

To Do Marriage Circumspectly, As Wise

Ephesians 5:21-33

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I. Marriage is an institution of God

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman (*a compound of womb and man*), because she was taken out of Man.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

II. Jesus taught that marriage should be for a lifetime

Mat 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Mat 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,

Mat 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Mat 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Mat 19:7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

Mat 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

III. Ephesians 5—The Bible's most extensive teachings on marriage

A. Both husband and wife are to be willing to submit to each other

Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

B. Wives—Subjection to your husbands portrays Jesus' church to the world

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said...thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

1Ti 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

1Ti 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Tit 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

(Disclaimer: The Biblical wife and mother is the foundation for family and society)

Pro 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

Pro 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...

Pro 31:12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Pro 31:15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household...

Pro 31:16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

Pro 31:18 ...her candle goeth not out by night.

Pro 31:20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor...her hands to the needy.

Pro 31:21 She is not afraid of the snow...for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.

Pro 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates...

Pro 31:24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Pro 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

Pro 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Pro 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her

Pro 31:29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Pro 31:30 Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Tit 2:4 ...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Tit 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

1Ti 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women...guide the house...

2Ti 1:5 ...the unfeigned faith...in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice...

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures...

C. Husbands—You must make it all work—As Jesus made it work for His bride

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

D. Whether you get the church part or not—You still need to do marriage this way

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

IV. The four “F’s” that the ‘circumspectly wise’ will incorporate in their marriages

A. ‘Friendship’ —Marriage is a covenant of companionship

Mal 2:14 ...yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Son 5:16 ...he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, and this *is* my friend...

Pro 17:17 A friend loveth at all times...

Pro 18:24 A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

B. 'Forgiveness' —The best spouse is still an imperfect sinner

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

C. 'Fidelity' —"Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"

Pro 5:15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern...

Pro 5:18 ...rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

Pro 5:19 ...let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

Pro 5:20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Pro 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

Pro 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...

1Co 7:2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1Co 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

1Co 7:4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

1Co 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

D. 'Faithfulness' —To God and His house—Will sustain you and your house

Ecc 4:9 Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

Ecc 4:10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

Ecc 4:11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*?

Ecc 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*...

