

# THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

## WHAT GOD EXPECTS AND COMMANDS HUSBANDS AND WIVES TO BE

**Matthew 19:4-6** *"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*

God expects and commands that when two people marry that they should no longer be controlled by their parents. When a man and woman marry they are to remain together till God separates them by death. They are to forsake all others and remain totally faithful to each other.

The Bible says in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:8-9**; *For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.*

There are those who would stop at verse 9. Where it is true that God created woman to be the man's help mate; God did not create the woman to be the man's foot stool!!!

Look down at **verse 11**; *In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.*

We are to be companions, not competitors. God designed both husbands and wives for equality and submission.

**Genesis 1:27**; *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

We are of equal value in God's sight. Jesus died for both the husband and his wife. The Bible is clear about what God expects and commands about how wives are to treat their husbands and how husbands are to treat their wives.

### Wives

**Ephesians 5:22**; *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.*

**Ephesians 5:24**; *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

The wife is to VOLUNTARILY be submissive to her husband; as to the Lord; as a part of her Christian life.

Notice that NEVER in the Bible is the husband told to make his wife submit to him.

**Ephesians 5:33**; *"...and the wife must respect her husband."*

**Titus 2:4-5**; *Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

Nowhere in the Bible is the husband told to make his wife obey him. The Christian woman who is married to a non-Christian is told that she, too, is to respect her husband.

**1 Peter 3:1-2**; *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.*

## Husbands

It is a treasure when a man discovers a woman who will love, respect, and treats her husband as God commands. And you might think that God has a lot to say to the woman about how they are to treat their husbands; But God seems to have more to say to the husbands about how they should treat their wives.

**Ephesians 5:23;** *For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

**Ephesians 5:25;** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

**Ephesians 5:28-29;** *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—*

God intended that men lead in the home. If the man is not a leader, a Godly wife will place her husband in the position of leadership and by her words, actions, teachings, and encouragement; keep him in that function. There are many men who have abused their position of leadership. Husbands must learn to be the head without being a dictator.

From Ephesians 5 we can learn that the example for the husband's leadership is the self-denying love of Christ. You show me a man who follows God's teaching concerning how he should be towards his wife, and I'll show you a man that a Godly woman would love to be a helpmate to.

**Colossians 3:19;** *Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*

God commands a husband not to be harsh with their wives.

*1 Peter 3:7; Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

When a man is unkind and disrespectful to his wife, the Bible says that that action hinders your prayers to God. The husband is expected to remember that his wife also is promised eternal life through Jesus Christ. And every man who is fortunate enough to earn the love of a Godly woman should look to her as a gift from God. As leader in the household, God has made the husband responsible of that household.

The husband is responsible for;

- The protection of his wife and children.
- Providing for the needs of his family.
- And for the spiritual leadership in the home.

A husband is to love and lead. To lead without loving is selfish immaturity | To love without leading is irresponsibility.

Let me discuss with you 3 different models that will show how "important decisions" can be made within a family.

### The Dictatorial Model:

- The husband will not likely consult his wife when an important decision needs to be made.
- If he does consult her, he will ignore her opinions.

### The Democratic Model:

- The husband will have a long discussion with his wife when an important decision needs to be made.
- Hopefully, they will reach an agreement that is satisfactory to both of them.
- If they cannot agree, serious problems may arise when each demands their own way.
- They may choose to go their separate ways.

### **The Biblical Model:**

- When an important decision needs to be made, the couple will have a long discussion about the problem and pray about it, asking for the Lord's guidance.
- Each spouse will be deeply concerned about what is best for the other.
- They will likely reach an agreement out of respect for each other.
- If they cannot agree, the wife will submit to the husband's opinion.
- His decision will be based heavily on the interests and needs of his wife.
- He will consider her needs above his own, just as Christ considered the needs of the church before His own.

### **Christians**

Christian families should strive to be molded by the Bible. If we will pay attention to His Word, then He will guide us to greater and greater happiness.

**Ephesians 5:21**; *Submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

Submitting as a Christian does not suggest that one person is of lesser value than the other.

Jesus told us in **Matthew 7:12** to treat other people the way we want them to treat us. Jesus taught us in **Matthew 20:25-26** that, if we desire to be someone special, we should become servants of one another. If Christianity will not work in our homes, how can we possibly expect it to work in the rest of the world?

**I Thessalonians 5:11**; *therefore comfort each other and build one another up, just as you also are doing.*

A husband and wife should be building each other up; they should not be tearing each other down! Husbands and wives must treat each other as Christian brothers and sisters. When we get to Heaven we will still be brother and sister, but husband and wife relationships will be no more.

In Colossians 3 is a section of Scripture that is meant to be understood by all Christians as the way we are to treat other Christians.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

God expects you to treat your spouse as Christ would treat your spouse. With a love that is Christ based; we can develop the full marital relationship that God has designed for us to experience.