

## Lovable, Desirable, and Respectable

**Whoever desires friends must be friendly. Eben, your wife's desire is for you. Her inclination, her instinctive nature, is to desire you. You can make it hard for her or easy for her to desire you.**

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (Eph 5:31-33)*

You have got to make yourself respectable and she has to make herself lovable.

One in authority does not have to force his will on people. Rather, they only need to respect his good authority.

If you have authority, she will recognize that. Whom do *you* like to submit to? You submit out of your own will because you respect the person over you. A husband is in sin when he is not:

- a. Respectable;
- b. Desirable;
- c. Easy to submit to.

*Desire* can easily turn into *despise*. It is not supposed to, but it can. Why is she lovable? The answer is because you are desirable.

Hakam — What you are going to say today is that, "I am going to love you all the time. I am going to be respectable all the time."

You have to be those three things — respectable, desirable, and easy to submit to — because your wife is commanded to do *those three things* — respect you, desire you, and submit to you (Gen 3:16).

Keli — If you can humble yourself and admit when you are not these ways, it will bring your wife such grace.

Yotham — It can come to you so easily to think that it is time for her to receive grace (to bear with you), but I am glad our Master wasn't that way with me.

You need to love her and help her and rule over her tendencies to be independent and go astray. The rod of iron (Rev 2:27) is a firm, consistent, unchanging standard, a rule and authority others can rely on. It also means the standard is not bent, but it is *not* harsh and abusive. It means you don't sweep things under the rug. You don't avoid conflict because she is going to react.

A husband of the flesh is going to rule in the flesh and he is going to judge everything wrong anyway. That is why there are so many divorces in the world today. Make yourself lovable, desirable, and respectable and she will *want* to submit to you.

Hakam — We want our children to grow up right and not up wrong. If we don't pay attention to our wives in those kinds of ways, and to how we are being, then we won't pay attention to our children either. We believe in our Master Yahshua. We are being prepared for His return.

Yochanan Abraham — Abraham made Sarah what she was (1 Pet 3:5-6). What we are hearing this morning made sense of how he did it.

Yochanan means grace of Yahweh. That is why Yochanan Abraham and Sarah were given those names, to remind him of how Abraham did it with Sarah, how he made her into the woman who submitted to him without any fear. We've got to make our wives into daughters of Sarah in the same way.