

Label: Small Bites
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Duty Then

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:3 - The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.

Observation: Paul is answering a series of questions from the people of Corinth about marriage and relationships.

Application/Analysis: There is a famous quote by an unknown author that says, "Duty then is the sublimest word in the English language. You can never do more. You should never wish to do less." Paul made this point thousands of years ago when he instructed married couples that they have a duty to each other which is primary. Yet, so often we lead with our own needs and desires that we look to "get" from our spouse rather than looking to "give" to our spouse. This is a formula for a tumultuous relationship. Duty in a spiritual sense means having a servant's heart, taking pride in everything you do, and doing it to the best of our ability. Sublime in this case means of such excellence, grandeur, or beauty as to inspire great admiration or awe. Therefore, in other words, a husband or wife should look to serve their spouse with pride and excellence in every aspect to include their emotions, their time, their body, their possessions, and their services, etc. Col 3:17,23 and Luke 17:10 confirm this point as well. It is an honor and privilege to be given the gift of love for another and the gift of a companion from God. We need to cherish it and nurture it so that it can grow and develop and flourish according to God's plan for you and your spouse. Please don't get it twisted, It is also hard work but what worth having does not require such a worthy effort.

Prayer: Lord, thank you that we do not have to be alone. Praise you for giving us the gift to share our life with another. Help us to treasure them and not abuse them. Help us to put their needs above our own. In Jesus name - AMEN!

Takeaway: With respect to your relationship, be compassionate, kind, gentle, and patient. Then tie this behavior together with Love. In all things, lead with Love.