

Marriage, God's Institution

Responsibilities of the Husband & Wife

Goals

- Begin to understand the responsibilities of Husbands and Wives
- Learn why God called the two "One Flesh"
- Understand Spiritual Intimacy
- The power of the three cord Agreement
- Other Issues

Premise: God set forth the institution of marriage. In order to walk in the blessings He has planned for our lives, we must first understand what God has to say in His word about the marriage covenant.

The Responsibility of the Husband

1) To love and honor his wife

Paul was very clear in Ephesians that the man is expected by God to love his wife just the same way that Christ loves the church. Husband should love their wives as their own bodies, nurture them and impart life into them. Raising them up to a place of honor, just as Christ is preparing the church for the final hour.

Eph 5:25-28

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. NIV

2) To acknowledge the authority due her as God's representative.

She has a rightful place of authority in the kingdom of God. In fact, she is equal in the spirit in that she contains and demonstrates the same power and ability through God in the earth.

1 Cor 11:8-10

For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. NIV

1 Peter 3:7

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard. NLT

The Responsibility of the Wife

- 1) God established the man as the head of the woman, and she must acknowledge him as her covering.

Still we see here the order of God being established. Christ is the head of the church and just as husbands are to relate to their wives as Christ love the church, so also should wives willingly submit to the husband as her head.

Eph 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. NIV

- 2) Woman was established as a helpmeet to the man.

Why? Because man needed help. He cannot go it alone and woman fulfills this role of the sustainer for man. Together the husband and wife are a powerful team. God said that it was not good for man to be alone and thus created woman. She was to be a relief to him, to come along side of him and provide support.

Gen 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. NIV

God's Covenant – The Two shall become One Flesh

This is a picture of the covenant we make with God. There will be no other God before Him. Likewise there will be no other wife or husband. We come together in commitment and perfect unity, to walk as one spirit, one body, and one flesh in the plan of God. Just like we come into perfect unity God and the son Jesus. Adam here acknowledges that Eve was bone of his bone, because she came from his rib and therefore flesh of his flesh because she came from his body. All the more to understand his need for her, she was literally taken from his own body. Without her he is not whole and without him she does not exist. We then are expected to walk in perfect unity together, when we do our prayers will be unhindered as we already read in 1 Peter 3:7.

Gen 2:21-24

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. NIV