

How to Have a Godly Marriage

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"Men's Handout"

80% of all marriages in Southern California end in divorce. 75% of all Christian marriages in Southern California end in divorce. This tells us that just being a Christian does not guarantee a good marriage, or even a marriage that will endure. The only guarantee we have from God is that **IF** we live or lives **HIS** way, and by **HIS** principles, we will have good success and a great marriage. Put the Word of God!

In Matthew 22:35-39, a lawyer asked Jesus, "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?" And Jesus answered; "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, Thou shalt love they neighbor as thyself".

John 13:34, Jesus said; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you." Then in Ephesians 5:31-32 *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."* God is saying that Christian marriage and the home is a reflection and a model of Jesus Christ and His church.

There is one command in the New Testament, but there are principles in the Word of God that we are to live by. There is one principle for both the husband and wife, and there are eight for the husband and four for the wife individually. These principles won't work until they're alive on the inside of you.

Principle for both the Husband and the Wife

Ephesians 5:21, *"submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord (or because you love the Lord)."* There is no superior or inferior. You mutually submit to one another.

There are two parts to this word "fear". 1) Fear of God's punishment, for doing the wrong thing. 2) As we mature, we want to do what pleases God. We don't want to bring reproach to the Name of Jesus. WE love Him and trust Him and want to do it – His way! This fear of the Lord must be in operation if we are to carry out these principles.

Men's Principles

1. Husband's are to be the Spiritual Head of the Wife.

Ephesians 5:23, *"For the husband is the **head of the wife**, as also Christ is the head of the church."*

To see what the "the head of the wife" means, we need to look at what "the head of the church" means. Jesus is the High Priest and spiritual Head of the church. Husbands are to be the spiritual head of the house, leading his family into the things of God. In Luke 22:24-27 Jesus asks, *"who is the greatest...the one who eats, or he that serves him?"* And we know the natural answer, but Jesus tells us that the servant is the greatest.

2. Love your Wife; Give of yourself.

Ephesians 5:25, *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **gave Himself** for her."*

Jesus laid down His life; He gave Himself for the church, even when it shouted for His crucifixion. Pastor Jim came up with the word: "*selfishlessness*". There is no room for selfishness towards our wives.

3. Make your Wife happy and fulfilled.

Ephesians 5:28 *"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who **loves** his wife loves himself."*

Love your wife. In other words, you aren't going to love your wife less than you love yourself. Notice that verse 28 starts with "so..." which refers back to verses 25-27, which describe someone who cares for someone else. We are not to neglect our wife, but we are to care for them and make sure everything goes the way that will be healthy and good for them. We are to care for our wives the way that Jesus cares for us. In John 10:10, Jesus tells us that *He came that we would have life more abundantly*. We should make our wives lives more abundant. Let our wives do what makes them happy.

4. Take care of and provide for your Wife.

Ephesians 5:29, *"For no one ever hated his own flesh; but **nourishes** and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."*

Nourish your wife. Keep her in a place where she's growing and healthy. Where she's fed, protected, and covered. It's our responsibility to see that she gets all the nourishment she needs to grow the way that God would have her grow. If we nourish her, she will produce great fruit, and do great things, fulfilling God's plan for her life.

5. Cherish her: Place great value on your Wife.

Ephesians 5:29, *"For no one ever hated his own flesh; but nourishes and **cherishes** it, even as the Lord the church."*

Cherish your wife. To cherish your wife is to place a value on her. Often, we men don't value anything but our own things. We need to see our wives as they truly are; valuable commodities that God has placed in our lives. Many men refer to their wives as a problem, or a curse, rather than as a blessing. The value of something is determined by the price you pay for it. When you get married, you give up everything you have for your wife. So, her value is established by your worth. Bottom line facts here; this woman is valuable...she cost me my life! I choose to give my life for her, and make that lifetime commitment to her. Remember, Jesus gave His life for your wife, so she is of great value to Him. When your wife has great value to you, you will treat her like she has great value. You don't establish value based on things outside your wife.

6. Take Spiritual Responsibility, leave the past behind.

Ephesians 5:31, *"For this reason a man shall **leave his father and mother**."*

Too often we determine our future based on what our fathers taught us. The way they acted and how they treated their wives. Notice, it doesn't say that the wife is to leave her parents. It is the responsibility of the husband, as the spiritual head of the house, to break away from the past; from the old learned ways. We want to leave the ways of our fathers and our mothers, and find out the ways of our heavenly Father.

7. Think, Operate, and Live as One.

Eph. 5:31, "*the two shall become **one flesh**.*"

This is simply an attitude; "how do you perceive your wife?" Do you perceive her as one flesh with you, inseparable? Or do you perceive her as a completely separate individual? Christian marriage is no longer two separate people, together, just getting along. We are to perceive our wives as extensions of ourselves. When she hurts, I hurt. When I hurt, she hurts. Two people fighting the fight together, as one. We aren't just living with someone else, we are living with the person we are one with.

8. Enjoy being united with your wife.

Matthew 19:5, "*And said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be **joined** to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*"

This word joined means to be united with your wife. It is not just talking about a sexual experience, it's talking about "touching"...being close to each other...holding hands. Enjoying being close together.

Pastor's final thoughts

A great marriage does not just happen. You will have a great marriage if you choose to have a great marriage, and because you love God with all your heart. God has designed you to be like Christ and the Church, and what a marriage that is! Not one that's full of spots and wrinkles, neglect, lack of concern, lack of intimacy, lack of ability, but rather, a marriage that's full of great love, compassion, joy and peace. These are great areas to work on and tools to use to have the marriage God wants you to have. Practice these principles and make a direct effort to practice them.

