Deceptions in Marriage

"[1]Likewise, wives, be submitted to your own husbands so that – even if some do not obey the message – by the wives' conduct, without a word they may be won over [2]as they observe your pure, reverent conduct. [3]Don't let your beauty (adornment) be external – braiding the hair and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes. [4]Instead let it be in the hidden person of the heart, with the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.[5]For this is the way the holy women, who put their hope in God, used to beautify themselves long ago—being submitted to their own husbands [6]just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him my lord (adoni) You have become her daughters by doing what is good and not fearing intimidation. [7]In the same way, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way. Though they are weaker partners, honor them as equal heirs of the grace of life. In this way, your prayers will not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:1-7).

The fifth *Torah* reading in our annual reading cycle is *Parashat Chayei Sarah.* In it it is evident that even at the end of Sarah's life, Abraham loved Sarah and wanted only the best for her. Since *Genesis 12*, Abraham and Sarah have been modeling principles of marriage for us. True marriage begins with a oneness (an *echad, Gen. 2-24*) of spirit and Abraham and Sarah were *completely together* (*right or wrong*). There was *huge respect* from Sarah to Abraham (*calling him adoni*) and *huge love* from Abraham to Sarah (*obeying her in the Hagar affair and always treating her as an equal partner*).

Are there hindrances that may be keeping your marriage from being all that *Yah* intends it to be? A deception, by its very nature, has within it a grain of truth that allures us to believe it. A partial truth was the principal tactic used by *Satan* in *Eden* with *Eve* and *Adam*. In our society we can identify many deceptions concerning marriage and here are few.

{ When I appear before the *Judgment Seat of the Messiah*, and I have to give an account for everything I have done in the flesh, good or bad, my wife will have to wait outside. Similarly when she gives her account on everything she has done in the flesh, good or bad, I will have to wait outside.

[21]Also submit yourselves to one another out of reverence for Messiah – [22]wives to your own husbands as to the Lord. [23]For the husband is head of the wife, as Messiah also is head of His community – Himself the Savior of the body. [24]But as Messiah's community is submitted to Messiah, so also the wives to their husbands in everything. [25]Husbands, love your wives just as Messiah also loved His community and gave Himself up for her [26]to make her holy, having cleansed her by immersion (mikvah) in the word. [27]Messiah did this so that He might present to Himself His glorious community—not having stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but in order that she might be holy and blameless. [28]In the same way, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29]For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it—just as Messiah also does His community, [30] because we are members of His body. [31]"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). [32]This mystery is great—but I am talking about Messiah and His community. [33]In any case, let each of you love his own wife as himself, and let the wife respect her husband" (Ephesians 5:21-33).

Because the command to love her was given to me, I have to given an account for that command. And she has to give an account of how submissive she was (for more details see my November 23, 2024 message entitled *Different Commands Rewarded With One Promise in Marriage*) }

Seven Deceptions in Marriage

1. ***Husbands should resist the wife's tendency to dominate him because of the curse on Adam and Eve – the myth that wives desire to rule over their husbands.***

a. Men have an independent spirit. However, wives came from the rib of men and therefore she has an affinity toward her husband and not an inherently independent spirit.
b. The curse is not her desire, the curse is his potentially harsh rule (harshness/anger).
c. She wants a leader and by default she will take over when the husband doesn't lead. Men shut down or turn off their wives because they fail to see them as their faithful friend.
d. Husbands, your wife is not your enemy.

2. Little inconsistencies do not matter in the long run. After all, no one is perfect.

a. Evidence in Statements that Communicate this Deception.
b. "I'm not perfect—what do you expect?"
c. "You're exaggerating"
d. "You are so nit-picky about every little thing."
e. "Get over it, It's no big deal!"

3. Most problems and hurts will go away if we just give them more time.

a. This statement appeals to man's tendency to procrastinate. It is false because time does not heal difficult problems or untreated wounds. It only gives them greater opportunity to spread and infect other people.
b. A wife tends to recognize problems and feel hurts more quickly and deeply than her husband
c. Solomon asked G-d for a wise and understanding heart, and He gave it to him. Every husband and father should ask G-d for such a heart and then use it to resolve the conflicts in marriage

4. Marriage partners have a right to privacy (my own private friends, thoughts, secrets, and activities). Don't hurt your wife by confessing your failures.

a. Light gives no privacy, only darkness does. (John 3:19) If a partner insists in privacy there is probably evil somewhere.
b. We must walk in light for fellowship. (See 1 John 1:7)
c. Shame brings pain and stops sin. (see 1 Peter 4:1)
d. "Excessive privacy" builds selfish walls of division, i.e., my night out with the guys, my weekend with the ladies, etc.
e. "Excessive privacy" creates distrust and speculation. Beguilement occurs by telling a few facts and letting the other person fill in the rest.

5. The wife should focus on submission, not on whether the husband is right or wrong.

a. Submission is a voluntary response of a wife to her husband and is made delightful when he is sacrificially fulfilling the role of *Yeshua* in the marriage.
b. A marriage without proper accountability to higher authorities and without the ability to make wise appeals is a relationship of tyranny.
c. A wife who submits to wrongdoing in an effort to hold her marriage together will soon experience destruction to her marriage and see damage to her sons and daughters.

6. If the husband rejects his wife's appeal, she should simply pray.

a. The statement that a wife (or the person under authority) should simply pray if her appeal is rejected assumes that her appeal was right and should have been granted and that her only responsibility is to ask Gd to change her husband's (authority's) heart.
b. This fails to identify the further steps she should take to evaluate her methods and motives in appealing and her responsibility to take the most serious matters to higher authorities.

7. Whatever is done in the marriage bed is permissible before Adonai.

a. This is one of the most serious and widespread of all the deceptions. It turns the holy state of matrimony into a "license" for unrestrained passions. It rules out the Holy Spirit's fruit of self- control and replaces it with self-indulgence. It turns genuine love into sensual lust and allows human passions to dictate the use of our bodies rather than the Holy Spirit Who dwells in them. Marriage "counselors" who advocate this deception try to avoid the degrading results by defining the following parameters: "*Within the context of marriage, virtually nothing is immoral, as long as both parties are comfortable with it and neither is harmed by it*."
b. It presupposes that the body of each marriage partner belongs to himself or herself rather than to God.
c. It gives an unauthorized license for activities that G-d categorically denounces and despises

Shabbat Shalom!