

# Preparing for Marriage, Part 1

## Roles

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# 1 Laying the Foundation

## 1.1 **Marriage is a** \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>1</sup>.

(Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14)

A \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>2</sup> is an agreement between two parties outlining mutual rights and responsibilities. *Example:* God and Abraham (Genesis 15, 17)

The marriage \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>3</sup> ends only at \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>4</sup>. (Romans 7:1-3)

“Marriage is a total commitment and a total sharing of the total person with another person [of the opposite sex] until death.” – Wayne Mack, *Strengthening Your Marriage*

## 1.2 **God created marriage to alleviate** \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>5</sup>.

(Genesis 2:18)

The opposite of \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>6</sup> is \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>7</sup>.  
(Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6)

## 1.3 **Marriage is a** \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>8</sup> **of** \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>9</sup> **and** \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>10</sup>.

(Ephesians 5:32)

The husband represents \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>11</sup>. (Ephesians 5:23)

- As **head**, he is most **responsible** (Eph 5:23)
- As **savior**, he is most **sacrificial** (Eph 5:23)
- As **lover**, he is most **giving** (Eph 5:25)

The wife represents \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>12</sup>. (Ephesians 5:24)

- **Subject** (Eph 5:22)
- In **everything** (Eph 5:24)
- Cooperating with his **goals**
  - Near-term: sanctification (Eph 5:26)
  - Long-term: holiness (Eph 5:27)
- With **respect** (Eph 5:33)

Divorce is \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>13</sup> and God \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>14</sup> it (Malachi 2:14-16) because it destroys

the \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>15</sup> of God's \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>16</sup>. (Psalm 100:5; 2 Timothy 2:13)

## 2 Roles

### 2.1 Husband

#### 2.1.1 Learner (1 Peter 3:7)

- The world says “Men can’t understand women.” God commands husbands to understand their wives.
- Requires \_\_\_\_\_<sup>17</sup>, the way you would handle something precious but fragile.
- *Warning:* Failure to obey this command will impede your own spiritual development.

#### 2.1.2 Lover (Eph 5:25)

- First and foremost, “to love” means “\_\_\_\_\_”<sup>18</sup> (John 3:16; Galatians 2:20)
- According to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, love has 15 characteristics:

1	6	11
2	7	12
3	8	13
4	9	14
5	10	15

- How to love:
  - \_\_\_\_\_<sup>19</sup> (1 John 4:19)
  - With \_\_\_\_\_<sup>20</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>21</sup> (1 John 3:18)
  - Without \_\_\_\_\_<sup>22</sup> (Colossians 3:19)

#### 2.1.3 Leader

- Not a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>23</sup> but a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>24</sup> (Matthew 20:25-28)
- Intentional or \_\_\_\_\_<sup>25</sup> - oriented (Eph 5:26-27)
- Example of \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_<sup>26</sup> (1 Timothy 4:7-8)
- \_\_\_\_\_<sup>27</sup> (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 1 Timothy 3:2)

## 2.2 Wife

### 2.2.1 Helper

- God created woman especially to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>28</sup> man. (Gen 2:18 – 24)
- “Helper” is a term of \_\_\_\_\_<sup>29</sup> used to describe God as well. (Psalm 30:10)

### 2.2.2 Submission (Ephesians 5:22-24, 1 Peter 3:1-6)

- A wife’s submission is a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>30</sup> of the Church submitting to Christ.
- The perfect example of submission is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>31</sup>. (Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 26:39)
- Submission is a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>32</sup> that applies to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>33</sup> not just wives. (Ephesians 5:21; Romans 13:1-5)

Why is submission such a difficult issue?

1. Theologically, the Fall had two consequences specific to women. First, that childbearing would be painful and, second, that women would want to control their husbands. The word “desire” in Genesis 3:16 is the same word used in Genesis 4:7. It has the connotation of “desire to master”.
2. Some people misunderstand the word submission. It is a military term meaning to “be under the authority of” or “take a subordinate place”. For example, the Centurion in Matthew 8:5-9. It does not mean “is inferior in value.” On the contrary, in Christ, men and women are \_\_\_\_\_<sup>34</sup> in value (Galatians 3:28).

How to be submissive (1 Peter 3:1-6):

- Chaste and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>35</sup> behavior (1 Peter 3:2)
- \_\_\_\_\_<sup>36</sup> and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4)
- Dress \_\_\_\_\_<sup>37</sup> (1 Timothy 2:9-10)
- Be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>38</sup> (1 Timothy 2:11)

### 2.2.3 Respect

- Respect is not something a husband must \_\_\_\_\_<sup>39</sup>.
- Rather it is God's command to the wife (Ephesians 5:33) because He placed the husband in the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>40</sup> of leader of the marriage (Ephesians 5:22-23).

How to show respect:

- \_\_\_\_\_<sup>41</sup> your husband (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- \_\_\_\_\_<sup>42</sup> for your husband (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>43</sup> with your husband (Philippians 4:11).
- Don't be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>44</sup> (Proverbs 21:9, 25:24) but instead \_\_\_\_\_<sup>45</sup> your husband (Ephesians 4:29-32). This includes words, tone of voice and body language (Proverbs 16:21). Verbally give your husband permission to identify disrespectful behavior (1 Timothy 2:11).
- When necessary, correct his sin with \_\_\_\_\_<sup>46</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>47</sup> (Galatians 6:1).

### 3 Homework

- Answer each of the following questions and discuss your answers with each other:
  - Who has most strongly influenced your thinking about marriage?
  - What did your parents teach you about being a husband and wife (both verbally and by example)?
  - In what ways did their example reflect or not reflect God’s instructions for marriage?
- Memorize Ephesians 5:33 – “Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” (ESV)
- Read chapters 5 (understanding marriage) and 6 (understanding roles) of:
  - *The Exemplary Husband* by Stuart Scott
  - *The Excellent Wife* by Martha Peace

Underline (or highlight) the 10 most significant sentences in each chapter.

### 4 End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> covenant  
<sup>2</sup> covenant  
<sup>3</sup> covenant  
<sup>4</sup> death  
<sup>5</sup> loneliness  
<sup>6</sup> loneliness  
<sup>7</sup> one flesh  
<sup>8</sup> picture  
<sup>9</sup> Christ  
<sup>10</sup> the Church  
<sup>11</sup> Christ  
<sup>12</sup> the Church  
<sup>13</sup> treachery  
<sup>14</sup> hates  
<sup>15</sup> picture  
<sup>16</sup> faithfulness  
<sup>17</sup> gentleness  
<sup>18</sup> to serve  
<sup>19</sup> first  
<sup>20</sup> words  
<sup>21</sup> deeds  
<sup>22</sup> bitterness  
<sup>23</sup> lord (master, tyrant)  
<sup>24</sup> servant  
<sup>25</sup> goal  
<sup>26</sup> self-discipline  
<sup>27</sup> teacher

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<sup>28</sup> complete  
<sup>29</sup> honor  
<sup>30</sup> picture  
<sup>31</sup> Christ  
<sup>32</sup> command  
<sup>33</sup> all believers  
<sup>34</sup> equal  
<sup>35</sup> respectful  
<sup>36</sup> gentle  
<sup>37</sup> modestly  
<sup>38</sup> teachable  
<sup>39</sup> earn  
<sup>40</sup> position  
<sup>41</sup> thank  
<sup>42</sup> pray  
<sup>43</sup> content  
<sup>44</sup> contentious (argumentative)  
<sup>45</sup> encourage (or build up)  
<sup>46</sup> gentleness  
<sup>47</sup> humility