

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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HUSBANDS & WIVES

STUDY GUIDE



HUSBANDS AND WIVES

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2: 7- 25

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He

might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Colossians 3:18-19

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

THEME

God's Word gives very specific instructions concerning marriage; therefore, we must lay aside tradition and personal prejudice for the purpose of following God's instructions. Marriage originated with God. He intended it to be a permanent union between husband and wife. The role of the husband is different from that of the wife. Both the husband and wife have particular obligations that must be fulfilled to ensure a successful marriage. The marriage relationship emphasizes and portrays Christ's relationship with the Church.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Marriage depicts Christ and His relationship to the Church.
 - 1. This relationship consists of one husband and one wife only. (Jesus does not practice polygamy.)
 - 2. There is one Jesus and one Church, Jesus being the Groom and the Church being the Bride.
 - 3. The marriage union of a man and woman is designed to portray Christ and the Church.
 - 4. Christ is the husband and the Church is the wife.
 - 5. Faithfulness is mandatory, both with Jesus and the Church, and with the husband and wife.
- B. Marriage originated with God, not man. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3-6)

- C. Customs and laws constitute a legal marriage; therefore, theories and ideas concerning the validity of a marriage are irrelevant.
 - 1. Marriage is an honorable estate which **is not** required to take place in a church setting.
 - 2. God honors the local laws of marriage in all countries.
 - 3. Common-law marriage is not God's way of uniting a man and woman.
 - 4. God honors only legal marriages.
- D. Homosexuality and incest are abominations in God's eyes; therefore, such unseemly relationships can never become marriages that God recognizes as lawful. (Romans 1:24-27; I Corinthians 5:1-5)
- E. Marriage is a covenant between the husband and the wife, with God as a witness.
 - 1. The husband and wife enter into a covenant which says I will be yours " 'til death do us part."
 - 2. The husband and wife are obligated to each other as long as they both shall live.

II. GOD'S PERSPECTIVE OF MARRIAGE

- A. God created Adam as an independent being, with the desire that Adam would not exclude Him when making important decisions.
- B. Adam was given the responsibility of dressing and keeping (guarding and protecting) the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:15)
- C. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;" therefore, God created the animals. (Genesis 2:18-19)
- D. Adam was given the responsibility of naming all the animals. (Genesis 2:19-20)
- E. God saw that the animals were not a suitable help for man; therefore, God created the woman. (Genesis 2:20-22)
 - 1. The woman was created **from** Adam **for** Adam.

2. God removed one of Adam's ribs and from that rib He built a woman.
 - a. The woman was built from an existing part of the man.
 - b. Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." (Genesis 2:23)
 3. Woman was created by God for the purpose of providing help for man (her husband) and was given the unique attributes to fulfill that purpose.
 4. The creation of woman for her husband was not a curse; it was a blessing, both for the man and the woman.
- F. "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife" identifies the first husband-wife relationship. (Genesis 2:24)
- G. Jesus made comments concerning the marriage relationship and emphasized God's original plan. (Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18)
- H. Paul expounded upon the marriage relationship, giving some very explicit instructions. (Romans 7:1-4; I Corinthians 7:1-11)
- I. God hates separation and divorce. (Malachi 2:13-16)
1. Although God hates divorce and remarriage, they are not unpardonable sins.
 2. The marriage relationship depicts Jesus. Jesus will not put away the Church, and the Church must not put away Jesus.
 3. We must understand the symbolism of the marriage relationship in order to understand why God hates divorce.

III. DIVORCE DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF SUBMISSION

- A. The man who arbitrarily leaves his wife is not submitted to Jesus.
- B. The woman who arbitrarily leaves her husband is not submitted to God or her husband.

- C. Generally speaking, filing for divorce is taking vengeance into one's own hands. (Romans 12:19)

IV. GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

- A. Fornication is the only exception to the marriage covenant. (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:7-10)
- B. What is fornication?
 - 1. *Porneia* is the Greek word translated as fornication; it means harlotry and unchastity.
 - 2. According to I Corinthians 5:1, incest is also called fornication. (*Porneia* is translated as fornication in this passage and also in chapters five and nineteen of Matthew.)
 - 3. According to I Corinthians 6:13-18, fornication is harlotry.
 - 4. According to I Corinthians 7:2, fornication is to be avoided by marriage.
- C. Incest, homosexuality, and lesbianism are grounds for divorce.
- D. Although unfaithfulness is included in the definition of fornication, it does not call for mandatory divorce. Many problems and additional heartaches can be avoided through repentance and forgiveness.
 - 1. Remember! The marital relationship speaks of Jesus and the Church.
 - 2. Jesus is faithful, even when the Church is unfaithful.
 - 3. No one desires an unfaithful partner, but never forget that the love of God is unconditional, and it will cover a multitude of sin.

V. GROUNDS FOR REMARRIAGE

- A. The death of a spouse gives one the liberty to remarry. (Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 7:8-9, & 39)

- B. I Corinthians 7:8-9 states that it is better to marry than to burn with passion. This statement was addressed to the unmarried and widows. We must decide in our own hearts if the unmarried referred to in this scripture are divorcees, virgins, or both.
- C. Divorce and remarriage are not unpardonable sins, although they are not the original intention of God. (Matthew 19:3-9)
- D. There are many circumstances in this life that the Scriptures do not specifically address; therefore, each individual must seek the will of God and make decisions, being certain that the decision made does not violate his conscience.
- E. We must be cautious not to allow traditional teaching to put people in bondage. "Whom the Son sets free is free indeed."

VI. PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGE

- A. Marriage requires a hundred percent effort by each partner; it is not a 50/50 arrangement.
- B. The husband and wife must each give, one to the other.
 - 1. The wife does not have exclusive authority and control over her own body; the husband has his rights. (I Corinthians 7:3-5)
 - 2. The husband does not have exclusive authority and control over his body; the wife has her rights. (I Corinthians 7:3-5)
- C. Marriage is honorable. (Hebrews 13:4)
 - 1. The marriage relationship is to be esteemed or held in honor.
 - 2. If we would look at marriage as God sees it, homes would not be broken by adultery; we would see the "two" as one.
- D. Celibacy is a gift; therefore, being single certainly is neither unspiritual nor unscriptural, but marriage is normal for most people.
- E. The wife is not to separate herself from her husband; however, if she does separate herself from her husband, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. (I Corinthians 7:10-11)

- F. The husband should not leave his wife simply because she is not a believer; neither should the wife leave her unbelieving husband. (I Corinthians 7:12-15)
 - 1. The husband is set apart by his union with a believing wife.
 - 2. The wife is set apart by her union with a believing husband.
 - 3. The children are sanctified as a result of the believing parent.
 - 4. The believing parent must be diligent in his or her Christian walk to ensure a godly influence over the children.
 - 5. If the unbelieving partner wants to leave, he or she is to be allowed to do so.

- G. Paul made the following statements concerning women who were eligible to marry:
 - 1. It is profitable for the virgins to remain single. (I Corinthians 7:25-26)
 - 2. A single person does not sin by marrying. (I Corinthians 7:28)
 - 3. A widower or widow does not sin if he/she remarries. (I Corinthians 7:27)
 - 4. There is nothing wrong with enjoying life or enjoying marriage, but we are not to place all our emphasis upon physical pleasure. God must be first place in our lives.
 - 5. The unmarried man or woman is concerned with pleasing the Lord; the married man or woman is concerned with pleasing his/her spouse. (I Corinthians 7:32-34)

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MARRIAGE

- A. The husband must recognize his obligations to his wife.
 - 1. The husband is to leave his parents; he must “cut the apron strings.”
 - a. A man’s wife is not his mother; therefore, she should never be compared to his mother.

- b. The wife must take precedence over the husband's mother.
- 2. The husband must leave his parental nurturing and cleave to his wife. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31)
- 3. The husband is to be satisfied with his wife. (Proverbs 5:18-19; Ecclesiastes 9:9)
 - a. His wife is to quench his thirst, which means she is to physically satisfy him.
 - b. The husband is to be enraptured by his wife. To "enrapture" means to delight greatly or to fill with pleasure.
- 4. The husband is to love his wife. (Ephesians 5:25,28-29; Colossians 3:19)
 - a. A lack of love is no reason for separation.
 - b. Love can and must be developed.
- 5. The husband is to give honor to his wife. (I Peter 3:7)
 - a. One who gives honor to his wife holds her in high esteem.
 - b. He is to consider her a valuable treasure.
 - c. He must not take advantage of his wife, though he is stronger than she.
- 6. The husband must provide for his wife. (I Timothy 5:8)
- B. The husband has a particular role in the marriage.
 - 1. The role of the husband must be determined by the Scriptures, not society.
 - a. According to I Corinthians 11:3 and Ephesians 5:23, the husband is the head of the wife.
 - (1) It is vital that husbands recognize and distinguish the difference between "head" and "lord."

- (2) “Head” relates to authority or leadership. It refers to responsibility and accountability. The husband is the residing authority in the home.
 - (3) “Lord” carries the connotation of master in relation to slave.
- b. The husband must accept the role that God has ordained for him.
 - c. The husband is not to be a dictator; he is to lead by example. He must be open to his wife’s counsel (not nagging), realizing that she is designed to be a help suitable for him.
 - d. The husband must care for his wife as Christ cares for the Church. (Ephesians 5:25-29; Colossians 3:19)
 - e. The husband must respect his wife and he should be courteous to her.
 - (1) Courteous relates to the way one would conduct himself in the king’s court.
 - (2) The word “courteous” means having courtlike manners; using or characterized by courtesy; well-bred; polite and gracious; considerate of others.
 - f. The husband should compliment his wife when it is appropriate. He should show his appreciation to her.
 - g. A husband should neither publicly nor privately humiliate his wife.
 - h. The husband should meet the physical needs of his wife.
 - (1) The husband should provide for his wife. (I Timothy 5:8)
 - (2) The husband should love his wife and fulfill her sexual needs. (I Corinthians 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:25, 28-29; Colossians 3:19)
2. The husband should act as the priest over his home; therefore, he **should** be the leader in all spiritual matters, such as praising, tithing, studying of the Word, and praying.

3. The husband is responsible for teaching his family the Word of God. This teaching can be accomplished by personally teaching the family or by exposing the family to anointed teaching.
 4. The husband's authority should be conveyed as one who rules by serving. (John 13:3-5)
- C. The wife must recognize her obligations to her husband.
1. The Word of God teaches that wives are to submit themselves to their own husbands. (Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18; I Peter 3:1-6)
 - a. Submission is an attitude. One cannot be made to submit.
 - b. Submission is not always obedience, although the two are closely related.
 - c. A wife who will not submit to her husband blasphemes the Word of God. (Titus 2:5)
 - d. The wife is to submit to her own husband, not to other husbands or men; however, she must submit to those in authority.
 2. The wife should at all times demonstrate her submission to her husband, thereby bringing him honor, not shame. (I Corinthians 11:3-10; I Timothy 2:12-14)
 3. The wife must reverence (be devoted to) or respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)
 4. The wife must love her husband.
 - a. Love is not automatic, but it can be taught and developed. (Titus 2:3-5)
 - b. We don't just fall into love; we mature into love.
 5. The wife should dress to compliment her husband and to be attractive to him, thus pleasing the Lord. She should not dress to attract the attention of others.

6. The attitude of the wife is more important than her physical appearance. (I Peter 3:1-6)
7. The wife must yield her body to her husband. (I Corinthians 7:3-5)
8. The wife should not speak evil of her husband. (Proverbs 31:12)
 - a. She must not only do good deeds, but she must also say good words.
 - b. A wife should never degrade her husband; she should build him up (whether he is a saint or a sinner).
9. The wife should never nag her husband. (Proverbs 21:9 & 19; Proverbs 25:24; Proverbs 27:15-16.)
 - a. A leaking roof and a nagging wife are unfavorably compared; both are annoying.
 - b. A wife who trusts God will not nag.

D. The wife also has an important role in the marriage.

1. The role of the wife must also be determined by the Scriptures rather than society.
 - a. According to Ephesians 5:22 and Colossians 3:18, wives are to submit, or take a subordinate role in the home.
 - (1) The Greek word for submit is *hupotasso*, which means to be under obedience, or to subordinate.
 - (2) The wife places herself under the authority of her husband as an act of her will.
 - (3) Although closely related, “obey” and “submit” are not synonymous words.
 - b. The wife’s role is extremely important; therefore, it should not be minimized.
2. The wife must be a suitable help for her husband. She must encircle or surround her husband with aid and assistance, adapting herself to him. (Genesis 2:20)

- a. Adam was created first, and the woman was created for Adam.
 - b. Marriage portrays Jesus as the man and the Church as the woman.
 - c. Jesus existed before the Church, and the Church was created for Him.
 - d. The Church must adapt Herself to Jesus, surrounding Him with aid and assistance.
3. The wife must meet the physical needs of her husband.
- a. The wife must love her husband and fulfill his sexual needs. (Titus 2:3-5; I Corinthians 7:1-5)
 - b. The wife is literally to be a help to her husband. (Genesis 2:18)
4. The wife should constantly be aware of the importance of inward adorning. (I Peter 3:1-6)
5. The wife should be a crown to her husband. (Proverbs 12:4)
- a. The crown emphasizes authority; it neither rebels, dominates, nor usurps authority.
 - b. A crown surrounds the head, thereby complimenting it. The crown does not obscure nor does it do away with the head; it becomes one with the head.
 - c. The crown is always visible and, with its beauty, the head becomes more attractive.
6. The wife is to be a builder of the home. (Proverbs 14:1)
7. The wife is also the keeper of the home. (Titus 2:4-5)
- a. The word “keeper” comes from the Greek root *oikos* (oy-kos’), which means “dwelling.”
 - b. The Greek word *oikouros* (oy-koo-ros’), which is translated as “keepers at home” in Titus 2:5, means a stayer at home or domestically inclined, thereby implying a good housekeeper.

- c. The wife is responsible for the general welfare of the home. (Proverbs 31:10-31)
- E. When either role, husband or wife, is violated, problems are inevitable.

VIII. HUSBAND AND WIFE POSITIONS

- A. “Husband” or “wife” reveals the status of a person, just as “bachelor” or “maid” reveals the alternative status.
- B. God ordained the positions of husband and wife.
 - 1. Husband and wife are positions filled by a man and a woman.
 - 2. Although God ordained the positions of husband and wife, He has had very little input as to who should fill those positions.
 - a. Most mates are chosen because of physical appeal and desires of the soul.
 - b. Very few people consult God for the mate best suited to aid and assist them in spiritual excellence.
 - c. Everyone who contemplates marriage should consult God before choosing a mate, then choose the mate that God recommends.
- C. “Husband” is a position of authority, responsibility, and accountability.
 - 1. According to I Corinthians 11:3, the husband is the head of the wife.
 - 2. The husband is responsible for the provisions, protection, and oversight of the home.
 - 3. All men who fill the position of “husband” are held accountable for the way they function in that position.
 - 4. Remember! The position of husband represents Jesus as the Husband of the Bride, which is the Church.

- D. “Wife” is a position of subordination, adaptation, and assistance.
1. The wife is to submit to the position of “husband;” consequently, she must take a subordinate position in the home.
 - a. Submission does not make a woman inferior or a man superior.
 - b. Submission brings scriptural order to the home.
 2. The wife must also adapt to the position of “husband.”
 - a. The definition of adapt is to change oneself so that one’s behavior, attitude, etc., will conform to new or changed circumstances.
 - b. The woman who assumes the position of “wife” must adapt herself to the man who assumes the position of her “husband.”
 3. The wife is to provide aid and assistance (help and support) to the position of “husband.”
 4. It is vital that a woman choose the right mate because of the role she must fulfill as “wife.”
 5. Not every man is suitable for every woman; neither is every woman suitable for every man.
 - a. Some men have jobs or careers that require an unusual amount of time. Many women would struggle trying to adapt to this type lifestyle.
 - b. Families and personalities can often times be very difficult, thereby putting a tremendous strain on the marital relationship.
 6. Before choosing a mate, ask yourself if you are willing to adapt yourself to the man’s personality, family, career, etc. If you are not willing to make the necessary changes required to adapt, then that man is not suitable for you; neither are you suitable for him.

IX. FILLING THE POSITIONS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

- A. Because of natural limitations, it is virtually impossible for a man or a woman to choose the proper mate without consulting God.
 - 1. We must make our marriages good, even though we may have violated the Spirit by choosing whom we wanted instead of consulting God.
 - 2. Diligence and hard work are key ingredients for good marriages.
 - 3. The answer to marital problems is not divorce and remarriage.
- B. When two become one, a covenant is cut before God.
 - 1. God is witness to every marriage on earth.
 - 2. A marriage covenant, excluding the exception clause, should be broken only by death.
 - 3. We must give an account unto God for the covenants we make, even those we made through disobedience to God.
 - a. Joshua chapter nine is an excellent example of how God looks at a covenant that was cut through disobedience.
 - (1) God had previously told Israel to destroy **utterly** seven nations that were in the land the Israelites were to possess, but the Israelites made a covenant with the Gibeonites, who were Hivites. The Hivites were one of the nations that were to be utterly destroyed. (Deuteronomy 7:1-2; Joshua 11:19)
 - (2) It was during Israel's protection of Gibeon that the sun and moon stood still. (Joshua 10:1-15)
 - (3) Saul violated the covenant between the Gibeonites and Israel; consequently, Israel suffered famine during David's reign. (II Samuel 21:1-14)
 - b. The spiritual status of the spouse does not alter the covenant vows.

- C. Taking the leadership role as husband or adapting to the leadership role as wife requires much effort, even with the right mate.
- D. True husband-wife relationships are becoming extinct; therefore, we must make every effort to preserve this sacred relationship.

X. FACTS ABOUT THE HUSBAND/WIFE RELATIONSHIP

- A. “Two shall be one flesh” relates to sexual intercourse and entity. (Genesis 2:24; I Corinthians 6:16)
 - 1. Even though a man and woman are married, they are still two individual beings.
 - 2. The only time “two” literally become “one” is during sexual intercourse.
 - 3. The two entities (man and woman) must become one entity.
- B. The Word of God does not teach equality between husband and wife, nor does it teach equality between children and parents.
 - 1. Galatians 3:28 has been misinterpreted by many.
 - a. The letter to the Galatians consists of instructions concerning the “law” and “faith.”
 - b. Galatians 3:28 refers to inheritance, not order; we must all go to Christ the same way, through faith. It doesn’t matter if we are Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female.
 - c. Please understand that we are talking about order and position. We are not advocating that women are inferior to men. Both husbands and wives must take their rightful positions in marriage if they intend to incur God’s blessings on the marriage.
 - d. We must never lose sight of the fact that the marital relationship portrays Jesus and the Church.
 - (1) Although the Church has been made one with Jesus, we are not equal to Jesus.

- (2) The Church enjoys the benefits of being one with Jesus, but the Church does not have the right or privilege to usurp the authority of Jesus as the Head of the Church.
- 2. God has not and will not violate His divine order; neither should we.
- 3. The feminist movement has tried to establish equality between the male and female roles; this philosophy is a gross violation of God's Word.
 - a. Society has been severely damaged by this "movement."
 - b. The Church will also suffer great harm if it follows this pattern and abandons God's set order.
 - c. Look at the leaders of this movement. Many are lesbians. Are we to allow the ungodly to set the standard for the godly? I think not!!!
- C. Natural affection is man to woman and woman to man; man to man and woman to woman is not only unnatural, it is an abomination in the sight of God.
- D. Titus 2:4 tells the older women to teach the younger women to be affectionate to their husbands.
 - 1. Sexual satisfaction is crucial in the marriage relationship.
 - 2. One of the reasons for marriage, as stated in I Corinthians 7:2, is to avoid fornication.
 - 3. The primary purpose for marriage is to be fruitful and multiply. (Genesis 1:28; Genesis 9:1)
- E. Mates must seek to satisfy one another instead of self.
 - 1. Bedroom satisfaction applies to both husband and wife.
 - 2. The husband should seek to satisfy his wife; the wife should seek to satisfy her husband.
 - 3. Selfishness will result in insensitivity toward your mate.

4. God ordained sex; therefore, sex is neither nasty nor sinful when practiced in the confines of marriage.
 5. Right and wrong sexual acts are governed by the conscience of both mates when the Scripture is silent on the subject.
- F. God is the Creator of the marital relationship; consequently, He knows more about the marital relationship than any and all men. We should learn God's Word concerning our position and role that we might be the mate God has ordained us to be.

XI. PARENTS AND MARRIAGE

- A. Although a man may be both a husband and father, the roles of the husband and father are different.
1. The husband's role and obligations are to his wife, not to his children.
 2. The father's role and obligations are to his children, not to his wife.
- B. The role of a wife is also different from the role of a mother.
1. The wife's role and obligations are to her husband, not to her children.
 2. The mother's role and obligations are to her children, not to her husband.
- C. The husband/wife roles must never be confused with the father/mother roles.
1. Too often, men lose their wives and women lose their husbands when children come along.
 2. This violation has destroyed many homes.
 3. Spouses must remember that they are parents to their children, not to one another.
 4. Children must be taught the husband/wife relationship, both by precept and example.

- a. Children must be taught that the husband/wife relationship comes before children; consequently, it must be maintained.
- b. The communication between a husband and wife should be different from the communication between parents and children.
- c. Children must see a different relationship between their parents than they see between their parents and themselves.

XII. A VIRTUOUS WOMAN (PROVERBS 31:10-31)

- A. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband. (Proverbs 12:4)
 - 1. Not every woman is a virtuous woman. (Ecclesiastes 7:26-29)
 - a. The Hebrew definition of “virtuous” means force or strength of body and mind.
 - b. A virtuous woman will use both her strength and ability in assisting her husband, not undermining him.
 - 2. A virtuous woman is priceless.
 - a. She cannot be purchased for any amount of money.
 - b. This virtue comes as a result of applying God’s Word to one’s life.
- B. Listed below are the characteristics of a virtuous woman, as found in Proverbs 31:
 - 1. She is trustworthy. (Proverbs 31:11)
 - 2. She does good to her husband, not evil. (Proverbs 31:12)
 - 3. She is not idle, but works willingly. (Proverbs 31:13)
 - 4. She demonstrates thriftiness. (Proverbs 31:14)
 - 5. She is self-motivated and considerate. (Proverbs 31:15)
 - 6. She is proficient in business. (Proverbs 31:16)

- a. She uses good judgment.
 - b. She makes wise investments.
 - c. She invests her return.
7. She is healthy, strong, and tireless. (Proverbs 31:17)
8. She evaluates her actions and is cautious not to become self-contented and relaxed. (Proverbs 31:18)
9. She is efficient. (Proverbs 31:18)
10. She is skillful, demonstrating initiative; she is not lazy. (Proverbs 31:19)
11. She is charitable, benevolent, generous, and merciful. (Proverbs 31:20)
12. She is confident and fearless. (Proverbs 31:21)
13. She takes pride in her physical appearance. (Proverbs 31:22)
- a. She does not allow her obligations and endeavors to affect her physical appearance. She makes no excuses.
 - b. She understands the importance of keeping herself attractive, while doing all the other things for her household.
14. Her husband is known and respected among the elders. (Proverbs 31:23)
- a. Why is her husband known?
 - b. Why is her husband mentioned here?
 - c. Because of his virtuous wife the husband is known.
 - d. Women can make their husbands look either good or bad.
15. She is prosperous as a result of good business transactions. (Proverbs 31:24)

16. She clothes herself from inside out, bringing dignity, strength, and joy to herself. (Proverbs 31:25)
17. She speaks with wisdom and kindness. (Proverbs 31:26)
18. She constantly looks after her household and does not partake of unprofitableness or laziness. (Proverbs 31:27)
19. She earns the respect and praise of her husband and children. (Proverbs 31:28)
20. She is not content with being average; therefore, she excels. (Proverbs 31:29)
21. She is to be praised for her fear of the Lord rather than her beauty and grace. (Proverbs 31:30)
 - a. Beauty is deceitful and fleeting.
 - b. Praise should be given for what one is and what one does rather than how one appears.
 - c. Credit is to be given where credit is due. A virtuous woman is worthy of praise. (Proverbs 31:31)

XIII. SUMMARY

- A. God made the wife **for** the husband; He **did not** make the husband for the wife.
- B. The Church was made **for** Jesus; Jesus **was not** made for the Church.
- C. “Husband” is a position of authority, responsibility, and accountability.
- D. “Wife” is a position of subordination, adaptation, and assistance.
- E. We must always view the husband/wife relationship in light of Jesus and the Church.
- F. “Husband” and “wife” are two separate and distinct roles.
 1. The “husband” is the authority and leader of the home.

2. The “wife” is a “help” who adapts to and aids the leader of the home. She must be suitable for him.
- G. The “husband” and “wife” positions are filled by a man and a woman.
1. God should be consulted before choosing a marriage mate.
 2. The Word of God is the only accurate resource concerning the roles and obligations of the “husband” and “wife.”
- H. When God’s Word is silent concerning an issue, we must follow the authority of our consciences.
- I. Marriage is honorable. (Hebrews 13:4; I Timothy 5:14)
- J. A wife is a good estate. (Proverbs 18:22)
- K. Marriage is what you make it.
1. The husband must submit to Christ and honor his wife.
 2. The wife must submit to her husband, thereby submitting to Christ.
- L. A good marriage does not just happen; it requires much effort by both parties.
- M. Fellowship strengthens the marital relationship. (I Corinthians 7:4-5)
- N. The joy of marriage is giving; “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)
- O. We must remember that the marriage covenant is witnessed by God.
1. Marriage portrays Christ (the husband) giving his life for the Church (his wife).
 2. Marriage also portrays the Church (the wife) submitting herself to Christ (her husband) and fulfilling His desires.

XIV. CONCLUSION

- A. God hates “putting away;” so should we.

- B. Not all divorces are legal documents; many have divorced by default.
- C. God ordained marriage; therefore, we should not desecrate it.
- D. The relationship between Christ and the Church is an excellent example for husbands and wives to follow in their marital relationship.
- E. Our marriages should bring glory to God.
- F. Pride and selfishness must be brought under subjection.
- G. Many marital relationships are in jeopardy because God's Word has been violated.
- H. Promiscuity is very harmful to the relationship bond.
 - 1. Unfaithfulness affects the adhesiveness of a relationship.
 - a. The marriage covenant can be compared to tape applied to a flat surface.
 - b. Although tape can be removed and reused, the first application usually produces the strongest bond.
 - c. Only God can heal and make the bond strong again.
 - 2. Promiscuity is sin, even though society condones and applauds it.
- I. Dare to be different! Obey God!
- J. Those who are walking spiritually will not be threatened by authority, nor will they be threatened by the marital relationship roles.
- K. The curse of Genesis 3:16 is still in effect today.
 - 1. We have been redeemed from the curse of the "law," but Genesis 3:16 was brought forth hundreds of years before the "law." We must distinguish between the "curse" of Genesis 3:16 and the "curse of the law" mentioned in Galatians 3:13.

2. The word desire, in Genesis 3:16, means “the power of governing and controlling;” the word rule means “to have dominion.”
- L. Much confusion has arisen in homes because of misunderstanding the roles and obligations of the husband and wife.
1. The words “head” and “submission” have been grossly misunderstood.
 2. Although the head of the house is responsible for the house, he is not qualified to do everything that relates to the home.
- M. Let every man love his own wife, and let every wife submit to her own husband!