

Lesson 2

CHRISTIAN FAMILY

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the husband and wife relationship
- To discover the Biblical principals of life together
- To discover the changes we must take

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. THE CHRISTIAN HUSBAND
 - A. He is a Spiritual Leader
 - B. He is a Man she can Respect
 - C. A Man who LOVES His Wife
 - D. A man that LIVES with His Wife
 - E. A Man that UNDERSTANDS and KNOWS His Wife
 - F. A Man that HONORS His Wife
 - G. A Man that Nourishes and Cherishes His Wife
 - H. A Man that Communicates Intimately with His Wife
 - I. The Result

- II THE CHRISTIAN WIFE
 - A. She SUBMITS to his leadership
 - B. She RESPECTS his headship
 - C. She ADMIRES her husband
 - D. She gives PRAISE and ENCOURAGEMENT
 - E. She is PRAISED by others
 - F. She has a GENTLE and QUIET spirit
 - G. She has a GRATEFUL spirit
 - H. She RESPONDS appropriately

I. THE CHRISTIAN HUSBAND

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, ACT LIKE MEN, be strong. All that you do, do it in LOVE. **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

Eight basic qualities of a man of God.

A. *He is a Spiritual Leader.*

First and foremost for his family.

If a man does not know how to manage his own household well, how will he take care of the church of God? **1 Timothy 3:4-5**

A man's first ministry is to his wife and then to his children.

1. Example: Noah building an ark **Hebrews 11:7**
 - a) By Faith → Obey **Hebrews 11:8**
 - b) He was warned. **2 Timothy 3:1** **Matthew 24:37**
 - c) Moved with fear **Job 1:1,5** **Proverb 16:6**
 - d) Built **1 Corinthians 3:9**
 - e) Salvation **Luke 11:21-22** **12:35-39**
2. **1 Timothy 3:4** → in the Greek → "stands before"
As a **leader**.
The man stands before, in front of his family
3. **1 Corinthians 11:3** **head** of the family → Position given by God.
4. **Mark 10:43-45** A **servant**
5. **Deuteronomy 6:6-9** A **teacher** **Ephesians 6:4**
Proverb 13:24; 22:6, 15; 23:12; 19:18; 29:15, 17
6. **Proverb 29:18** A man of **vision**

Help your children discover their purpose in life and accomplish their full potential.

B. *He is a MAN she can Respect*

Respect cannot be demanded, it is earned from your wife, children and others.

Titus 1:6-10

1. Loves the Lord → A man of Prayer
2. Loves the Word of God → Bible Study **Psalm 1**
3. Filled with the Holy Spirit **Ephesians 5:18**
4. Led by the Spirit **Galatians 5:18**
5. Fruit of the Spirit in His life **Galatians 5:19-25**
6. Partaker of the divine nature **2 Peter 1:4-11**

C. *A MAN who LOVES his wife*

Ephesians 5:25

LOVE GIVES/SACRIFICE

The Example of Jesus: **Philippians 2:5-8**

1. Jesus established a **Covenant** with his Bride.
The Lord God is a Covenant Making & Keeping God. **Isaiah 54:10**

Eight covenants made by God in the Bible.

Entered into to by:

- a) Agreement of terms or Vows
- b) Shedding of blood. **Genesis 15:9**
- c) Sign of the Covenant. **Genesis 9:12** rainbow,
15:7 the land
- d) Name change. **Genesis 17:5**

- e) Two become One - Joint Heirs - Fight one you fight the other.

Marriage is a Covenant.

Malachi 2:14

Patterned after the "Covenant" Jesus Christ made with his bride the Church

The motivation is love.

The expression:

- i) **Sacrifice** - Laid His Life down. **Ephesians 5:25**
Death to independent living.
- ii) **Loyalty** - "I will never leave you" **Hebrews 13:5**
- iii) **Provision** - "All these things will be added unto you"
- iv) **Protection** - "Nothing shall by any means hurt you"
- v) **Property** - "Joint heirs"

The sexual act is a covenant making act. Adultery defiles the covenant.

2. The **Result** of the Covenant

"And they shall become one flesh"

Genesis 2:21-25

- a) Meaning of One Flesh

Man is a three part being.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Adam & Eve had total unity: spirit - soul - body

They were one

Ephesians 5:28

Naked

Open transparent

No shame

Honest

In agreement

Matthew 18:18-19

- b) Satan recognized the power of this relationship, he set out to destroy it. He wanted their authority.

- (i) **Genesis 3:7** Became self-centered. Hid, covered up from each other. Same today.

- (ii) **Genesis 3:8** Hid From God. He must be in the marriage.
 - (iii) **Genesis 3:12** Failed to recognize who the enemy was. Justified their sin.
 - (iv) **Genesis 4:1** Only the physical union was left.
- c) Jesus Christ came to **redeem & renew** the original standards.

Matthew 19:3-9

Mark 10:2-12

Luke 16:15, 18

Before Redemption:

Divorce permitted when hearts were hard.

Jesus came to change our Hard hearts.

Jeremiah 32:39

Original Plan did not include **separation or divorce**

Jesus gave no excuse for divorce when talking to His disciples.

Mark 10:11-12

"Except for unfaithfulness" Spoken to hard-hearted Pharisees.
It is not an excuse.

But a clarification of Moses' response to the Hard-Hearted people.

Remarriage while former partner lives is an act of adultery

Romans 7:3 Luke 16:18 Mark 10:11-12

1 Corinthians 7:1 Two Options: 1. **Remain Single**
2. **Be Reconciled**

Romans 8:1 *"Now there is no condemnation"*

D. A Husband that "LIVES" with His Wife

1 Peter 3:7

"Live with" / Life Together / Not Apart

She is not a maid for laundry, food, etc.

Luke 4:18 Life Together heals or makes whole

1. **Acceptance** (vs. Rejection) While we were yet sinners . . .
He chose us!
2. **Approval** (vs. Disapproval) Words! tone of voice

Mark 10:21 looking at him Jesus felt love for him.
3. **Affection** (vs. Withdrawal) Song of Solomon

Luke 24:39 touch Me and see
Mark 6:56 as many as touched were being cured
4. **Reconcile** → Restore to a right relationship **Matthew 5:21-24**
5. **Forgiveness** **1 Corinthians 13:5** *“Love does not take into account a wrong suffered.”*

1 Peter 4:8 *“Above all keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”*

Definition: To grant free pardon of any offense or debt; to give up all claims.

Forgiveness is a Command of God.

- a) If we forgive - we are forgiven **Matthew 6:14-15**
- b) Unforgiveness holds us in bondage **Matt 18:23-35**
 - (i) Physical and Mental Illness
 - (ii) Can be the root of demonic strongholds
 - (iii) Affects both parties **John 20:23**
- c) Blocks the promises of God **Matthew 5:23-24**
Mark 11:25

Do not speak to others about the offense **Proverb 17:9**
- d) Repentance of our spouse is not necessary before we can forgive them. Eg. Jesus **Luke 23:34** Stephen **Acts 7:60**
- e) No Limit to the number of times we are to Forgive

- (i) Love keeps no record of wrongs **1 Cor 13:5**
Love covers a multitude of sin **1 Peter 4:8**
- (ii) If spouse is committing repetitive sin:
Forgive as God does **Isaiah 43:25**
Psalm 103:12
- f) Forgiveness is **an act of the will**
Feelings will follow
- g) Need to examine ourselves, not our spouse
 - (i) **Self-righteousness**
Matthew 7:1-5 **Luke 6:37**
Not big & little sin. To God sin is sin.
1 John 2:4; 3:4
 - (ii) **We become like the one we judge**
 - (iii) **Separation from god**
Matthew 6:14-15 **Proverb 28:13**
We Will Not Prosper
 - (iv) **Bitterness**
Hebrews 12:15
Destroy us Affect other people
Harden our heart Give birth to other sin
Crush and kill love
 - (v) **Taking Up An offense of another**
Easy to do
 - (vi) **Forgive ourselves**
 - (vii) **Forgive others**

E. A MAN that UNDERSTANDS and KNOWS his wife

1 Peter 3:7

1. Come to understand her. Show Her by:

- a) Giving **Protection** → to cover. **Ruth 3:9** back her up
- b) **Listen** to her carefully. What she is really saying.
- c) Be **Sensitive** - spirit, soul and body
- d) Know her **strengths** and **weaknesses**
- e) Know her **gifts** and **abilities**
- f) Give her your **ear** and **arms** and not your mouth.

2. "According to Knowledge" Agreement

"Can two walk together except they be agreed?" **Amos 3:3**

- a) Without agreement as husband and wife, there is lack of peace. **James 3:16**
 - i) Opens the door to enemy attack.
 - ii) Keeps us out of God's will.
 - iii) Leads to blaming each other for failures
"I told you so." "You always think you are right."
- b) Agreement God's way.

Matthew 18:19 agreement means harmony

We must agree, not on our will, but on god's will.

He speaks through:

- i) His Word
 - ii) Prayer "*Whatever they shall ask...*" **Matthew 18:19**
Both need to Hear Him **Luke 11:10**
 - iii) The time it takes to come into agreement is far less than the time it takes to unravel a wrong decision.
 - iv) The husband is leader in reaching agreement.
 - v) Determine not to make any major decisions without Agreement.
- c. Wrong ways to reach agreement:

- i) Lack of Strife
 - ii) Expert Opinion
 - iii) Compromise
 - iv) Survival of the Fittest
 - v) Manipulation
 - vi) Logic vs. Emotion
 - vii) Default
 - viii) Open Door / Closed Door
- d) Bringing god's will to pass on earth "*... it will come to pass and be done for them by my Father in Heaven*" **Matthews 18:19**
- i) Waiting to make sure you have God's will allows you to proceed in confidence
 - ii) It enables His will to come to pass on earth.
 - iii) A couple consistently seeking agreement in this manner will begin to focus on the will of God as a way of life.

F. A MAN that "HONORS" his wife

1 Peter 3:7 "Giving Honor"

1. Placed on a Pedestal → Queen
2. Made to feel "number one"

G. A MAN that "Nourishes and Cherishes" his wife

Ephesians 5:28-20

H. A MAN that Communicates intimately with his Wife

Ephesians 5:26 sanctify - to set apart to ones self.

Privileged position.

If we **sow** right words we **reap** intimacy.
If we **sow** wrong words we **reap** separation.

Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:7-9

1. Spiritual law

- a) Like Natural law - will be fulfilled.
- b) Ignorance does not stop it.
- c) We are guaranteed a harvest.
- d) We will reap exactly what we sow.

2. Seed sowing

- a) Seed selection either from God or from satan.

"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

- b) Jesus always sows life. He is Life. **John 14:6**
- c) satan always sows death. **John 10:10**
- d) No seed is neutral.
- e) We are always sowing; therefore we are always reaping.
- f) When we are born again we are directed to choose only Live - Giving Seed. **Romans 8:5**
- g) Old habits cause us to choose seed from the wrong bag.

3. Types of seed we sow

- a) **Words** *"Our children are so rebellious."
"Our children desire to obey God."
"I can not do that"
"I can do all things through Christ ..."*
- b) **Attitudes** Humility vs. Pride Gratitude vs. Bitterness
- c) **Actions** Accepting vs. Rejecting
Freely giving vs. selfishness

4. How we sow

- a) We are always sowing into: Our life, wife, children
 - b) The heart is soil **Jeremiah 4:3-4**
 - c) Types of soil: Rocky or Thorny.
The water of the word and prayer helps soften
Easier to weed
5. Factors of the Harvest
- a) **Time:** Wait - Water - Fertilize with actions - Do not dig up.
 - b) **Multiplication** Will reap in kind
 - i) *"Whatever a man sows that..."*
 - ii) Will reap more than sown
 - iii) Each crop provides seed for future sowing
 - iv) Satan gives us a single seed: we plant it reap even more
 - v) More seed is provided for sowing larger crops
6. Recognizing Crops
- a) Good Crops: Discover what seed was sown and select more.
 - b) Bad Crops: Repentance is like a weed killer. May take time.
1 John 1:9
7. Sowing Good Crops
- a) Choose seed From God's Seed Bag
 - b) Choose your Word's Carefully **Deuteronomy 30:19**
2 Corinthians 9:10
 - c) Prepare the soil

Prayer / Word for others: Intercession & Spiritual Warfare
 - d) Speak forth the word to sow it
Proverb 18:21 **Job 22:28** **Mark 11:23**
 - e) Fertilize with appropriate actions **James 2:26**

Realize the enemy seeks to plant his seeds in your thoughts

2 Corinthians 10:5

Philippians 4:8

8. Avoiding Strife **James 3:16** **Proverb 20:3**
- a) Takes two to have strife Just Refuse
A merry-go-round hard to stop **Proverb 15:1**
- b) More Imp. to avoid than to justify self.
Matthew 23:12
- c) Sow love when the other sows strife
Romans 12:21; Philippians 2:3; Galatians 5:14,15
- d) Your Spouse is not the enemy **Ephesians 6:12**
- e) Avoid by: taking up your cross - You are dead
- f) Call a strife break When needed.
- Do not say: *"You are causing.."*
Tame the tongue **James 3:2-8**
Pray silently for three minutes.
Confess and ask forgiveness.

I. The Result

1 Peter 3:7 A powerful, mountain- moving prayer team

Matthew 18:19 *"If two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven."*

John 13:35 *"By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

II. THE CHRISTIAN WIFE

"Who can find a virtuous wife? for her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trust her; So he will have no lack of gain." **Proverbs 31:10,11**

A. She **SUBMITS** to her husband's leadership

1. Submission

Ephesians 5:22-24 *“Wives submit to your own husband...”*

Submission is an attitude of the heart where we are willing to put the other person’s needs, desires, rights and reputation ahead of our own, in order to honor Christ.

Philippians 2:3-5
1 Peter 3:1-6; 1 Cor 11:3,8,9; 1 Tim 2:11-12; Col 3:17,18,2; Genesis 3:16

- a) Submission is the wife’s responsibility. She is commanded by scripture to make herself submissive. It is a choice she makes even as making Christ Lord. When she willingly, lovingly submits to her husband, her spirit of gentleness and love inspires her husband to treat her gently and to cherish and protect her.
- b) Scripture indicates the wife’s submission is to be a continuous, ongoing life style.
- c) Submission is a spiritual matter, it *“is to be done as unto the Lord,”*
Colossians 3:17.
- d) Submission means that the wife puts all her talents, abilities, resources and energy at her husband’s disposal. The wife yields and uses all of abilities under the management of her husband for the good of her husband and family. She is her husbands teammate striving for the same goal.
- e) Submission must be in her attitudes as well as her actions.
- f) Submission is love in action. It communicates to her husband that he is more valuable and his needs are more important than hers.

GOD’S DIVINE ORDER

1 Corinthians 11:3

“Christ is the head of every man, the head of woman is man and the head of Christ is God.”

B. She RESPECTS his headship

1. **Behavior**

1 Peter 3:1-6

A wife’s conduct and behavior

A wife's behavior should say to her husband that she has **respect** for him as MAN and that she respects the God given position of "Headship" over her

The husband "*observes*" (inspects) her behavior. "*Observe*" means a close look at, absorbed in it, focusing full attention on her behavior. Like watching and instant replay on TV. He watches her behavior repeat itself, to see if her "*walk*" (behavior) matches her "*talk*" (witness)

- a) She must let him know she needs his protection, his covering; spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically. Eve needed Adam to protect her from the serpent - instead she acted independently and relied only upon herself and was deceived.

1 Peter 3:7

1 Timothy 2:14

- b) She should look to her husband as being the basic provider, **Genesis 2:15**. God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

- c) She should show greater respect, honor or loyalty to her husband than to another man; spiritual leader, pastor, teacher, relative or friend.

- d) She should give herself physically to him and not withhold her affection from him. **1 Corinthians 7:3-5**

C. She ADMIRE her husband

1. A wife should **accept** and **admire** her husband as a **leader**

- a) Build up his **confidence** that God is working through him.

- b) Show **loyalty** to him when adversity comes.

- c) **Admire** him when he: **Psalm 15**

- i) Walks uprightly, blameless
- ii) Does good works, righteousness and justice
- iii) Speaks and thinks the truth in his heart -
- iv) Honesty
- v) Will not slander or gossip
- iv) Does not do evil to a neighbor
- v) Stands up for his friends
- vi) Honors Godly men

- vii) Despises evil men and evil
 - viii) Keeps his promises even if it cost him
 - ix) Is just and fair in finances, does not take advantage
 - x) Can not be bribed
 - xi) Changes not even to his own hurt
- d) Begin to seek her husbands **advice** and opinion on decisions
 - e) Make an effort to remember past **requests and desires** to fulfill them.
 - f) Look for opportunities to draw attention to her husband's **positive qualities**
 - g) Gain **appreciation** for her husbands occupation.
 - h) Listen with an **open mind**
 - i) Express **appreciation** daily
 - j) Be **sensitive** and supportive to husbands goals
 - k) Admire him in **nonverbal ways**
 - i) Attentive to his concerns
 - ii) Look attractive as possible
 - iii) Have home tidy and neat
 - iv) Prepare his favorite meals
 - v) Show interest by giving eye contact
 - l) Seek his forgiveness when wronged

D. She gives praise and encouragement

1. A wife should **verbalize** her praise and admiration

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth but what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers"

Ephesians 4:29

- a) **Be specific** in praise for his character, his leadership, provision, his Godliness, his patience, his God given abilities and talents.
- b) Give him **encouragement** to pursue God given goals.

- c) Be verbal in expressing **Gratitude**

People are attracted to anyone who expresses admiration and repelled by one who belittles or puts down.

E. She is PRAISED by others

1. A godly wife should be praised by others
"The hidden person of the heart" demonstrated by her character and good works. **1 Peter 3:4**

".....which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."

1 Timothy 2:10

"Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Proverbs 31:31

- a) She should be praised by her **spiritual leaders** for:
- i) Knowing the needs of the leaders **1 Thess. 5:12,13**
 - ii) Wisdom and discretion **Proverbs 31:26**
 - iii) Love for her husband and children
 - iv) Her submission and obedience to her husband
 - v) Her high morals
 - vi) Home management
- b) Her **children** should praise her. **Proverbs 31:28**
 Godly influence on others **31:10**
 Harmony with her husband **31:11,12**
 Diligence, thriftiness **31:13,14,15**
 Alertness and skill in their needs
 Wisdom and kindness to others **31:26**
- c) Her **neighbors** should praise her for:
 Generosity to the poor and needy **31:20**
 Relieving the afflicted
 Hospitality **1 Timothy 5:10**
- d) The whole **body of Christ** should praise her
 Practical care of the saints **1 Timothy 5:10**
 Faithfulness to the marriage vows **5:9**
 Teaching younger women **Titus 2:4**

Proverbs 12:4

*"a virtuous and worthy wife (earnest and strong in character) is a **crowning joy** to her husband, but she who makes ashamed is as rottenness in his bones."*

F. She has a GENTLE and QUIET spirit

1. "Attitude" - Imperishable beauty **1 Peter 3:4**
 - a) Gentle and quite spirit
 - i) **Imperishable** - can not be erased, passed over, or destroyed.

Self-control, quite elegance and dignity.
Proverbs 31:25
Tranquil and under control, causing no disturbances.

Meekness is yielding rights and expectations to god.
 - ii) **Quiet** spirit - peaceful - conquering fear and worry, free from panic or irritation
 - iii) **Hidden person of the heart** - "holy women" who 'trusted' in God - God is our source for "all" things: happiness, joy, love, approval and acceptance. The result of trusting in God for meeting our needs is 'contentment'

G. She has a GRATEFUL spirit

1. **Grateful spirit**
 - a) Give all expectations to God **Psalm 62:5**
Expectations can destroy gratefulness
Gratefulness is the basis for happiness
Men are attracted to grateful women
 - b) Expect nothing - be grateful for anything and everything and any evidence of her husbands love.
 - c) Learn contentment with Godliness and set her affections on things above. **1 Timothy 6:6-11** **Colossian 3:1,2**

The wife's attitude sets the 'atmosphere' of the home. She is the "hub" of the wheel and if the hub is off balance the 'cart' and everyone in it feels the imbalance.

H. She **RESPONDS** *appropriately*

1. Response - Sarah obeyed Abraham **1 Peter 3:6**

"Obeyed" - to pay close attention to someone - the idea of attending to the needs of another, a positive, helpful response.

Learn to **respond** instead of **react**

Respond - to your husband out a position of **prayer**

- a) Be a wife who **prays and intercedes** for her husband,
Proverbs 31:21
- b) Ask God for **discernment and insight** concerning her husbands needs.
- c) Learn how to **wisely appeal** to God "*for*" her husband
- d) Learn how to appeal "*to*" her husband
2. Esther called a 3 day fasting and prayer before appealing
- a) a wife must be in **right standing** with God herself
- b) a wife must have the **right motives** for appeal
- c) a wife must have a **right attitude** - no unforgiveness
- d) a wife must be honest with God and be willing to make **sacrifices** for her request.
- e) Wait for the **right timing** and be patient