

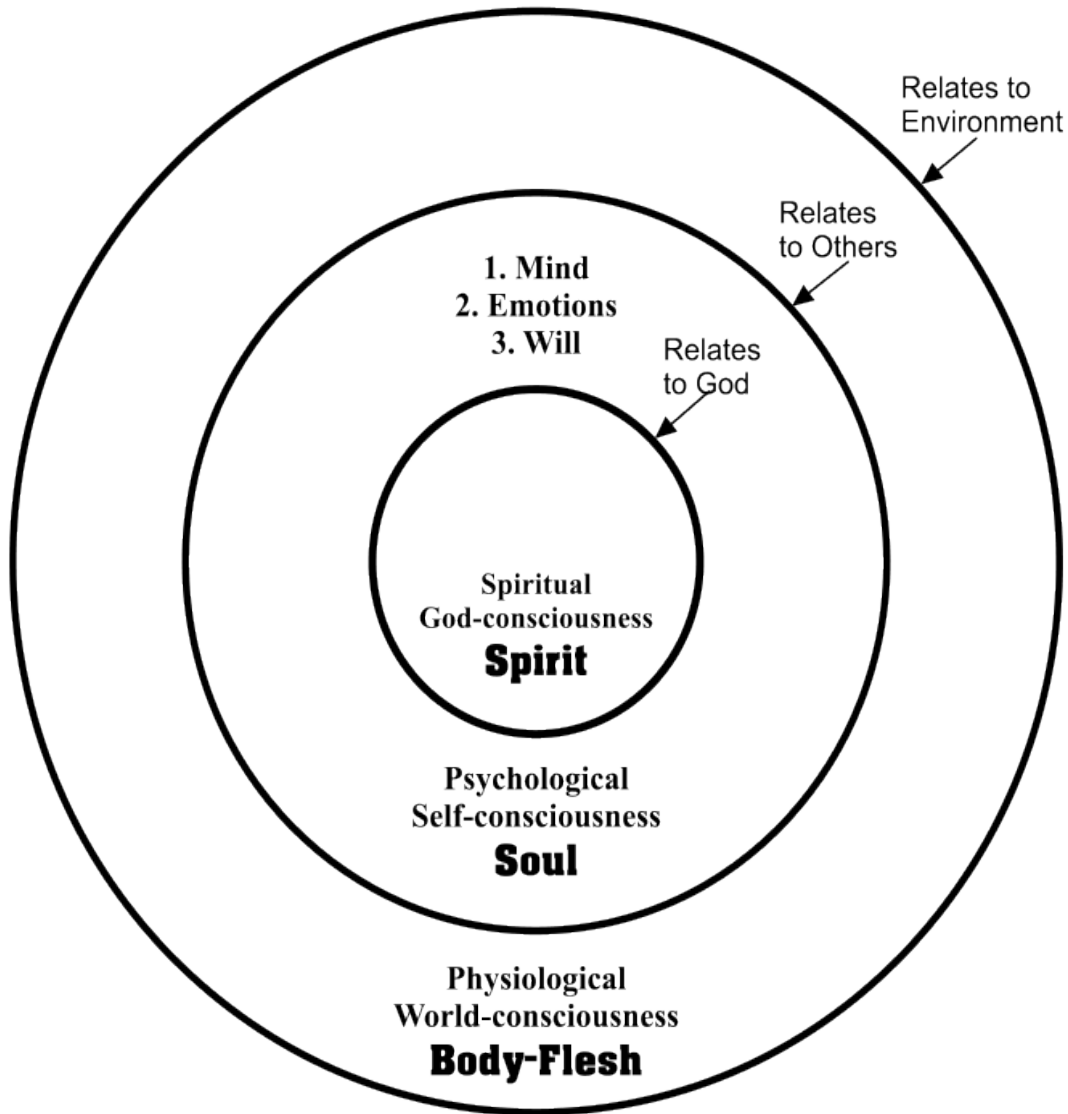
# LEADING WITH LOVE WORKSHOP

## 3. LOVE IN MARRIAGE

Introduction=Love in the English language is used in many ways!  
Physical, Psychological, and Spiritual

### MAN MADE IN GOD'S LIKENESS

Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 28:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:23



- I. The Source of Love=1 John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love (Agape) is of God: and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God: for God is love (Agape)." Romans 5:5; "And hope maketh not ashamed: because the love (Agape) of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." II Timothy 1:7; "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love (Agape), and of a sound mind. I John 4:10,16; Herein is love (Agape), not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. And we have known and believed the love (Agape) that God hath to us. God is love (Agape): and he that dwelleth in love (Agape) dwelleth in God, and God in him."
- II. The Five Words that best describe love in marriage. The following information on Love definitions is borrowed from an excellent book which every young couple should read separately a few days before marriage. The book is "LOVE LIFE" by Dr. Ed. Wheat, M.D. It is available in Christian Bookstores. =====Beginning of excerpt:
  - A. "The Greek is a very subtle language, full of delicately modifying words capable of the finest distinctions of meaning." The Greeks of the New Testament era had at least five words that we can use to distinguish and describe the various aspects of love in marriage.
  - B. In the first facet of love we will consider is suggested by a Greek word that the Bible never calls Love. The word is 'epithumia', a strong desire of any kind — sometimes good, sometimes bad. It means to set the heart on; long for rightfully or other- wise; or it can mean to covet. When used in the Bible in a negative way, it is translated lust. When used in the positive way, it is translated desire.
  - C. The next aspect of love to be discussed comes from a familiar Greek word that does not appear in the New Testament although its Hebrew counterpart is used in the Old Testament. I am speaking of 'eros', the love that, more than any other kind, carries with it the idea of romance. We might think of eros as totally fleshly because of our English word "erotic", but this is not the case. Eros is not always sensual, but it includes the idea of yearning to unite with and the desire to possess the beloved. Eros is romantic, passionate, and sentimental. It is often the starting point for marriage being the kind of love that lovers fall into and write songs and poetry about. It has been called rapture .. exquisite pleasure .. strong, sweet, and terrifying because it is so all-absorbing. Eros has a problem, however. It needs help because it is changeable and cannot last a lifetime all by itself.
  - D. The third love of marriage, characterized by the Greek word 'storge', could be described as a comfortable old shoe relationship comprised of natural affection and a sense of belonging to each other. This love, referred to several times in the New Testament is the kind of love shared by parents and children or brothers and sisters; the kind of love Robert Frost described when he called home "the place where, when you go there, they have to take you in ... something you don't have to deserve." Storge love in marriage meets the need we all have to belong, to be part

of a close-knit circle where people care and give the utmost loyalty to each other.

- E. The fourth love of marriage is described by the Greek verb 'phileo', which often appears in the New Testament. We will be using the verb form as a noun in this discussion because it is the more familiar term to readers. 'Phileo' cherishes and has tender affection for the beloved, but always expects a response. It is a love relationship---comradeship, sharing, communication, friendship. While 'eros' makes lovers, 'phileo' makes dear friends who enjoy closeness and companionship. They share each other's thoughts, feelings, attitudes, plans and dreams---the most intimate things they would share with no one else. They also share time and interest.
- F. 'Agape', the totally unselfish love that has the capacity to give and keep on giving without expecting in return. 'Agape' values and serves in contrast to 'phileo' which cherishes and enjoys. The New Testament often speaks of agape, for it was this love that prompted Christ to come to earth as a man on our behalf. God loves all mankind with an agape love. In addition, He has phileo love for those who are in relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. 'Agape' is exercised as a choice of your will and has no dependence on feelings. It is a love of action, not emotion. It focuses on what you do and say rather than how you feel." ===== End of excerpt

### III. A Spirit Filled Marriage=Ephesians 5:18-33;

- A. A Spirit Filled Marriage must begin with both partners being born again! John 3:6; Agape (love) which will be the foundational love needed for this marriage is only given to believers.
- B. A Spirit Filled Marriage will require that both partners choose with their will to yield to the Holy Spirit to make them into the person God would have them to be as revealed in the scriptures. Ephesians 5:18; ILL-filling a glass of water with milk
- 1) Confession of all known sin to the Lord!
  - 2) An act of the will where by you pray a prayer like the sample below:  
"Heavenly Father, although I am your child I confess that I have been guilty of living my life the way I wanted to live it. I am guilty of living a Self-centered life. I have been seeking to have my own way and to get my needs met rather than being considerate of my (wife-husband). I here and now submit my will to your will and am willing to die to my wants and wishes. I yield my life to you to do with me, in me and through me what ever you want to do no matter what it costs or what it involves. Please fill me with the Holy Spirit and glorify the Lord Jesus through me. I know you have heard this prayer because your promised to in I John 5:14-15; where the scripture states 'And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.'

In the Strong Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!"
- C. The Results= Ephesians 5: 19-6: 18;

- 1) It will affect your speaking=v.19a
- 2) It will affect your singing=v. 19b
- 3) It will affect your attitude=v. 20
- 4) It will affect your relationships=v. 21-6:9;
  - a) The Husband's place in God's plan of Marriage
    - Submit to the importance of your wife=v. 21; Ill-Learning to listen to my wife-her sixth sense! Drive shaft in Ohio! Her protection! I married a very wise woman!
    - The husband is the head of the wife=v. 23; Makes the final decision after considering his wife's suggestions! It does not mean the wife is a slave and the husband is the dictator! "The Saviour of the body"=seeks what is best for the wife and family! Not selfish in his decisions! Reason= Genesis 3:1; I Timothy 2:14;
    - The husband is to love his wife in three ways=v.25, 28-29, 33; As a general rule love comes easier for women than for men.
    - The husband is to leave his father and mother=v. 31; The husband becomes one with his wife thus she becomes the most important person in his life! Genesis 2:23-24;
    - The husband is to know his wife's needs and give honor to her! I Peter 3:7; "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."
  - b) The Wife's place in God's plan of Marriage!
    - The wife is to submit to her husband's leadership even when she disagrees with him! I Peter 3:1-6; When she submits to her husband she is submitting to the Lord! This may be the most difficult act for some women in their marriage relationship!
    - The wife is to reverence (defined=an attitude of deep respect, love, awe, -Websters) her husband=Ephesians 5:33b; Why-the male ego! The wise woman who does this will have her husband feeling like a man! Ill-personal experience!

[end of topic]