

Biblical Marriage

Our own personal view of what marriage should look like has been distorted by:

1. **Our worldly culture-** T.V. shows, movies, talk shows, books, etc. (including some “Christian” material) present inferior and distorted views of marriage and family.
2. **Our family culture-** We all have been brought up in family situations that were less than perfect. We need to be aware of negative examples in our upbringing.
3. **Our personal sinful culture-** We are selfish, sinful people. We have weaknesses. Marriage tends to magnify those weaknesses.

We don't want a worldly-centered marriage (driven by the culture around us).

We don't want a family-centered marriage (allowing examples of our own family to limit us).

We don't want a self-centered marriage (controlled by our own personal wants and desires).

What do we want? What works best?

Answer: **A God-centered marriage.** (A TheoMarriage!)

What does God say?

Genesis 1:27-29; 2:18-25

In the beginning...God's plan for man, woman, and marriage.

God's says:

Male & female created in the image of God.

Be fruitful and multiply.

The man is to work and keep the garden.

It is not good for man to be alone.

I'll make woman to help/complement man.

Picture #1= God's plan revealed!

Man and woman in the image of God.

Coming together in one flesh.

Having children.

Man is working.

Wife is helping/complementing husband.

Picture #2= God's plan rejected!

Genesis 3:1-6

What happened? Sin!- disobeying God's commands- listening to and following the lies (worldly philosophies) of Satan- selfishly doing what pleases us.

Where's the wife?

Facing the devil/temptation, on her own, being the #1 communicator, leading her husband.

Where's the husband?

With his wife, not leading, in silence, following his wife's initiative.

Picture #3= Man's pitiful response!

Genesis 3:10-13

The husband- weak, passing the buck, blaming his wife (and God), making excuses.

The wife- she had been deceived

Picture #4= The painful result!

Genesis 3:14-19

The curse-

Man's work is going to be really difficult.

The woman is going to want to rule over her husband.

They both are going to have trouble doing what they're supposed to do.

It's going to be hard!

God's Original Plan:

Man/Woman in image of God

Be fruitful and multiply

Man works and keeps garden.

Not good for man to be alone.

Woman to help/complement man.
(*A man needs a woman.*)

Sin and the Curse:

Sin marred the image.

Pain in childbirth

Work will be difficult.

Man rules over.

Woman desires to rule.

The World's View:

Evolution- evolved from animals

Children= grief, financial strain, burden, birth control, abortion

50% of workforce is female.

Independent, abusive

Competition, separate careers
(*A woman doesn't need a man.*)

What are we left with?

Marriage is the joining of a sinful man and a sinful woman who desire to abandon their God-given roles and responsibilities for their own selfish purposes.

Instead of leading, working, and taking charge, the man follows and/or rules harshly.

Instead of following, helping, and assisting, the woman leads and takes charge.

The end result is the collapse and ultimate destruction of marriage and the family.

The sacred institution of marriage is devastated without the hope of Jesus Christ! Gen. 3:15

Thank the Lord for salvation in Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit!

Only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord do we have any hope of victory over sin and the curse on our life and marriage.

Ephesians Overview:

God has given us everything we need spiritually in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will enlighten us so that we really understand what we have in Christ by God's power.

Before our great salvation from sin, because of God's love and mercy, by grace, through faith, unto good works, we are dead in our sins, following the passions of our flesh and patterns of this world.

There is a peace and hope and access to God for all people through Christ.

The progression for putting into practice what we believe:

Our inner being is strengthened by the Holy Spirit- then Christ can dwell inside us- then we can show Christ's love- then we can be filled with the fullness of God- then God does way more in our lives than we think or ask.

We are to strive to walk worthy of our position in Christ.

Our new walk is different than our old walk.

We will walk in love, in the light, wisely, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

And where will we see the Spirit-filled life demonstrate itself?

Where will we see the body of Christ display its new, different, and Christ-like walk?

Where could we test our spirituality?

Where are people going to notice the difference in our life compared to the darkness of the worldly culture around us?

Where are people going to see a picture of the gospel- Christ's love for His Church?

Where are our children going to learn the gospel message?

In our homes, and most significantly, in our marriages. (Eph. 5)

And so the key to a successful marriage?

The key to a (biblically) successful (God-honoring) marriage: the "Spirit"ual foundation.

Two people who have been changed spiritually, given new life in Christ- who are being controlled by the Holy Spirit moment by moment- who are being obedient to the Word of God- who are filled with joy and praise and thanksgiving to God for everything in their lives- who are submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The Submission Principle (vs 21):

The starting point for a proper relationship within a marriage is Christ-like submission to one another according to the position and partnership that God has given to the husband and wife.

I. The Husband's Position

A. The husband *is* the **head** of the wife.

I Cor. 11:3- God→Christ→Husband→Wife

B. As the head of the wife, the husband must **lead** his wife **spiritually**.

The husband is to follow the example of Christ as Savior of the church. (vs 25)

What did Christ save people from? Their sin.

How can the husband follow Christ's example? (vs 26)

1. By pointing her towards God's Words.
2. By protecting her from temptation and sin.
3. By presenting her in purity and holiness.

C. As the head of the wife, the husband must **love** his wife **sacrificially**.

The husband is to follow the example of Christ as Savior of the church. (vs 25)

What did Christ give for the Church? His life.

How can the husband follow Christ's example? (vs 28-30)

1. By giving up his life for his wife.
2. By loving his wife like his own body.
 - a. "nourish"- encourage, promote, cultivate, reassure, support
 - b. "cherish"- treasure, value, prize, appreciate, admire

D. As the head of the wife, the husband must **learn** about his wife **sensitively**.

I Peter 3:7... *"husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel"*

II. The Wife's Partnership

A. The wife *is* the **helper** for the husband.

Genesis 2- The woman was made for the man.

Proverbs 31- The excellent wife's "work" is done to care and provide for her "household" and so that her husband is known "at the gates" (place of public leadership).

Ephesians 5- The husband and wife relationship is a picture of Christ's relationship to the Church.

Basically (plainly), what is the church doing here on earth? Trying to make Christ look good. In comparison, what can the wife do for her husband? Make him look good.

Titus 2:5- The wife is to be working at home.

The home has lost its position of honor, and therefore, the wife pouring her life, her resources, and her expertise into her household is becoming a lost art.

B. As the helper for her husband, the wife is to **submit** to her husband's **leadership**. (vs 22-24)

As long as the wife thinks she could do a better job, then the husband will never be the successful leader he could be.

C. As the helper for her husband, the wife is to **respect** her husband's **love**. (vs 33)

The wife can lift her husband to heights of confident care or plunge him into depths of confused chaos.

D. As the helper for her husband, the wife is to **help** her husband **learn**. (I Peter 3:7)

The wife cannot assume that a husband can figure her out.