

"Lover and Leader for Life"

Ephesians 5.25-31

Bible describes MARRIAGE – Beautiful Creation of God

Genesis 2 > Marriage of 1st Parents: Ultimate, Permanent, Intimate

STANDARD – Sounds SHOCKING, Impossible! – 1 Man, 1 Woman, for LIFE

As Apostle Paul writes letter to Ephesian church in FIRST Century

Jewish Leaders - Keepers of HEBREW Scripture > Seriously Lowered Bar!

1000 yrs Earlier MOSES ALLOWED Divorce – “due to hardness of HEARTS”

Liberal Rabbi - famous HILLEL - Many Causes for Divorce

- wife spoiled dinner, ex. Putting too much salt in food
- she walked in public with her head uncovered
- she talked with men in streets
- she said bad words about her in-laws
- she was a brawling woman, or troublesome or quarrelsome

JEWISH LAW - Woman had NO LEGAL RIGHTS

Not Person but a Thing - Husband's Possession to Do With as he Willed

Some JEWISH GIRLS were REFUSING TO MARRY - Future UNCERTAIN

GREEKS - Prostitution an Essential Part of Greek life

“We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure, we have concubines for daily co-habitation, we have wives for having children legitimately and to be the faithful guardian of our household affairs”
Demosthenes

WIFE had her OWN Apartment - Reason according to Xenophon

“that she might see as little as possible, hear as little as possible, and ask as little as possible”
Xenophon

ROMAN Society – MORAL and MARITAL Degeneration was Tragic

“Women were married to be divorced and divorced to be married” Seneca

“a woman took her 23rd husband, and she was his 21st wife” Jerome

PAINFUL Pictures from ANCIENT World > LOOK like MODERN World

PROGRESS has NOT Made our MARRIAGES more LOVING or LASTING

All of us KIDS of Adam & Eve INHERITED their FALLEN NATURE

In 1st book of BIBLE...

GOD – the Offended Maker and Judge – Enters CRIME SCENE of Eden

Sees Remnants of Half-Eaten FRUIT > GUILTY Pair Hiding among LEAVES!

NAKED Innocence LOST > NOW Covered with SHAME and GUILT

God said, “Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

Genesis 3.11,12

ADAM GIVEN COMMAND - HEAD OF FAMILY - MOST RESPONSIBLE

ADAM STARTS BLAME GAME – Every MAN After him STILL PLAYING!

To the woman he (God) said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Genesis 3.16

"DESIRE" – That's GOOD Right!!?? - Wife will Love her husband??

Context CURSE > Pain / Partnership SHATTERED / Desire = Negative

So here in early chapters of Bible -- DESIRE = CONTROL

AS THE MAN FAILS TO TAKE UP HIS RESPONSIBILITY WOMAN SAYS

"don't worry honey, I'll take care of it" / MAN "good now I don't have to do it"

VICIOUS CYCLE - IRRESPONSIBLE / DOMINANCE – Family Collapse

Ephesians 5 > COUNTER Cultural Teaching about MARRIAGE

COUNTER Cultural whether Culture was FIRST or TWENTY FIRST Century

Standard - One Man, One Woman for Life / Seems Absolutely IMPOSSIBLE

ALMOST Is Impossible > My Parents married over 50 years NOT Believers

BEFORE Teaching about Marriage > Paul focused on PARDON and POWER

PARDON from SIN / POWER from SPIRIT

REMOVAL of GUILT / RESTORATION by GRACE

Take Away our CONDEMNATION > Empowers us for CONSECRATION

Chapters 4 & 5 > Most IMPORTANT Human Relationship > FAMILY of God

Learn to be BROTHERS and SISTERS > before becoming MAN & WIFE

SHOCKING News – Greatest Day of Dayna's Life NOT when Married ME!

MARRYING Me > NOT make her COMPLETE or CONTENT

REASON I wanted Marry her ALREADY was Complete & Content IN CHRIST

WE will have LIFE LONG, LOVING, RELATIONSHIPS even after Widowed

Paul NEVER says MARRIAGE is for EVERYONE – Recommends NOT Marry

For those who CHOOSE to Marry > ROLES of Both HUSBAND & WIFE

DEFINED by Scripture / DEMONSTRATED by the SAVIOR

Look FIRST at What Bible says to HUSBANDS > LEADER in Marriage

Traditional Marriage Vows, Husband asked Questions First, Wife Follows

1. Sacrificial Love

- a. Dying v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Lifts Discussion of Husband's Love for his Wife to the Highest Plane

PERFECT LOVE – Jesus Gave His Life for His Bride - The Church
 WORD FOR LOVE Paul USED - not "Eros" Sexual // or "Phlios" Brotherly
 AGAPE "SACRIFICIAL" - Selfless / Love completely Undeserved
 Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering
 and sacrifice to God Ephesians 5.2

Jesus did Not Cling to the Safety and Comfort of Heaven - He Came and Died!
 CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS ARE CALLED TO A DEATH SENTENCE
 PATTERN – for ALL Believers – DUTY of ALL Church – Unity and Holiness
 ALL Xtians > Life is FIRST about Christ, Not You, then SPOUSE, LAST YOU

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
 Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13.7,8

"You see the rule of (submission)? Well, hear also the rule of love. Do you wish your wife to obey you, as the Church obeys Christ? Then take care for her, as Christ did for the Church; and even if you must give your life for her, or be cut in a thousand pieces, or whatever you must undergo and suffer, shrink not from • it; and even if you suffer for all this, you have not yet done anything that Christ did; for you do this already being joined in marriage to her, but He suffered for a Bride who rejected and hated Him"
John Chrysostom
 4th Century Bishop of Constantinople

b. Living MORE THAN JUST A ONCE FOR ALL DRAMATIC EVENT

v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

WIFE TO HUSBAND "Honey I know you'd lay your life down for me -
you have said that many times – when will you carry out the garbage?"

Theologs > BOTH the ACTIVE & PASSIVE OBEDIENCE of Christ

LOVE Seen in BOTH PERFECT Life AND PROPITIATORY Death for US

LIFE of Jesus QUALIFIED Him to be Savior / LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH

Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. Genesis 29.20

NT Cross-Bearing is DAILY Duty of DISCIPLES --- Following Him

HUSBAND is First a FOLLOWER of the Jesus he MODELS

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4.2

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1 John 3.16

"Let me tell you what it really should mean if a fellow says to a girl, 'I love you.' It means: you, you, you. You alone. You shall reign in my heart. You are the one I have longed for, without you I am incomplete. I will give everything for you, I will give up everything for you, myself as well as all I possess. I will love you alone, and I will work for you alone. And I will wait for you...I will never force you, not even by words. I want to guard you, protect you and keep you from all evil. I want to share with you my thoughts, my heart, my body - all that I possess. I want to listen to what you have to say. There is nothing I want to undertake without your blessing. I want to remain always at your side." Walter Trobisch

2. Sanctifying Love

v. 32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

WE LIVE in a THROW AWAY SOCIETY - incl. SPOUSES - LIMITED LOVE

NO LONGER IN LOVE - SHE NO LONGER LOOKS BEAUTIFUL TO ME

"I suggest that any husband would be a better husband if he could see his wife as on the way to becoming that dazzlingly beautiful creature - prepared for Jesus our Bridegroom - as she will be in heaven someday. And he should realize that • under God he has a responsible part in her transformation." James Boice

TO SEE THIS MEANS TO HAVE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON OUR SPOUSE

3 OFFICES of JESUS - WHO MAKES US FIT & BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD

a. Prophet – *Clear Word*

Letter is Deep – “some things in them that are hard to understand” 2 Peter 3.16

WIVES – CHILDREN – SLAVES Treated with Respect & Responsibility

Paul does Not give Children’s Story at Beginning and Send them to Nursery

vs. 25,26 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...

Christ is OUR Prophet > Gives WORD of God to US

HUSBANDS?? - Do you Share the Word of God w/ your Wife

DO YOU ALLOW YOUR WIFE SOME FREE TIME TO READ BIBLE?

Sure! Right After she Takes Care of Kids – Feeds Me – Meets My Needs....

GOAL - PRESENTING WIFE TO CHRIST - RADIANT & w/OUT BLEMISH

Your Wife is HIS Bride BEFORE She’s YOUR Bride, Eternal Marriage to HIM

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ
2 Corinthians 11.2

Jesus: “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” John 17.17

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. Colossians 1:28

2nd Law of Thermodynamics - Any Closed System left to itself will •
tend toward Greater Randomness, and eventually Break Down

LIKE A MACHINE THAT IS IGNORED WILL SOON STOP WORKING
MARRIAGE - Needs DAILY INVESTMENT of Time & Energy to Work Right

READING SCRIPTURE – Be QUIET before LORD - BIBLE STUDIES

Marriage PARTNERS BOTH Need the Life Giving WORD of God

b. Priest - *Cleansing Word*

vs. 26,27 having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

CLEANSING AGENT = WORD OF GOD - Takes Away the Stain of Sin

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. John 15.3

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit Titus 3.5

GOD'S WORD REMOVES BOTH SPOTS AND WRINKLES

CLEANSSES FROM SIN AND RENEWS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

GREEK HISTORIAN - Cyrus, Ruler of Persia - good man

WIFE of one of his Generals - Accused of Treachery/ SENTENCED DIE

HER HUSBAND- on Hearing the News - Rushed from Battle to his King

HUSBAND TO KING "Oh, my Lord Cyrus, take my life instead of hers. •
Let me die in her place."

CYRUS "Love like that must not be spoiled by death" PARDONED BOTH

HUSBAND TO WIFE "did you see the kind look in our king's eye?"

"I had no eyes for the king, I only saw the man who willing to die in my place"

JESUS IS THE PRIEST WHO LAID HIS LIFE DOWN TO SAVE HIS BRIDE

LIVES FOR EVER AS A PRIEST TO SPEAK TO GOD ON OUR BEHALF

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
weaknesses... Hebrews 4.15

Before MAKE Wife Read Bible > Need to Put Bible into Action

VISUAL Example of Love of God > Take Out Trash, Wash Dishes, Care Kids
Put OUT Fires of Family Life before Getting into Heavy Bible Study

Dayna and I Struggled to Find Bible Reading Time with 3 Sons
Normal, Crazy, Out of Control Family Schedule – Like Most of You!

Read Briefly from Bible before Dinner Meal

Not Long enough to Fall Asleep – Food Cold – Complain > Hear & PRAY!

Job would send and consecrate them (seven sons and three daughters), and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually. Job 1.5

c. King – *Correcting and Comforting Word*

20 yrs Ago – Middle Son was 10 yr – Friend Spent Night – Tears as we Prayed

"I want to believe in Jesus, I want to be a good Christian, I have so many doubts in my mind"

RESPONDED "what you need to do is go to a church and hear Word of God - faith comes by hearing the word of God"

BOY - "I want to go to church, but my dad just wants to play tennis"

Good Husband > Like Good King Jesus - LEADER - GUIDE - PROTECTOR

v. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

MALE HEADSHIP - NOT RESULT OF FALL – Creation Plan of God

“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God” 1 Corinthians 11.3

CHRIST & FATHER - Equality of Nature // Distinction in Role

With great wisdom the Bible mandates no particular style, manner, or set of behaviors that alone qualify as biblical headship...Biblical headship is simply the exercise of God-given authority whereby a man does all that is within his power to see that love, justice, and mercy rule in his home even when fostering such qualities requires his own personal sacrifice. Bryan Chapell

Being HUSBAND is Transitory Role > Love should Prepare Your Bride for
ANOTHER BRIDEGROOM – GRAND MARRIAGE – ETERNAL CITY
Make Word CLEAR – Let Word CLEANSE – Word is Forever Companion
Like KING JESUS who is with us to END of the AGE

The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40.7,8

3. Satisfying Love

a. **Wife** - Husband's GOAL TO MEET WIFES NEEDS - in every way

v. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other 1 Corinthians 7.3-5

BE CAREFUL OF TOO MANY NIGHTS OF "headaches" & being "too tired"

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well...Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife? For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. Proverbs 5.15-21

CAN TAKE WIFE FOR GRANTED AS YEARS ROLL ON -

"Seven Ages of a Married Cold" - Traces Husbands Concern for his Wife's Cold

1st Y "Sugar dumpling, I'm so worried about my baby girl. You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all this strep going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up and a good rest. I know the food's lousy, but I'll bring in the food from our favorite • restaurant."

2nd Y "Listen darling, I don't like the sound of that cough and I've called Doc Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good girl, please? Just for Papa."

3rd Y "Maybe you'd better lie down, honey; nothing like a little rest when you feel punk. I'll bring you something to eat. Have we got any soup?"

4th Y "Look, dear, be sensible. After you feed the kids and get the dishes washed, you better hit the sack"

5th Y "Why don't you get yourself a couple of aspirin"

6th Y "If you'd just gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal"

7th Y "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! What are you trying to do? Give me pneumonia?"

b. Oneself Find a HAPPY WIFE – You will OFTEN find a Happy HUSBAND

vs. 28,29 He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it

"Having observed the marriage scene for a considerable time and having personal involvement in it, I would say the problem is not so much due to the demand of the wives to assert leadership as it is the refusal of husbands to assume their responsibilities"

Ray Stedman

Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3.7

NEED PEACE WITH GOD (Facts of SALVATION)

AND PEACE OF GOD (Feelings of SECURITY)

God treats us with Grace / We Need to Treat Others, esp Wife, Graciousness

c. World - Our XTIAN LIVES have IMPACT on the Entire WORLD

Reading Words IMPRISONED Apostle to GENTILES > Message for WORLD

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden” Matthew 5.14

MARRIAGE > PRIMARY Human Relationship of SOCIETY and CHURCH

Fastest Way to do LASTING DAMAGE to S & C > DESTROY FAMILIES!

One Day in Namirembe Cathedral in Kampala, Uganda – Preached 1st Family

President, Wife, & Kids sitting in FRONT ROW – Rather Nervous...

President Museveni “There is a CURE for AIDS!” – 100’s GASP, HOPE

Even in that Church in 1989 – Dozens, at Least, were HIV Positive

Looked to President REVEAL the CURE...”The Gospel of Jesus Christ”!!

“If you LIVE according to Gospel of Jesus Christ, never worry about AIDS!”

Strategic IMPORTANCE of Marriage seen in ASSAULT Satan waging Against..

STDs, Fornication, Adultery, Divorce, Homosexuality, Pornography, Abortion,

Abuse, Abandonment, Gender Confusion, Sex Change Operations

All of them RESULT Denying Marriage > 1 Man, 1 Woman, for LIFE!

No matter OUR Marital Status – Advance Gospel > Healthy, Holy Families

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5.16

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” Ephesians 5.25-31