

Relationships Part Six - The Man In Marriage

This is Part Six in our series about relationships.

Last week I began teaching **what the Bible says about marriage**, I want to continue from where I left off last week.

Quickly by way of review... The Bible defines marriage all the way back in the second chapter of Genesis.

Genesis 2:24 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be^[a] joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

1. There is a **leaving** behind of family.
2. There is a **cleaving** together.
3. They **become** one flesh.

Last week I broke this down and we studied what it meant!

God has **created and ordained** this union and has called it **marriage**.

- This ***"becoming one flesh"*** is a lifelong commitment that ***doesn't*** happen overnight!
- It is a partnership where **two come together as one**. A team working together as one.

On any team, each person has a role that is designed for them. God has designed **specific roles** for the husband and the wife.

Today I want to talk about **the husband and his role**.

The **next lesson** will be about **the wife and her role**.

Fortunately for you ladies, Paul gave us a lot of teaching on this subject. This teaching is very clear, so **there ought to be no misunderstanding**.

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

Paul gives us men perhaps **the greatest advice** we could be given ***about marriage***.

In the space of *one sentence*, **Paul can sum up** the essence of ***Man's role in marriage!***

Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.

That sounds simple, doesn't it? Let me tell you **it is not!**

Paul said **we must love as Christ loved.**

Jesus is the perfect man.

If we want to be a Christian, we are **supposed** to be **like Jesus.**

- **God came** and robed Himself in flesh and **became a perfect man!**
- We need to **take our cue** for manhood **from Jesus!**
- Ladies, ***be patient*** with your husbands, they are **striving for perfection.**

Paul didn't give us any other options... right off the bat he sets the bar high!

How can we love our wives as Jesus loved the church?

- **We show our love** through our responsibility.
- What I mean by that is that ***Jesus always*** **takes responsibility!**

The primary reason that **Jesus came to this world** was **to take responsibility for His bride...** the church!

- **God's people** could not make it on their own,
- ***They failed...***time and time again!
- So, God put on flesh and came to take responsibility for their failure!

That is **what Paul is talking about here.**

- **We are** all sinners.
- **We have** all messed up.
- **The sin** that I committed is my fault.
- **The sin** that you committed is your fault.
- **We have** all sinned....time and time again.

At Calvary, Jesus took all that sin, yours, and mine, and put it on Himself. He took the responsibility for your mistakes.... for my mistakes.

- Jesus said, '**that sin that you have just committed is my sin**.'
- It is **on me**.
- I take **responsibility**.

He did this for you because He loves you and you are His bride!

He did this because He is the Head of the Church and is responsible for His Church!

Men, this is the picture that Paul is painting of marriage.... this is what it means to be the head of the wife!

- It doesn't mean you are the King of the Hill.
- It doesn't mean you run your home like a dictator.
- It doesn't mean you tell your wife 'Do this or else.'
 - **Or else I am going to yell at you.**
 - Or hit you.
 - Or quit my job.
 - Or take my things and leave.

If you think that is what a husband is, then you are an idiot! That's right, I said idiot and I believe that God feels the same way!

- **Being masculine is not** being the strongest, hitting the hardest, and burping the loudest!
- It is not the ability to yell and scream.
- It is not the ability to turn everything into a funny joke.

To be the man, is to be responsible for your wife and for your children!

To love your wives as Christ loves the Church means that you will do for your wife, what Jesus did for the church!

- That is the **essence of the Gospel!**
- And that is the **essence of your marriage!**

That is not easy to do! When Jesus took on our sin, it was the hardest thing that He ever had to do.

- ***When He took the responsibility for my sin and your sin, and the weight of all those sins came upon Him, He cried out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"***
- I want you men to **think of the Love that caused Jesus to do that for us!**

That love is the love that you are called to love your wife with!

- **That is true manhood.**
- **That is true masculinity!**

Do you men remember way back in Genesis chapter three when Eve had that conversation with the serpent?

- **Eve was the one doing the talking.**
- **Eve was the one who was doing the listening.**
- **Eve was the one who entered that conspiracy with the serpent.**
- **Eve was the one who became deceived.**
- **Eve was the one who ate of the tree.**

And **God knew** exactly what Eve had done!

But if you remember the story, **God did not come calling for Eve....**

He came calling for Adam, "Adam, Where art thou?"

- **Adam** where are you at....
- I want to talk to you!

Why was He calling for Adam?

Adam was the head....and because He was the head, he was responsible!

- This was the very first marriage.
- This marriage was to be a type and a shadow of Christ and His Church.

Adam had to take responsibility for the actions of his wife!

- Just as **God knew** that Eve was the one who did the talking and the eating.
- **God also knew** that Adam was right there by her side the whole time **doing nothing!**

Doing nothing for your family's sake is worse than doing something.

Adam knew that to eat of that fruit, or touch it would cause them to die...

He sat back and **did nothing** to prevent his wife from eternal death!

- That was a sin of omission!
- Did you know that **doing nothing** can be sin?

The Bible says...

James 4:17 - *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

- Adam sinned because he knew what was right and **he didn't do right....**
- He didn't try to stop his own wife from committing a life ending sin!
- God was more upset about Adam **doing nothing** right, than He was about Eve doing something wrong!
- Adam was the head...he had the authority to stop his wife!

So, **God came after the authority...** God came after the one who should have taken responsibility!

And Adam was cursed right alongside of Eve!

Romans 5:12 - **Death in Adam, Life in Christ** - Therefore, just as through **one man sin entered the world**, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

Notice what this says...**sin entered the world by one man**, not one woman!

From the very beginning, the role of the husband as head of the wife is **a role of responsibility**!

- When your wife crashes your car...**you are responsible.**
- When your wife shops with your credit card...**you are responsible.**
- If your wife is sick and hurting...**you are responsible.**
- When your family is hungry.... **you are responsible.**

Let's read further into our text....

Ephesians 5:25-33 - ²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,** ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ **that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** ²⁸ So husband's ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

Jesus had to take His own bride, the church, and He had to sanctify it and cleanse it with His own blood and by **His own word**, so he could present it to Himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

This is how **we are called to love** our wives.

- If she is **not** living right...it is **your responsibility**.
 - That means leading by example like Jesus did.
 - Not forcing things upon her like some abusive criminal.
 - But nourishing her and cherishing her as **the Lord did for us**.

³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular **so love his own wife as himself**, and **let the wife see that she respects (reverence) her husband**.

Notice the last line in this reading, woman have reverence for your husbands...in other words **don't take advantage of** this kind of love! **Respect your husband!**

- We will teach more about that later.
- **Men you are responsible** for your wife and your family!

I want to turn now to another scripture....

1 Peter 3:7 - A Word to Husbands - ⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to **the weaker vessel**, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered**.

Peter says that part of the Husbands role is to give Honor to the wife as the weaker vessel.

We have a responsibility to honor our wives.

You must honor your wife physically!

Notice it says weaker vessel...

- Men you need to understand that you are stronger.
- **Don't** use your physical strength to Lord over your wife...**that is sin!**

It is like the right hand and the left hand...one of your hands is weaker than the other, but just because you have a stronger hand, **you don't use** it to beat up on your weaker hand. That would be insane.

But you use both of your hands, the weaker and the stronger, to work together for the benefit of your whole body. One is **just as important** as the other.

The husband and the wife work together for the benefit of their whole family!

Honor your wife on an emotional level!

Men think of Intimacy as something physical, but **women** think of intimacy as something emotional!

She wants you to be into her...to understand her...to know her....to communicate with her...to love her!

- There must be **an emotional connection!**

Honor your wife in conversation.

- **How do you talk to your wife?**
- Do you **abuse her** with your tongue?

The Bible says the tongue is the most unruly and evil part of the body.

James 3:6 - The tongue is like a spark. It is an evil power that dirties the rest of the body and sets a person's entire life on fire with flames that come from hell itself.

What do your kids witness in your conversations?

God is watching.... **Honor her in conversation.**

Honor her in your finances.

1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Jesus again is our greatest example in this!

- Before he ever began His ministry, ***Jesus had a job....*** a profession....He was a carpenter!

Though Jesus did not provide for a wife or family, **He did provide for His bride...the Church.**

- **Jesus said** that He would never leave us nor forsake.
- Jesus said that He would be with us to the end.
- Jesus said that He would never leave us begging for bread.

Jesus was a responsible person. If Jesus had chosen to get married, He would have been able to provide for a family!

A man takes responsibility for his family!

The Bible says that a man is not even saved if he does not provide for his family.

Honor in finances goes beyond provision.

- Take her shopping every so often....***I didn't say let her go shopping...take her shopping...just kidding...we have to trust them with our finances.***

Honor her in raising the kids!

- **The husband** needs to lead in this.
- You are the head...**be the leader God has called you to be.**

You are the head.... you are responsible! - It all boils down to this.

CLOSE:

Honor her Spiritually! - This is what it is all about!

Our text said it is the husband's job to make sure the family is ready to meet Jesus.

Men it is so important to....

- Have devotions with your family.
- Pray with kids. **Pray with your wife!**
- **Pray with them at home and at the altar!**
- **Talk about the Bible with them!**

- **It is your job to** make sure your family gets to church.
- It is your job to get them involved.
- It is your job to get them to youth group.

- **Don't delegate your responsibility** off on the youth pastor!
- Don't delegate it to the Sunday School teacher!

You must lead your family spiritually! You are responsible!

What happens when you don't honor your wife?

1 Peter 3:7 - A Word to Husbands - ⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered**.

When you don't honor your wife.... your prayers are hindered!

- God **doesn't** listen to you anymore!
- God **doesn't** answer you anymore!

Do any of you men wonder why your prayers are not being answered?

- Are you honoring your wife?
- Your wife is a daughter of God!

How would you feel if somebody mistreated your daughter, and ***then asked you for help?*** You would help them all right.... with a knuckle sandwich!

- **How do you think God feels?** God will not answer you!
- **God is not going to help you** unless you repent!