

Biblical Marriage Study

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Study #6

What the Bible says about the husband's duties in marriage.

Last time we focused on the husband's spiritual role in marriage. This lesson will focus on the husband's duties in marriage.

Will someone please read Genesis 2:24?

What does God require a man to do to complete his marriage?

Leave his father and mother

Be united to his wife

What does this reveal about God's intent for

1. the relationship of the couple with each other?
2. the husband's ties to his parents and family?

Is the husband obeying this Scripture if he periodically checks back with his parents

1. for direction and approval?
2. to share about how he is displeased with his wife?
3. to share about his wife and family?

What might the consequences be if the husband and wife live with his or her family?

They may never really establish a home. The parents may dominate one or the other or both of them. A parent might influence one against the other.

Bitterness and resentment may grow between the couple and the parents.

What may happen if parents maintain control through money, gifts and/or promises of inheritance?

These are sometimes used by parents to foster dependency and maintain control over their children. This often works to inhibit development of the "united" relationship God intends.

What is the nature of the healthy relationship that may exist if the couple is truly united?

They should function as a compatible/functioning team, never dominating or overshadowing each other.

How important is the basic commitment to Christ as Lord to being truly "united" as a couple?

The commitment to Christ as Lord is basic to becoming a true Christian. When we accept Christ we must give up self and let Him rule. One can never be truly united to Christ—or a spouse—until he/she takes this important step. This is an extremely important ingredient of joining with our spouse to selflessly become a part of the team in unity.

How important is it for the couple to be committed to meeting each other's needs—to be truly united?

This is the fulfillment of practicing agape love toward God and each other...i.e., to accept and serve each other.

A popular book was titled, *Men are From Mars; Women are From Venus*. Its summary message was that men and women are very different and have difficulty understanding each other. Read 1 Peter 3:7. What does it say about a husband's duty in that difficult situation?

*Live with his wife in an understanding manner
Show her honor*

Discuss ways this can be done despite the differences that may be present.

*Time together, communication, play together
Value and ask her views
Join in her relationships and interests
Personal study*

Someone read Proverbs 5:18. What are some practical things that a husband might do to rejoice in the wife of his youth?

*He wills to look upon his wife as a special part of his life to "rejoice in."
He wills to think positive thoughts about her and imputes to her good intentions toward himself.
He works at doing joyful things for her and with her.*

Someone read Ecclesiastes 9:9. What are the points of this verse?

- 1. Enjoy life with your wife whom you love.*
- 2. Enjoy her all the days of your life.*
- 3. This is man's lot in life.*

How is it possible to truly enjoy life with a wife who is often so different from her husband?

Only by putting into practice the agape kind of love. To choose to accept her like she is. To actively seek to serve her like she is (meet her needs). To choose to exercise a positive attitude toward her. To put her first in priority of life after God.

How could the phrase, "the wife whom you love (agape)" be assumed to be true for the Christian?

To agape one's neighbor is half of the requirement of the greatest commandment of Jesus (Matthew 22:36-40). Our spouse is our closest neighbor in the Christian community. To fail to agape our spouse is to fail at the first step of being a Christian.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 refers to "all the days of this meaningless life." What do you suppose this means?

Vanity implies a self-focused life rather than God-focused or others-focused. Vanity, self-centered, self-seeking...are opposites of that which pleases God.

The expression “this is your lot in life” refers to a poor quality of life compared to the Garden of Eden or the life hereafter where the quality of Eden will be restored. The relationship with his wife is one of the husband’s main opportunities to maximize his obedience to God and his quality of life on earth.

“Your toilsome labor under the sun” refers to the judgment of man in Genesis 3:19 “by the sweat of your brow.” The consequences of that judgment will only be removed at the second coming of Jesus.

How do you feel about the scriptural elements that we have covered in this session?

What do you feel is the most difficult portion of this session’s material?

How do you think one should deal with a scriptural imperative when he feels he is failing at it?