

“Called as Husbands & Wives”

Introduction

For most young adults, marriage remains an important aspiration in life. Using the Bible as a guide for understanding marriage, however, has been rejected by many within the culture because of its patriarchal (men are given a position of *authority*) and complimentary (rather than *egalitarian*) nature. As believers, we recognize that all things have been affected by sin including marriage. At the same time, we affirm that God’s design for marriage is good and that it is intended for the carrying out of His plans and purposes.

Key Point: Apart from the call to believe, the primary vocation for most men and women is that of being _____ and _____.

The Origins of Marriage

Cultural Misconceptions

The general academic consensus is that marriage arose in human history as a way for men to legitimize their children by making women their exclusive property. The concept of romantic love in marriage can be dated to the middle ages, but its modern form arises in the 19th century and has continued to develop over the last two centuries.

Biblical Foundations

According to Genesis 1-2, God’s original design for marriage was intentional for the flourishing of His creation:

- * Marriage was intended for the purpose of companionship (Gen. 2:18)
- * Marriage was intended for the purpose of creating a distinct family unit (Gen. 2:24a)
- * Marriage is intended as the context in which a man and woman would share sexual intimacy (Gen. 2:24b)
- * Marriage was intended as the context in which children would be born and raised (Gen. 1:28a)

Key Point: Although marriage is not an _____ vocation, it is a primary vocation.

Marriage in a Fallen World

1. We are called as husbands and wives for the *glory* of God.

- A marriage is intended as a testimony to the truth that God’s people _____ Him!

Eph. 5:22-24—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.

“submit”—ὑποτάσσω (*hypotassō*)—To arrange under or to be subject; to recognize an authoritative structure or order.

⇒ This is the church’s proper response to the recognition that Christ exercises His authority for her _____ and _____.

- A marriage is a testimony to the truth that God _____ His people!

Eph. 5:25-30—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.

⇒ Christ’s love for the church is shown in the sacrificial giving of Himself for her. He _____ her deepest needs and made perfect provision for her.

Key Point: Our roles as husbands and wives in marriage are to display these truths both in the _____ and to the _____.

Eph. 5:31-33—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.

2. We are called as husbands and wives for our _____.

Instructions to Wives and Husbands — 1 Peter 3:1-7

The Immediate Context

- Because we experience suffering in a fallen world, we must always be reminded of the Gospel, both as an example to us of how to suffer and a reminder that Jesus died and rose again for our salvation (2:21-24). The risen Lord Jesus is our Shepherd-King who will be with us to guide and protect us as we live our lives in a fallen world (2:25).

Instructions to Wives

1 Pet. 3:1-6—¹ Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Observations:

- (1) Peter instructs wives as to the importance being subject to their husbands and what that specifically entails.

“respectful”

“pure”

⇒ This is an incredibly powerful way to _____ a husband for God's glory.

- (2) Instead of cultivating their external beauty as primary, they are to cultivate inner beauty.

⇒ This is the attitude of a wife who recognizes that she lives her life before the _____ of God.

- (3) Peter then tells Christian women to consider Sarah as a realistic example of what it means to entrust yourself to God as you are subject to your husband.

“frightful”

⇒ In a fallen world, it can be a scary thing to trust that God is at work in your life in and through your husband.

Instructions to Husbands

1 Per. 3:7—Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Observations:

- (1) Peter instructs husbands that they are to love their wives by knowing them and honoring them.

“an understanding way”

⇒ Knowing your wife takes active, intentional _____.

“showing honor”

⇒ A husband is to recognize the _____ of the gift that God has given to him by providing for him a wife.

- (2) A husband's relationship with His wife is often indicative of his relationship with the Lord.

Key Point: Our marriage is often the primary area of life where the Lord Jesus is at work _____ and _____ us.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Although marriage is a primary calling for husbands and wives, it is not essential for a _____ life.
2. Our marriage is to stand as a _____ to God's goodness and glory throughout the days of our lives.