come from and where we're going and why we exist, it's all the things that all the theorists and all the scientists, and all the philosophers, and all of the poets and all the mystics, and all of the Church teachings, all that thousands of other writers and speakers and teachers and lovers have said it is, it's just far, far more than the sum of all of that, because ultimately love is God. I love and I am loved, and so I know that I am and so I also know that what is is love, so only true, authentic love is truly and authentically normal. Normal means to love and be loved authentically. And I'll prove it to you. First of all, when someone comes to the end of his life and he is forced to evaluate the content of his life, what is he thinking about? He's thinking about the sum of his loves, he's not thinking about working more, he's not thinking about the vacation home, he's not thinking about the 401K, he's not thinking about any of that at all because it has no bearing on what is about to happen. What he's thinking about is his relationships and the quality of the love that he gave and received. When we come to the end of our lives,

everything that is material falls away, and we know that we know that we know that the only thing that was important in our lives is love, we know it.

0:14:39.5 SC: That's the first proof. The second proof is in looking at your defense mechanisms. These are the ways that the heart tries to protect your repository, I'll say, of love inside your heart that has been damaged but still survives. It provides these defense mechanisms that we have, the self-medication, the walls we put up against other people, the projections that we offer other people, all of that is to shelter and to hide our wounded love until we can heal permanently and we can push away or isolate or control anti-loving forces or fake love, especially rejection, fear, hostility, false guilt, all that stuff. Our defenses are actually a positive thing, they are trying to protect and shelter our love, and if you look at why you do some of the things that you do in your relationships, you'll realize that's exactly what it is, anxiety, depression, in my case, anger, self-medication, it's all an attempt to protect what love remains in your heart because ultimately, every single person is saturated by this singular force, this love, and we're all structurally connected to one another and to the universe by Supreme love, the ultimate beginning and end, the life principle. Supreme love, God himself.

0:16:20.6 SC: And what's so amazing about that is that our love, human love is always imperfect and finite and flawed and conditional, and yet God understands it, He knows that and He uses it anyway, this is the miracle of God. He knows that your love is imperfect, it's finite, it's flawed it's conditional, it's wounded, it's self-medicating, it's protecting, He knows that, but He uses it to love other people anyway, and He receives it unto Himself, what little mustard seed of love you have, He receives it unto Himself and He grows it, and He heals it and He expands it, so that it becomes, you become healed and therefore normal and more real, more who you're meant to be minus the woundedness, which is where sin comes from, you become more of who you're meant to be. You learn how to cherish yourself properly through relating to other people properly with proper boundaries, both for yourself and for them, and in that way, you can distinguish what is real love and what isn't. You push away the fake love, you receive the good love, the real love, and you grow in love, and the more you grow, the bigger your love organ gets, we'll say your heart, the bigger your heart gets, the more you're able to safely sacrifice for another person and their spiritual well-being.

0:17:56.3 SC: And at every point that you are in contact with God, Supreme love, in prayer, at every point of contact, you are receiving more love, more healing. I am, my hands are on fire y'all, I am jacked up, because this is the point of everything. Everything you do is a search for love. Every one of your faults is out of woundedness, and it's an attempt to protect the healthy love that still remains in you and to heal it and to grow it, so that you can become everything God made you to be. You learn what being cherished means, you learn that you exist in love, you are covered in it, you live by it, you breathe by it, you exist because you were made from love, and you are held in being by love all the time. Every breath, every cell of your body, and not just you, but everyone around you has that spark of love in him, that's what it means to be made in God's image. And so we learn what love is by experiencing what it's not, and placing boundaries on that so that our love can heal and grow.

0:19:19.0 SC: Then we can receive love authentically, and then that love grows and we can give it authentically, that my dear is what changes the world. Love is not blind, love sees with absolute clarity. It sees the woundedness in other people, and it loves anyway when it's in their best interest. And when I say that, I need to distinguish between the feeling of love, I'm not even talking about a

feeling here, although that's part of it, I'm talking about the action of love, putting oneself out for the spiritual well-being or the well-being of another person, but it's not blind. Remember I talked last week about Scott Peck's definition of love, "The will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth." That's his definition of true love, and then we looked at the scriptures and what the Bible says about love, and then we looked at marriage and what the Bible says about married Love, and then we looked at a more full definition of what authentic love is, it's knowledge, it's faith, hope, love, and trust, it's communion, it's commitment, it's all of those things. We know what love is. We know what true love is.

0:20:31.8 SC: We know by experiencing what it's not, and our whole lives, the whole point of your life is to come to know that you are cherished, so that you can experience that love, heal, and then give that healed love to every single person around you, because at the end, at the end of your life, that's what you're gonna look back on. You're gonna look back on your loves, the sum of your loves. "How did I love? Did I love well?" And you're gonna know, you're gonna know if your life is full or if it's empty. Did you place your love in things and in material possessions and in power or fame or some sort of elevation of your status, is that what you placed your love in? What an empty life. We know this at the deepest core of our being, where our souls meet our creators, where the image of God abides. We know this at that point in our souls, and that's why when we come to the end of our lives, we know whether our lives were empty or full. And I don't know about you, but I want my life to be full of love, not only that I have received, but that I have given.

0:21:52.3 SC: And so everything I do is an attempt and everything you do, ultimately, this is true of all of us, but I do so more consciously now, I do so with more awareness now, I abide as closely and as frequently in this constant contact with God, so that I am probing at every moment with God, "How can I love this person, how can I give them your love, your faith, their faith in you, love for you, hope for you? How can I give you to them?" I can see the deficit, I understand that that's why they do the things they do. I'm not offended by people who say awful things and who do awful things, who make accusations, I'm not even... And I'm not using myself as this big example, I'm just saying, this is how I experience it, I'm not offended by that stuff.

0:22:42.6 SC: About the only way at this point you could offend me is by hurting one of my kids to be perfectly honest, because things don't... They don't, I'm not offended, I can see because of my own woundedness and the self-knowledge that God has given me about my woundedness, and in all of the ways that I sinned to protect that little bit of real love in my heart. Because of that, I can see that that's exactly what everyone else is doing too, they're protecting, they're self-protecting. If we could just step out in trust of God and risk opening all of that woundedness to Him, He will heal that, He will heal it and you will be whole, and you will have what you have always searched for, you already have it. My point in beginning was to say, it is already in you, the Kingdom of God is already in you.

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0:24:26.9 SC: If you have made it this far through this series with me, all I can say is you should pat yourself on the back because the last two episodes where we talked about authority and authority especially in marriage, I think I lost a few of you, because nobody likes that discussion on authority, but the truth is, authority protects us, the authority of the husband is meant to protect us. Now, do they do it perfectly? No, because we're all wounded, but it's still in the spiritual realm, it protects us in many ways. I personally learned humility or I am learning, I should say I haven't learned it, but I am learning humility, but I learned it in big ways through my husband. When I started... When God began to correct me on what it means to live under His authority under my husband, oh my gosh, everything in me just rebelled against that because all I could see and feel was this desire for control on God's part of me and my husband. Not that my husband tried to control me 'cause he really didn't, but I felt like God was gonna try to control me because that's the way my father had done me.

0:25:48.7 SC: And so I was determined I'm not gonna be controlled anymore, so you can see how I'm protecting, I'm protecting the little bit of love in me that is very generous from being taken advantage of, and instead, it makes me prickly, I have all this anger and I had this complete refusal to allow anyone else to correct me. And you can see how irrational and unreasonable that is, but as I started to try to be obedient to God, because ultimately I just wanted God to love me, I just wanted Him to be proud of me, and that was my motivation to begin with, I'm searching for love, and I'm trying to direct it to God, so I start trying to be obedient to God through my husband.

0:26:33.9 SC: And oh my gosh, it was so difficult because my husband has the gift of criticism, and so I would go to God all the time and I would pour out my heart, "He said this and this," And then I would practice the stop tool. And a lot of times he would say to me, "Sonja, here's what you do, just grow up, just grow up in charity." He's not doing it as an attack, He just said it off hand there's a wound there, and of course, He got right to work with helping me see the nature of the wound and the root of it, which was my relationship with my father, and as I tried to be obedient to God using that stop tool, sin not, tell God, all for the right sacrifice, put your trust in God from Psalm 44, the stop tool, as I tried to use that tool at every pop quiz, I came to learn what it means to practice humility.

0:27:33.9 SC: Many times it was simply, "You need to just keep your mouth shut and not make such a big deal out of it, you and I can talk about it," God would say, and we did talk about it, and I would just vomit all over Him and tell Him everything I was thinking and feeling, which was not pretty, but in getting all of that ugly emotion out, it diffused it, it gave me a safe place to put it so that I wasn't stuffing my anger, but I wasn't attacking people around me as I had for so long, but it had a safe place to go, and God and I worked out the truth of what was really going on in my heart. He offered me the self-knowledge that I needed to show me where my wounds were and how my husband was tweaking them, why God had allowed that and how He would help me grow out of that woundedness if I would simply trust Him and not attack, just simply submit and offer it as a loving sacrifice, both to my husband and to God.

0:28:47.9 SC: Now, there were times that I did have to... I told God, I said, "Look, I'm not gonna be able to let this go, I'm gonna have to say something." And that's when I started to learn how to put boundaries in place. And honestly, I wish I could give you a specific case, I can't really except that

I'm sure it had something to do with criticism, I don't even remember that stuff anymore to be honest, 'cause it's just... It's so long ago and it's been healed, but I do know that that was my main issue. And I know that I learned not to say, "You will not do that." Instead, I would say, "This is how I feel when you do X, I need you to stop doing X." And my husband, because he truly, authentically loves me, would try to do what I asked. He didn't do it perfectly, he was still very critical and he was up until actually this year, he was very critical, he had a real anger issue himself, but he directed it most times inwardly, until he couldn't stand it anymore, and then it had to come out and then he was just... He was a bear for days sometimes, and it just... You know the dynamic in your own relationships. I'm only bringing this up because I'm trying to show you how it works in these relationships.

0:30:04.7 SC: And as you see your own relationship, we talked last week about abuse, but there are other ways in which we have to put boundaries in place, and I want to share with you something that Saint Augustine said. The role of men and women in relationship, in marriage relationship especially, was something... First of all, it was, it had a brand new look, a brand new flavor, a brand new meaning when Jesus came and elevated women out of this sort of patriarchal control kind of relationship where the husband tells the wife what to do and she's barefoot and pregnant all the time, that's not Godly authority, and Jesus came to correct that, and the whole gospel of Luke was written, they say from Mary's point of view, and it shows often how Jesus related to women, which was very different than the men of His time, and the Rabbis of His time and the husbands of His time, He elevated women, and He related to women much differently than had been the custom up to that point. And so the church fathers really wrestled with that as well, because we women know from history and men do too, we know that that was, it was very common for men to completely subjugate women because we are physically weaker, but as I've said in previous shows, were not spiritually weaker, we're actually stronger.

0:31:41.5 SC: And so the church fathers then they also wrestled with some of this dynamic, how is this mutual submission supposed to work because Ephesians 5 is clear that wives submit to the their husbands and husbands submit to Christ, and together the two, the husband and the wife submit to Christ, and it's a mutual submission where the wife... And this is what I usually tell people, say your piece, tell him how you really feel. Tell him what it is you really need and let him decide. And when he's decided, then it's final. Now, clearly, this is gonna work differently in relationships that don't have a lot of authentic love, and that's where strong boundaries have to be put in place, and this is what Saint Augustine was saying in his sermon to the married, he is really adamant that wives should not tolerate infidelity from a spouse. Augustine says that Christian husbands are under the guardianship of their wives, and he says to the wives, "Do not allow your husbands to fornicate, hurl the church herself against them. Obstruct them, not through the law courts, not through the Proconsul, not even through the Emperor, but through Christ. The wife has not authority over her body, but the husband."

0:33:05.8 SC: Why do men exalt? Listen to what follows, "The husband like wise, has no authority over his body, but the wife. Despise all things for love of your husband, but seek that he be chaste and call him to account if his chastity be amiss." Those are strong words. He goes on, "Who would tolerate an adulterous wife? Is the woman enjoying to tolerate an adulterous husband? Those of you who are chaste women however, do not imitate your wanton husbands, may this be far from you, may they either live with you or perish alone. A woman owed her modesty not to a wanton husband, but to God and to Christ." So you see here that Augustine teaches that wives can call their husbands to account if they fail in chastity, and he sees specific warrants for female authority in the

area of chastity. Chastity is one of those three goods of marriage that's taught by Augustine specifically, along with it the children and the permanence of marriage, meaning the essence of the marriage bond, but we have an authority to require our husbands to live up to this kind of standard, and that's why boundaries are necessary.

0:34:22.2 SC: Our authority as women covers all of his spousal duties, we're not here to just serve him. According to Augustine, our vocation means that we have the authority to call our spouses to serve us and our children in his vocation as husband and father. And this is true, this is actually what the real sense of male and female authority is, the woman calls the husband up, and if he cannot step up or will not step up, then Augustine says, "Put it out, have him perish alone." I'm just gonna let that sit there for a minute 'cause some of you all need to hear that. Equality doesn't mean that the man and the woman have the same responsibilities and roles, we don't, but we have an equal authority to lead each other to fulfill the vocations to which God has called us. That's true in a marriage, it's true in a religious community, it's true in the priesthood, it's true no matter what your vocation is, we have the authority to call one another up higher.

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0:36:29.2 SC: That passage in Ephesians by St. Paul, it talks about authority and submission, and nobody likes to hear that, especially not a feminist like I was in my 20s. And that is just driven by trauma, feminism is driven by trauma, but simply because we're traumatized doesn't give us the excuse to throw out what's true and real, not out of the Bible, not out of church teaching, not out of any of those areas. And so we have to look at what God is actually saying. We don't like the idea of submission, and I get that. The angels didn't either, and that's why heaven split. Pride rebels against submission because it's humble, it's humility, and it's possible that being submissive means that you could be exploited, and that's what happens in situations of abuse or a lack of chastity or infidelity or in all of those ways, and that can be on a man's part or a woman's. And in our day and in our culture, it seems weak when you're submissive, it seems like it lacks dignity, but Mary shows us it is the highest dignity. We're not giving up our rights, we're not permitting ourselves to be oppressed, we're not slaves, we're free.

0:37:50.4 SC: And so we have to learn how to be submissive and how to be humble, and how to put boundaries in place and how to call one another up to the elevation of our vocation, first in God, and then in whatever our vocation is. Yes, wives are instructed to be submissive to their husbands because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is head of the church, but the husband is also instructed to love his wife. And here's where it breaks down, because the husband doesn't often love if he doesn't feel respected. Well, I promise we'll get into this. We got one more show, we'll do this next week, what it means to respect your husband and how you can do that in active ways. But he is instructed to love his wife, and therefore the kids too. And this relationship of husband, wife and

children, remember, is this image of the trinity. So men, although it's more difficult for you, you're called to relationship, you're called to protect and love your wives. What does love mean but to give oneself over to another in authentic love, not in abuse, not in exploitation, but in true, authentic love. The husband gives himself up for his wife as Christ gave himself up for the church, and this is a form of submission as well.

0:39:20.3 SC: It's as deep and as serious as that of the wives. So the husband's submission to his wife is the only way her submission could make any sense at all. And that's part of what Jesus came to show, that the submission is mutual. When the husband loves properly, the wife submits properly. That doesn't mean that wives we're supposed to wait until he does it, "God has given humanity to woman remember," John Paul II says. So we have to go first, and that means we call them higher. We call them higher, we model the proper, authentic love, and sometimes that means we have to put boundaries in place. Sometimes that even means we have to separate in order to give the husband time and room to repent. John Paul II called that teaching in Ephesians 5, the Gospel Innovation. Because for the very first time, the truth about men and women together is revealed. There is a mutual submission between spouses. The wife is not to submit to a spouse who lords his authority over her, he's instructed to give himself up for her. And now, husbands then after Christ are expected to do something entirely new based on the example of Christ and the sacramental role of the husband in making Christ real in his marriage and then in the world.

0:40:54.9 SC: He is to fully serve his wife instead of the wife simply serving and obeying him. So the most profound form of submission is to die for one another. And when a person dies for another, he has truly submitted himself to that other person, he has spent himself for the good of the other. And so we see there that the instruction to wives on being submissive to their husbands is, it's not unqualified. We're supposed to be submissive to them as unto the Lord. So it's based on this one flesh nature of Christian marriage in which it is supposed, it is presumed that the husband is going to love his wife as Christ loves the church. And so the wife also has authority. She is the body of her husband. As the body, we see that in chapter 5, verses 28 and 29, "As the body is in a one flesh unity with the head, she can and she must call her husband to do what the head is supposed to do in the fulfillment of living the sacrament of marriage for Christ and the church."

0:42:01.2 SC: Husbands and wives don't have authority simply for the sake of exercising power, that is fake love. Fake love seeks power over the other person, control over the other person. This comes from the garden, the sin of the garden. If it were so, if authority was simply to exercise power, then it would be a constant tension and disharmony. And if your marriage is in a constant tension and disharmony, then you have to look at both of these roles. Are you submitting to your husband, wives? Husbands, are you loving your wives? We'll talk next week about what that looks like. But I have to ask you, I have to tell you the truth. I have to tell you the truth because you're looking for love in the wrong places. You're looking to your husband to fulfill your need to be cherished, and you're looking towards your wife to fulfill your need to be cherished, when our relationships are meant to teach us what love truly is and is not, and it teaches us to call one another up to real authentic love.

0:43:10.7 SC: And so the Holy Spirit then uses our relationships and the difficulties in them, the sufferings in them, the pop quizzes in them, to teach us what love really is, to push us to the point where we have no choice sometimes. We don't listen and we don't listen and we don't listen, and things get so painful, and this is the nature of our pop quiz, the longer you go without listening to the message from the Holy Spirit in your pop quizzes, the more difficult they'll get, the more painful

they'll get, and the more frequent they will get. Those pop quizzes are meant to show you where you need to place a boundary, either for yourself or for the other person, or for both. If it's abusive, if there's infidelity, if there's sin, you have a duty to call the other party up. And if they won't listen to you, you have a duty to separate. Jesus taught this, this is not Sonja stuff. This is not Sonjaisms. I'm telling you what the Bible says. I've laid it out over weeks and weeks and I'm just... I'm so strong here because there are so many people who, they hear this whole teaching on authority and they get their backs out of joint, and literally, that happens.

0:44:27.5 SC: When you have back and neck issues, migraines, those kinds of things are structural issues. That shows you that there is a structural problem spiritually, emotionally and mentally. There is a structural issue, and usually that has to do with the structure in a marriage, the authority structure. I've said that before. The church teaches us that authority exists to serve the bond, the communion in the relationship. It's exercised for the good of that union, so that the marriage will be a good marriage, so that the spouses can do what's good for their marriage together. The person who exercises authority is not doing it just for the sake of being served or getting their own way. They exercise authority so that the marriage can be served.

0:45:18.8 SC: So what does all that mean in practical terms? Well, if the wife is in the habit of spending money in a way that's not good for the budget of the family, then the husband can require that she stop doing it and that she should do it. If the husband doesn't wanna work and he's neglecting his duty toward the wife and kids, she can require that he go out and get a job and he should do it. If the husband or wife is becoming an alcoholic or a drug addict, the spouse should require that he or she get treatment, and the impaired spouse should do it. If one spouse is doing something immoral, the other spouse can and should exercise authority and require that the immoral behavior be stopped.

0:46:00.7 SC: That's the essence of what Augustine was saying there. We have mutual authority in our marriages. We have mutual authority in our vocations, whatever they are. So we're not lording. Men aren't... Or they shouldn't be lording authority over the wife. A pastor shouldn't lord his authority over his church. We know that. We know that at the core of our being, which is why we rebel when they're not doing what they're supposed to do. But my point is, the truth is the truth, and it's an ideal, sure, that we're looking at in Ephesians 5. It is an ideal, but that doesn't make it less true, it doesn't make it less sinful when we don't do it the way it's been laid out. The point of marriage is to image the love of the Trinity. Now, most wives are working toward that because that's how we're made. And because God has given humanity to woman, it requires that we do the hard stuff first. And sometimes that means boundaries, sometimes it means a separation, sometimes it means a hard conversation, and sometimes it means we just need to learn to keep our mouth shut and serve the other person and respect him simply because he is Christ in our husband.

[music]

0:47:43.7 S1: Thank you for listening to the Bible Study Evangelista Show. Find out more at biblestudyevangelista.com.