



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday, 09/20/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 3:18-19**

**TITLE: Dancing in the Minefield**

Dancing in the minefield. That is how the singer Andrew Petersen described marriage. And he was right. Petersen’s chorus goes, *“And we went dancing in the minefields. We went sailing in the storms. And it was harder than we dreamed. But I believe that’s what the promise is for.”*

Many people get married for obligation, tradition, and even sometimes love. And many people forget or simply deny how hard marriage will be. But there is a simple strategy for dancing in the minefields. A way to enjoy the journey. A way to thrive and not merely survive. What is that strategy? Paul tells us in Colossians 3:18-19.

*“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.”*

Before you shut off your smartphone or computer, hear God out. That’s right. It’s not me. God breathed the Bible. I am simply the messenger.

Paul has been talking about the outworking of our new nature in Christ. The old has been taken off and buried. Now we have new nature, therefore a new home. Paul says, “Wives, submit to your husband.” Now, you may not remember when we taught on a similar passage in Ephesians 5. There Paul said husbands and wives are called to mutually submit to each other. Here, Paul says, wives, submit or defer to the leadership of your spouse.

This has nothing to do with superiority or dictatorship. God created males and females equal yet different. God has put Christ over the husband and the husband over the wife and family. Again, this isn’t about control, abuse, or anything of the kind. It’s about loving, godly spiritual leadership. It’s about responsibility. And what wife wouldn’t want to fulfill her many duties and gifts inside a home where she is positioned to flourish.

And husbands aren’t off the hook. Paul writes, “Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.” In other words, husbands give your wife sacrificial love. Put their needs first. Think of their desires as you process your own. You are a team, so create a culture of partnership and sacrifice. And then Paul says, in essence, don’t call them “babe” and treat them like an enemy. Let your love be complete.

The culture says marriage is all about you. Your spouse is there to make you happy. This is false. We are called to love and respect each other, which aids in our happiness. But the purpose of marriage is to work out our new nature.

So this is my challenge for you today: If you're married, how can you show your wife that sacrificial love. It may first require an apology for that harsh treatment. Do it and do it now. How can you show your spouse that you submit to your husband's leadership in the home? God appointed him this position. Don't try to steal it or shame him for it. Show him you trust him today.

If you're single, that's okay. There is an application for you today. We all have someone in authority over us today. How can you show sacrificial submission to them today? What can you do in your neighborhood, workplace, or ministry that you care for them.

It's my prayer our homes and lives display our new nature each and every day.