

Marriage and Family

Lesson 3 - The Christian Man in Marriage

The Christian man in marriage has rights, privileges and responsibilities that go along with the position of husband. God has made the husband the head of the family, which makes him carry a major responsibility for the success or failure of his marriage. The crisis facing many Christian homes today would disintegrate if husbands would assume the leadership God planned.

Some would say that men are amazing creatures. Constantly amazing us with the lack of common sense in relationship to women and the lack of Biblical sense when it comes to, "How to treat a wife."

The admonitions given in the Bible to husbands are informative:

- Husband, cleave to your wife: and the two shall be one flesh (**Matthew 19:4**)
 - No one should be closer to you than your marriage partner
- Husband, love your wife as Christ loved the church (**Ephesians 5:25**)
 - Sacrificial love - His interests will and desires become secondary to hers. If a husband loves his wife, in the true meaning of the word, he is willing to give of himself freely.
 - **Malachi 2:14-16 - Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because Jehovah hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously, though she is thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did he not make one, although he had the residue of the Spirit? And wherefore one? He sought a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, and him that covereth his garment with violence, saith Jehovah of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously**
- Husband, love your wife as you do your own body (**Ephesians 5:28**)
- Husband, do not be harsh with your wife (**Colossians 3:19**)
- Husband, render to your wife the affection due her (**1 Corinthians 7:3**)
- Husband, dwell with your wife according to knowledge (**1 Peter 3:7**)

The Bible shows us that God is serious about how husbands live with and treat their wives. **Malachi 2:13-16 & 1 Peter 3:7**

Let's look at this scripture in more detail.

1 Peter 3:7 (American Standard Version (ASV))

Ye husbands, in like manner, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, as

being also joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered.

1. 1 Peter 3:7

1.1. Dwell

1.1.1. The husband's respect and regard for his wife is to be equally considered as being regulated by God and as a required responsibility on his part. The gospel dispensation removed the veil from woman, bringing her proper honor and respect. Women have a dignity in Christianity that they did not have in the pagan world or even in Judaism. He must realize that his headship does not mean that the woman is inferior to him, but rather that they are joint heirs of eternal life (Galatians 3:28).

1.1.2. The term "dwell," according to our esteemed brother Guy N. Woods, "sums up the relationships of the marriage state. Such association is to be according to knowledge,' i.e., with due understanding of the nature of the marital relation, each showing proper regard for the other, and both discharging the duties peculiarly theirs." Every husband and father needs to know and faithfully discharge his responsibilities to his family. But, just what all is involved? Again we shall appeal to our Bible text: "Giving honor unto the woman." It is worthy of note that the word "giving" is translated from a term which occurs nowhere else in the sacred writings. This term (*aponemo*) means "to assign, portion out, showing honor."

1.1.3. There is a manner in which a man dwells with his wife

1.1.3.1. A Christian husband must live with his wife according to knowledge. Being head of the family means responsibility to look out for the good of the wife, not that he selfishly gets his own way.

1.1.3.2. By recognizing the importance of his role as the husband

1.1.3.3. Finding fulfillment in his responsibilities as a husband

1.1.3.4. Setting aside time for his wife as a husband

1.1.3.5. Helping his wife grow spiritually and intellectually

1.1.3.6. Continuing to study and learn about being a husband

1.2. Knowledge

1.2.1. The husband's conduct is to be intelligently guarded and controlled ("according to knowledge") against abuse, as he faithfully and tenderly cares for, provides for, and protects his wife. The extent of this care is emphasized by Paul in the words, "even as Christ also loved the church" (Eph. 5:25-29) -- freely, lovingly, tenderly, sacrificially.

1.2.2. Peter recognizes that a good husband does not just "happen", they become such through knowledge.

1.2.3. Men need to realize being a good husband comes from studying and applying what is learned. Study what?

1.2.3.1. The Bible – What passage in the Bible that involves human relations does not apply to the husband-wife relationship?

1.2.3.1.1. **Matthew 7:12** should first be applied at home.

1.2.3.1.2. **Ephesians 4:32**, if applied at home, would solve much.

1.2.3.2. Books that are Bible based and are written by knowledgeable authors

1.2.3.2.1. Women account for 80% of the Christian books purchased in this country

1.2.3.3. Learn from others experiences

1.3. Honor

1.3.1. "Giving honor unto the woman" will necessarily involve the husband's acceptance of the role of spiritual leader in the family. A Christian husband and father is "a man who has heard the call to reflect God to his family and is responding to that call." Not nearly enough fathers are responding obediently to the instructions of God relative to this vital role. The husband is to be the "head of the wife" (Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3).

1.3.2. Being "head of the wife" is a position which demands providing of those things necessary for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well being of the home. This responsibility should never be taken lightly. Paul said, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8). This provision covers more than the material requirements of the family.

1.3.3. A wise Christian father will bring home the bread, the bacon, and the Bible. The father who leaves the spiritual training of the family solely in the hands of his wife fails miserably in carrying out his special "priesthood" in the home (1 Pet. 2:9). Such is too often the case and the sad result is painfully evident in the numbers of young people who forsake the Lord and his church.

1.3.4. How does the husband honor his wife

1.3.4.1. By wanting her as a friend

1.3.4.1.1. **Proverbs 17:17**

1.3.4.2. By being proud of her

1.3.4.3. By putting his trust in her

1.3.4.4. By involving her in present plans

1.3.4.5. By including her in future plans

1.3.4.6. By accepting her relatives

1.3.4.7. By being concerned about his appearance and actions

1.3.4.8. By wanting to please her

1.3.4.9. By talking to her about successes and failures

1.3.4.10. He recognizes that they are "joint heirs of the grace of life"

1.4. Weaker Vessel

1.4.1. The husband is to consider his wife as a "weaker vessel." She is not only to be lovingly treated as a companion for life here, but as a joint-heir of eternal life. She is a mutual partaker of God's Divine

grace here, entitled to all of the blessings in Christ (Gal. 3:26-28; Eph, 1:3). She is not inferior to any man concerning salvation under the Christian system, being entitled to the hopes and promises of redemption.

- 1.4.2. How does the husband care for the “weaker vessel”?
 - 1.4.2.1. He provides for her
 - 1.4.2.2. He protects her
 - 1.4.2.3. He can be there to hold her when she cries
 - 1.4.2.4. He will never lay a hand on her except in love
- 1.5. So that your prayers be not hindered
 - 1.5.1. It is taken for granted that prayer will be a part of the Christian home. If the husband does not act in proper kindness, affection, and consideration of his wife, his prayers will be hindered. These actions in the home are so needed in order for each soul in the home to enjoy happiness -- especially for the welfare of the children. General tenderness therefore is necessary for a happy Christian home, to serve as a shock absorber to the disappointments, illnesses, cares, and losses that may enter at one time or another into our homes.
 - 1.5.2. By not following what is laid out by God, man is ignoring God
 - 1.5.3. Ref. **1 Peter 3:12**
2. A Christian man in marriage must:
 - 2.1. Have two great loves in his life; his God above and his wife by his side
 - 2.1.1. Ref. **Deuteronomy 6:5**
 - 2.1.2. Ref. **1 John 4:19**
 - 2.1.3. Ref. **Ephesians 5:25&28**
 - 2.2. Understand that God has made them the head of the wife and the homes they lead. The husband sets the tone of marital togetherness and family fellowship.
 - 2.2.1. Ref. **1 Corinthians 11:3**
 - 2.2.2. Ref. **Genesis 2:23**
 - 2.2.3. Ref. **1 Corinthians 11:8**
 - 2.2.4. Ref. **Ephesians 5:23**
 - 2.2.5. Ref. **Ephesians 6:4**
 - 2.3. Provide for their family
 - 2.3.1. Ref. **1 Timothy 5:8**
 - 2.4. Teach
 - 2.4.1. Teaching must take place in the church and in the home. We need to follow the instruction of Moses. He said,
 - 2.4.2. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up. (Deut 6:6-7)
 - 2.4.3. Solomon's instruction to us to "train up a child in the way he should go" should be adhered to in 2017. Activities in the home and church

should be designed to help instill the principles God originally established for the home.

2.5. Stand against sin

2.5.1. We need to do to restore the home to its original purpose is to take a stronger stand against sin. We love the sinner but hate the sin.

2.6. Discipline your children

2.6.1. Parents are needed who understand the necessity of correcting their children. Homes are in turmoil because the children have taken charge. Paul teaches, "And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

2.6.2. Solomon teaches much about discipline in the Proverbs. Note the following: "In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding" (Prov. 10:13).

2.6.3. Spanking has fallen into disrepute with a large segment of society. Some parents are literally afraid to spank their child. They are afraid the child's personality will be warped, or that they will be arrested for child abuse, or worse, they are afraid the child will not like them. Again Solomon paints a different picture when he says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth betimes" (Prov. 13:24). I like the way the NIV translates the last part of that verse when it says, "but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Solomon's words ring clear when he says in Proverbs 22: 15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

2.7. Understand and practice the real meaning of commitment and fidelity

2.7.1. Ref. **1 Corinthians 7:2-5**

2.7.2. Those who do not abide in this teaching are told in **1 Corinthians 6:13-20** how they will be dealt with

2.7.3. Ref **1 Corinthians 6:9**

2.7.4. Ref **Ephesians 5:1-6**

2.8. Be a good companion

2.8.1. Ref **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

2.8.1.1. A husband who exhibits this kind of love is totally unselfish. He does not demand his rights but willingly surrenders his rights when such does not compromise his God-given role in the marriage. He identifies with the words in **Romans 15:2-3**

2.8.1.2. Realize that everything that happens to you affects your behavior toward our family

2.8.1.3. Don't shut your wife off from the day to day activities, which affect you. These have a direct bearing on your family

2.8.1.4. Learn to share emotions

2.8.1.4.1. Men can cry

2.8.1.5. Control your anger

2.8.1.5.1. Ref **Ephesians 4:26**

- 2.8.1.5.2. If a man is wise, he will be slow to anger remembering **James 1:19-20:**
- 2.8.2. Do not become arrogant. Recognize your dependence on your wife. **1 Corinthians 11:11-12**
- 2.8.2.1. When woman was created in Genesis, she was created to complement her husband. She became the completion of him. Her submission to the husband is based in response to his love, just as the church submits to Christ in response to his love.
- 2.8.3. Set aside a part of each day for family togetherness. Recent surveys show that the average American father spends only 7 ½ uninterrupted minutes per **WEEK** with his children.
- 2.8.4. Worship together. Enriches the bond
- 2.9. Continue the courtship after “I do”
- 2.10. Appreciate the many things the wife does
- 2.11. Take interest in the home
- 2.12. Learn about the emotional and psychological differences between men and women
 - 2.12.1. Enhances the emotional and physical relationship in the marriage
- 2.13. Serve God faithfully
 - 2.13.1. The husband is fundamentally responsible for the spiritual education of his family
 - 2.13.2. Ref **1 Corinthians 14:33-35**
- 2.14. Communicate in all aspects of marriage