Worthy Men and Women:
Marriage Designed By God

Steve Wolfgang

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Glen Burnie, MD

Thank

You!

Matthew 19:4-5

And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them *from the beginning* made them male and female, *5* and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'?

Matthew 19:6

"Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

NASV

Objectives

- ✓ Biblical
- ✓ Practical
- ✓ Personal

Worthy Woman
Proverbs 31

v12 – she does her husband good

v11 – his heart safely trusts her

v14 – commerce (maidens - *v15*)

v16 – real estate

v18 – "her gain is good" -- dynamic, outgoing, active contributor

v24 – seamstress, merchant

v26 – teacher, counselor

The Worthy Man
Job 31

v1 – covenant with my eyes
(*v3* – disaster)

v5 – no falsehood

v9 – no iniquity

v13 – justice

v16 – compassionate

v24 – not materialistic

v29 – not vindictive

The Ideal Man
New Testament

- ✓ *Philippians 2:3-4* (no strife, vainglory – lowliness of mind – *cf 2:5-11*)
- ✓ *1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-10, 12-13* (bishops, deacons)
- ✓ *Titus 1:5-9* (elders), *2:6-8* (young)
- ✓ *1 Peter 3:7* (according to knowledge, in an understanding way)

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. *32* And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

NASB

For Fidelity:

How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives

"Suppose both are single and neither is willing to consider a permanent relationship. Or suppose they are, both of them, looking for life partners; or suppose one is. Or suppose one or both are married. Under any of these circumstances, is a casual sexual encounter OK?

For Fidelity:

How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives

"There is the possibility here of a free, independent, sexual exchange between mature adults who are equal to one another in age, status, and so forth: just tonight, no strings, no phone calls later, no promises, no regrets. Good contraception, let us suppose. Safe sex. Privacy assured.

For Fidelity:
How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives

"My short answer in any of these circumstances is no… Casual sex encounters are morally wrong because the exchange is partial even when it is entirely equal or open or honest…."

- ✓ Catherine Wallace, PhD, *For Fidelity: How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives* (New York: Knopf, 1998, p58f.)

For Fidelity:

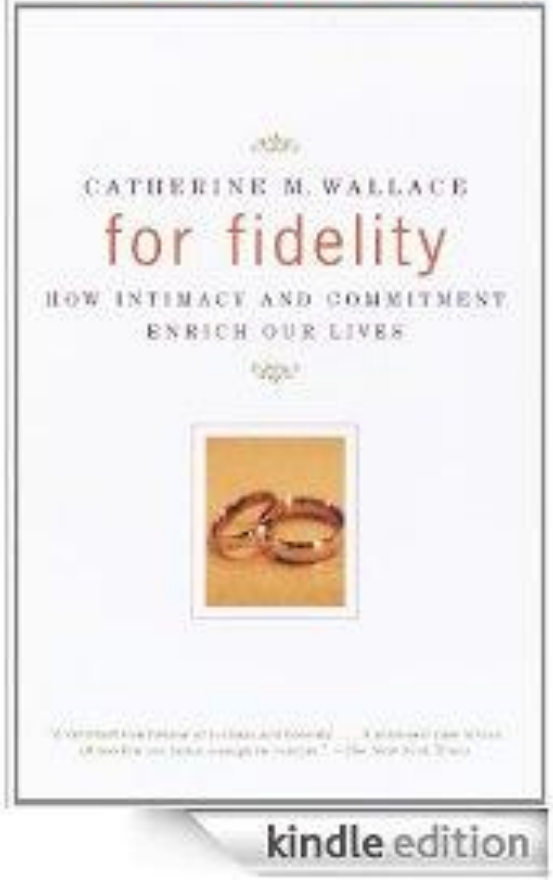
How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives

"In such an exchange, each regards his or her own sexual desire as a primarily physiological need essentially separable from the deeper psychological and emotional union that is physically enacted in sexual intercourse."

- ✓ Catherine Wallace, PhD, ***For Fidelity: How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives*** (New York: Knopf, 1998, p58f.)

Fidelity & Intimacy

- ✓ Fidelity (faithfulness) is not merely an agreement about sexual exclusivity
- ✓ Fidelity cannot be reduced to a contract clause governing the reproductive organs
- ✓ Fidelity goes well beyond simply "not having an affair"



For Fidelity

Catherine Wallace

PhD, University of Michigan

Retired from Northwestern University

- ✓ Secular author stating obvious (Biblical) truths
- ✓ "Human wisdom" sometimes corresponds with Divine wisdom – Whether or not we acknowledge the correspondence

Loyal and True

To Christ be loyal and be true,
In noble service prove
Your faith and your fidelity,
The fervor of your love.

Fidelity & Intimacy

- ✓ Fidelity demands maturity in expressing our own needs
- ✓ Fidelity demands taking our mate's needs seriously
- ✓ If s/he says, "I need this," ***I*** should need for them to have it
- ✓ BUT: Fidelity demands that I must be responsible in expressing my needs

Fidelity & Intimacy

- ✓ Fidelity is not frivolity or the mere expression of "wants"
- ✓ Fidelity demands honesty and caution in expressing my needs
- ✓ I must avoid self-indulgence and damage to my spouse
- ✓ Fidelity makes us open and vulnerable to each other

Fidelity & Intimacy

- ✓ Realism may dictate that not all legitimate needs can be met
- ✓ Fidelity means living with and supporting our loved one – even when there are un-meetable needs

Meeting Needs

"I know a marriage in which she is deathly afraid of heights, probably a true acrophobic. His idea of a perfect vacation is climbing up a sheer rock face; since adolescence he has spent weeks every summer climbing with a fellow who has been that sort of friend for decades. They literally put their lives in one another's hands."

Meeting Needs

"She does not go along to watch because she could not endure to. [But] she does not begrudge him the time, the expense, or the danger. He needs his rock climbing. She cannot fathom why, but she accepts that he does, and makes no complaint. Thereby, she shares in the spiritual and emotional renewal he achieves. She shares the high, if not the heights."

But What If …

- ✓ … my mate is not "worthy?"
- ✓ …my mate is not perfect?
- ✓ …my mate does not always understand?
- ✓ …my mate does not meet my needs?
- ✓ …my mate causes conflict?
- ✓ …my mate is unfaithful?

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Forgiveness

Forgiveness Is NOT:

- ✓ Condoning unkindness
- ✓ Excusing poor behavior
- ✓ Forgetting that something painful happened
- ✓ Denying or minimizing your hurt
- ✓ Giving up your feelings
- ✓ Always reconciling with the offender

Failure to Forgive

- ✓ Fred Luskin, Stanford University
- ✓ *Forgive for Good*
- ✓ Example of "human wisdom" sometimes corresponding ith Divine wisdom
- ✓ Whether we acknowledge the correspondence – or not

Forgiveness Is:

- ✓ The peace you *learn* to feel when:
- ✓ You allow yourself to *let go* of anger and hurt
- ✓ And move forward with your life
- ✓ For *you* – not the offender
- ✓ Taking back *your* power
- ✓ Taking responsibility for what *you* feel
- ✓ Making peace with the truth

Forgiveness Is:

- ✓ About *your* healing
- ✓ Not about those who hurt you
- ✓ About becoming a "hero" rather than a "victim" or a "survivor"
- ✓ A trainable – learnable skill (like throwing a baseball; everyone can learn)
- ✓ About improving your mental and physical health
- ✓ A *choice*

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Forgiveness Techniques

- ✓ Identify the Good (beauty, love, continuing blessings, etc.) in our lives
- ✓ Re-focus on the positive things in our lives
- ✓ Change the "channel" (our "remote control" may be stuck on the bad) to the
  - ✓ Gratitude channel
  - ✓ Beauty channel
  - ✓ Love channel
- ✓ Use relaxation techniques (slow breathing, etc., to help relax)
- ✓ Escape Tyranny of ***Unenforceable Rules***

Unenforceable Rules:

The challenge to make a realistic connection

- ✓ **Life must be FAIR**

Ecclesiastes 9:11

I again saw under the sun that *the race is not to the swift* and *the battle is not to the warriors*, and *neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning* nor *favor to men of ability*; for time and chance overtake them all.

Unenforceable Rules:

The challenge to make a realistic connection

- ✓ Life must be FAIR
- ✓ People must treat me the way I want
- ✓ (My) Life should be easy

  vs. Life may be difficult, but I will not let it crush me
- ✓ My parents should have treated me better
- ✓ My partner must be faithful
- ✓ People must be honest with me
- ✓ My past should have been different, better

Forgiveness Emerges As We:

- ✓ Take hurt less personally
- ✓ Take responsibility for how we feel (react)
  - ✓ Responsibility means we are in control of our emotional and behavioral actions
  - ✓ Does not mean what happened is your fault
- ✓ Become a "hero" (or "Overcomer") rather than a victim or survivor

What Women Can Do To Encourage and Model Leadership

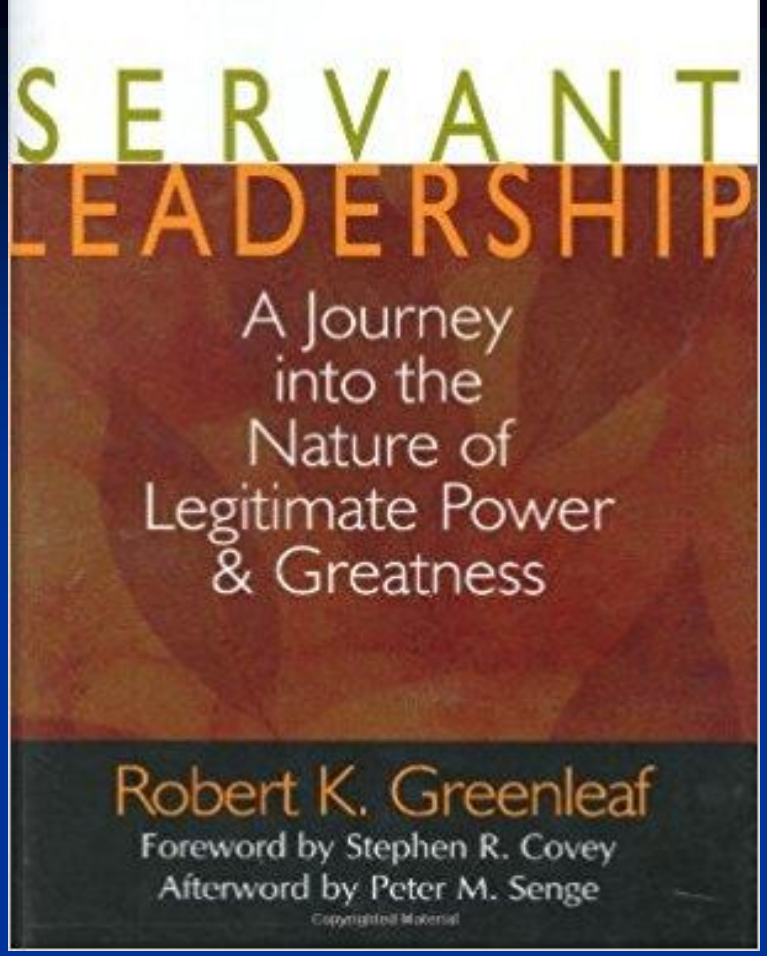
- ✓ Know the Scripture – make God's goals your goals
- ✓ Develop necessary character traits to accomplish those goals:
  - ✓ Respect for God, for authority
  - ✓ Love
  - ✓ Develop healthy self-esteem (other-centered, not self-centered)
  - ✓ Empathy
  - ✓ Maturity – both spiritual, physical, emotional

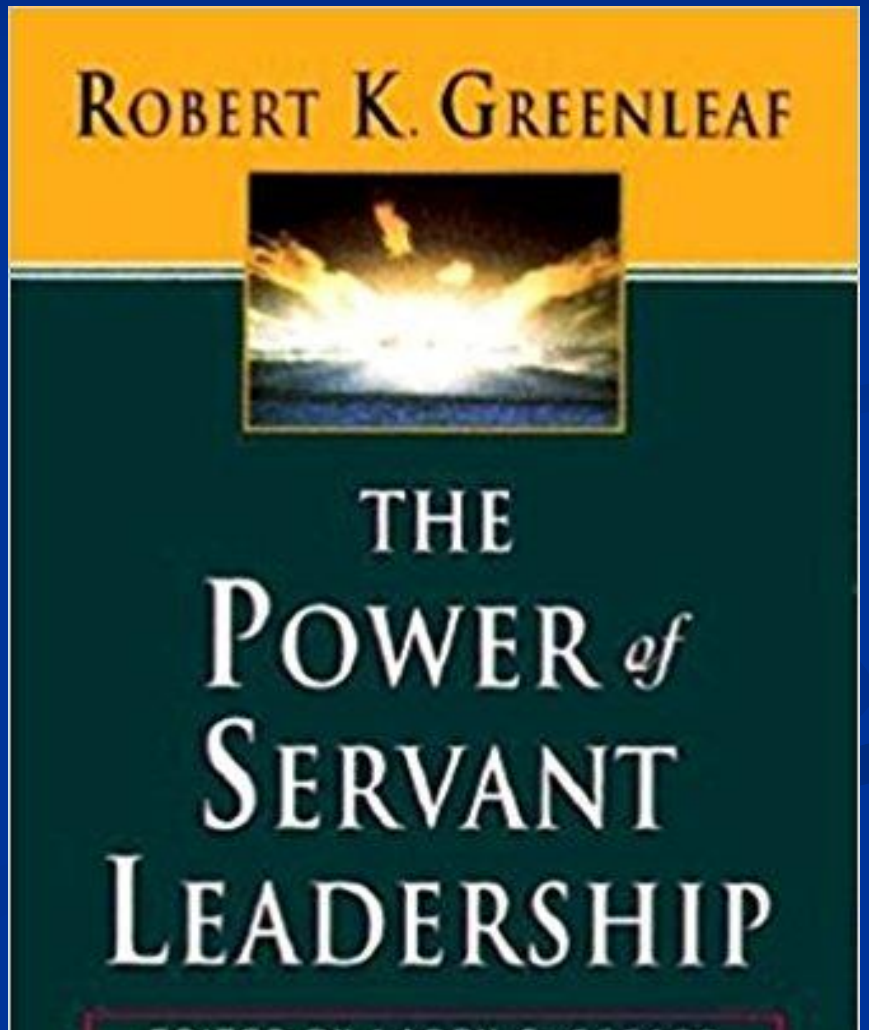
What Women Can Do To Encourage and Model Leadership

- ✓ **Be respectful and loving; approach your husband in a positive manner**
- ✓ **Express appreciation for what you can honestly identify as his positive behaviors**
- ✓ **If necessary, involve the elders**

Servant Leadership

Robert K. Greenleaf





"Servant Leadership"

- ✓ Modern management/leadership concept popularized by AT&T exec Robert Greenleaf
- ✓ Endorsed and referenced by Stephen Covey (best known for his *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Leaders*)
- ✓ Ken Blanchard (developer of the *One-Minute Manager* concepts)
- ✓ And others who have devoted themselves to a study of "leadership" and what it means to be a leader
- ✓ See Robert Greenleaf, *Servant Leadership: A Journey Into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness* (25th Anniversary edition, ed. Larry Spears, Foreword by Stephen Covey; Indianapolis: Robert Greenleaf Center, 1977; Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2002).

The Servant-Leader

"is servant first… It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is leader first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions…The leader-first and the servant-first are two extreme types. Between them there are shadings and blends that are part of the infinite variety of human nature."

The Servant-Leader

- The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant-first to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The ***best test***, and difficult to administer, is:
- Do those served grow as persons?
- Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?

The Servant-Leader

- ✓ What is the effect on the least privileged in society?
- ✓ Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?

- ✓ Robert Greenleaf, ***Servant as Leader***; Larry Spears, ed., ***Insights on Leadership: Service, Stewardship, Spirit, and Servant-Leadership***; Ken Blanchard, ***Servant Leader*** (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

Characteristics of Servant-Leaders

- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Empathy
- ✓ Healing
- ✓ Awareness
- ✓ Persuasion

Characteristics of Servant-Leaders

- ✓ Conceptualization
- ✓ Foresight
- ✓ Stewardship
- ✓ Commitment to others' growth
- ✓ Commitment to building "community"

Characteristics of Servant-Leaders

- ✓ Servant-leaders achieve results for their organizations by giving priority attention to the needs of their colleagues and those they serve.
- ✓ Servant-leaders are often seen as humble stewards of their organization's resources (human, financial and physical).