

The Marvelous Institution of Marriage, Part 3

Biblical Husbandry

May 14, 1995

- **Isaiah 54:1-8**

In previous weeks, we have considered the purposes of God in creating the institution of marriage and we have discussed establishing, maintaining and promoting communication within marriage. For the next two weeks, we will consider the duties that God has placed on the husband and on the wife. It is important to know what God expects of each other but not for the primary sake of watching your spouse so that you can nail them when they aren't doing well!

When considering the office of husband biblically, we must go well beyond the common modern usage of the term which limits a husband to being the male partner in a marriage. We will see that the Biblical definition includes the concept of authority, submission, caring, nurturing and self sacrifice.

The things that we will consider today are not simply helpful suggestions on how to have a happy marriage, rather these are the Biblical requirements that God has placed upon husbands. Not doing these things is sin. If you are not doing these things, you are being a poor head and disobedient. If this is the case, you are encouraged to confess this sin, repent and pray for God to instruct you.

While these are not tips and tricks or techniques, doing the following things will produce a wonderful fruitful marriage.

- **A husband is a picture of God and Christ**

Ephesians 5:23

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. (NKJV)

- The very most important aspect of the office of husband is the fact that the earthly office of husband and father is to be a picture of the heavenly Father and Christ. The way that husbands conduct themselves is to be a testimony of God and Christ. Does Christ belittle the Church? Does God neglect His wife? Does Christ get discontent and consider seeking another Church? Obviously the answer is no.

- **A husband is to husband or care for his wife.**

Ephesians 5:28-29

28 So husbands 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. (NKJV)

- Paul give instruction where it is necessary; the men are told to love their wives because they are tempted not to. They are told to *love* their wives as they love themselves because Paul wanted to be sure that the women were loved! We will consider next week the fact that women are told to respect their husbands.

- This isn't simply tolerating your wife, it is the active taking of burdens and supplying comfort. He must provide nourishment, both physically and spiritually, for his wife. She is to manage and care for her household which includes ensuring that the household is fed. Therefore, husbands are expected to provide their wife with all the necessary provisions for her and the entire family.

- **A husband must love his wife sacrificially.**

Ephesians 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (NKJV)

- The authority that a husband has in his family is to be used to serve his wife and family even if it hurts him. This means that all of the things that you like to do are of absolute secondary concern to the needs of your family.

- **A husband is responsible for his wife's beauty.**

Ephesians 5:26-27

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. (NKJV)

- A wife who is well loved, nourished, cherished and instructed well from the Scriptures will be a wife who grows more and more beautiful over time. This thinking flies in the face of our modern thought which says that time and age diminish beauty. Peter confirms that a Godly wife is extremely beautiful because of her Godliness, not outward adornment.

- **A Godly husband should be jealous for his wife**

2 Corinthians 11:2

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (NKJV)

Exodus 34:14

14 '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), (NKJV)

- Traditionally when we think of a jealous husband we conger up images of a woman locked in her home unable to think or move because of her dictatorial husband. Is Christ like that? Does Christ have multiple Churches for whom His interests are split? There is such a thing as Godly jealousy. A husbands should be completely unwilling to share his wife with other men. This trait should be exercised with firmness and humility. Additionally, given that other husbands are to feel the same way, this should greatly affect how you develop relationships with other women.

- **Husbands must be affectionate.**

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does

not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (NKJV)

- In context, the type of affection that Paul is addressing is sexual in nature. Husbands need to work at being compassionate and tender with their wives. They need to deny themselves and pour out affectionate love upon their wife.

- **A husband must deal wisely with his wife.**

1 Peter 3:7

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. (NKJV)

- Generally speaking, you will be stronger than your wife. You are commanded not to exploit that weakness but rather honor it. You are not competing with your wife. Whether it is opening a jar of pickles, or disciplining the children or debating an argument; your wife is not a competitor whom you try to beat. If you win and your wife loses, you lose.

- **A husband must be enraptured with his wife only.**

Proverbs 5:15-23

15 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. 16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. 20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress? 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths. 22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. 23 He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. (NKJV)

- Comparing your wife (in any way) is disobedience. Never encourage your wife or criticize your wife by showing her how wonderful some other wife is. If your wife needs to grow or change some area of her life, you are completely responsible. You should teach her and pray for her. The problem is your problem. Don't allow your favor to be shed upon any other women.

- **A husband is responsible for what his wife says.**

Numbers 30:3-16

- In order to do this you must be talking, teaching and listening regularly with your wife. It is noteworthy that even in your lack of action you are leading your family.