

Recap of 10/1/17:

1. The third biblical principle of marriage is: submit to God's Holy Spirit (that is, be controlled by the Spirit), Ephesians 5:15-6:9. Paul issues a call to live a Spirit-controlled life. As we allow the Holy Spirit to dominate our lives with the Word of God we will walk in wisdom and in the will of God...especially in our relationships.
2. Four ways that the filling of the Holy Spirit is evidenced in the life of the believer are: speech, the way we communicate to one another; worship, the way we communicate with the Lord; thankfulness, always, for all things; and submission, serving others, not being served or dominating others. (Ephesians 4:18-21). Paul then applied his teaching about the filling of the Holy Spirit to the relationships of husband-wife relationships, to parent-child relationship, and to work relationships (those under authority and those in authority). In other words to know if you're controlled by the Spirit (filled), look at your relationships.
3. Paul also talks about a battle that goes on in the lives of believers between the Spirit and the sin nature, a battle for control. Will we yield ourselves to the Spirit or to the sin nature is the question.
4. Robert Lewis in his Bible study entitled, "Building Teamwork in Marriage" (a part of the Homebuilders Series), makes the point that when the sin nature is in control we exhibit a demanding "me first" attitude, are selfish, seeking to control our mates, becoming angry and critical, and in the extreme yield to unfaithfulness. Conversely, when the Spirit is in control of a marriage there is forgiveness, understanding, servanthood and service, an "others first" attitude.
5. "The Spirit enables Christian husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and Christian wives to be in submission to their husbands as we all are to Christ. In marriage the Christian ought to have a different relationship than the unsaved because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Marriage is not to be reduced to the terms of the curse—nemesis and mastery.—On the highest level, it is characterized by a Spirit-controlled submission and a self-sacrificing love." (Allen Ross)
6. To whom are you submitting? God's Spirit or the sin nature?