

A Man & His Wife

The most powerful team on the planet is a husband and wife walking in oneness before a Holy God, and God has called you to lead that team!

Key Verse

"21...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their 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 Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Ephesians 5:21-33

(More Key Verses: Genesis 2, Psalm 1, 127-128, Ephesians 4-6:9, Colossians 3:1-25, Titus 2:1-15, 1 Peter 2:12-3:8, 1 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Corinthians 13, James 4)

Resolve: "A firm determination to do something."

❖ **Resolve to Love Her by Leading (Ephesians 5:23-24)**

- Head of the wife:
 - Chief, superiority of rank in authority over another
 - The issue is not who's smarter, stronger, more important... the question is one of God's ordained order.
 - **The problem is the natural tendency reject God's order... for women it is through rebellion and for men it is through passivity.**
 - *"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them."* **Colossians 3:18-19**
- **To be in authority, you must be under authority. Don't be deceived to think that submission is only for woman. Until men submit to God nothing will change in our homes, churches, and nation.**
 - You are responsible for the spiritual development of your wife. **Lead her soul to God!**
- A Servant Leader Is Not
 - becoming a lording leader, making all the decisions himself or selfishly seeking to control others so he can meet his own needs.
 - becoming a passive non-leader, disengaged relationally, giving little or no direction to his wife and family.
- A Servant Leader Is...
 - The servant-leader assumes overall responsibility for the direction of his family, and takes the initiative to serve the needs of his wife and family.
 - The servant-leader assumes responsibility to maximize his wife's gifts and abilities
 - Leaders are meant to help others become the people God created them to be.
 - The servant-leader pours out his life on his wife's behalf so she can be all that God intended.
 - Spiritually/physically/emotionally
 - The servant-leader denies himself and gives his life on behalf of his wife and family.
- Three ways to lead the charge for your family as the servant-leader... take the initiative regarding your...
 - Family's Focus... be the spiritual leader in the home—to pray, to worship at church, and to study God's Word.
 - Family's Finances... see that finances are in order, needs are met and your wife feels financially secure.
 - Family's Forgiveness... 1st to ask for it, resolve conflict, make home place of encouragement and safety.

❖ Resolve to Love Her by Honoring (Ephesians 5:25-27)

- Failure to honor your wife harms your ability to live out your true purpose as a married man
- Heaven seems silent to you because you are not honoring your wife as God intended
 - **1 Peter 3:7**, "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor [value, price, pay] 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."
- Honor, what does it mean?
 - Regard with great respect
 - Fulfill an obligation or keep an agreement
 - Put the praise, put the respect, the prestige, the worth, the value.
- Be Considerate
 - bullying/bossing, ordering around, leaving the heavy lifting for them.. help your helpmeet!
 - *"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for[a] him."* **Genesis 2:18**
 - *A helpmeet, not a servant. To help come alongside in your mission and in your day to day*
- Be Cooperative
 - one flesh, you're partners, you're to work together... A married couple has more than marriage vows to bond them together, they have Christ.
- Be Careful
 - hindered [prevent by breaking up the road, detain unnecessarily, irritate] Prayer are hindered. The Holy Spirit is grieved. Satan seizes his opportunity.
 - Be careful, there may be many reasons why your prayers go unanswered, but often we need go no further than the bedroom, kitchen, or living room to find out why.

❖ Resolve to Love Her by Listening & Learning & Remaining Pure

- Don't try to fix her, just listen
 - The wise husband is quick to listen and slow to speak.
 - *"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."* **James 1:19**
 - Death and Life are in the power of the tongue
 - *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* **Proverbs 18:21**
 - *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* **Ephesians 6:12**
 - *"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* **Matthew 18:18**
 - *"A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."* **Proverbs 15:4**
- Study and learn your wife (and children) to lead her (and them) better.
 - How can a coach lead a team that he does not know?
 - Pay attention to your wife through the seasons of life
 - What are her dreams? Where does she want to go? What are her hopes for the children?
- Love her as you want to be loved, in purity
 - *"In the same way husbands should love their 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 Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body."* **Ephesians 5:29-31**
 - Lack of Love leads to places we would never go in our right mind
 - A crack in the door swings it wide open in time!
 - Every woman wants her husband to be faithful to his wife
 - Your wife needs to know deep down that you are going the distance for her