

# Marriage on the Rock

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## Foundational Laws of Marriage: POSSESSION

**FOCUS:** *A married couple is to share all things fully and to treat each other with grace so that they may be totally open to one another.*

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 2:18-25

### SESSION SUMMARY:

In addition to the laws of priority and pursuit in chapter 1, one more God-given law can help us to have successful marriages if we'll follow them.

The third law of marriage is called the *law of possession*. This law mirrors our relationship with Jesus. In Luke 14:33 Jesus said, "*So likewise whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciples.*" God designed marriage to be a co-owning and co-administering by both spouses of everything in their lives. He desires one heart, one home, one family, and everything you have to be shared in common. If one spouse refuses to surrender ownership of *anything* to the other, that will create resentment and legitimate jealousy and can eventually destroy the relationship.

Among the ways that people violate this law, three stand out.

One violation is **dominance**. This happens when one mate takes a disproportionate control of the marriage-essentially, seizing control of something

that should be common to both (money, sex, children, possessions, relationships, atmosphere of the home, spirituality, etc.). In some cases, one spouse will try to control everything in the marriage (total dominance). In other cases, one spouse will control some things, while the other spouse will control different areas of the marriage (segregated dominance).

A second violation of the law of possession is **independence (selfishness)**. Everything we have, even our own bodies, is supposed to belong to our spouse. But our natural tendency is to try to maintain our independence and control over ourselves. Since selfishness curses a marriage, we must learn in a healthy way to depend on God and our spouse.

A third violation of the law of possession is **protectiveness**. Sometimes a spouse will try to protect assets for what he or she believes is a good purpose. For example, a mother who is remarrying may fail to trust her new spouse to have authority over children from her first marriage. Regardless the motivation, the end result is damage to the marriage relationship. Everything must be co-owned and shared.



*The healthier your marriage is, the less you'll talk about who's boss.*



*Four truths about the Law of Possession:*

- 1. Sharing possession communicates that you value your spouse.*
- 2. Sharing possession prevents jealousy.*
- 3. Sharing possession enables intimacy.*
- 4. Sharing possession creates an atmosphere of interdependence.*

