



# The Biblical Priorities of Life

“Lord of Eternity,  
Father of mercy,  
Look on my fainting soul.  
Keeper of all the stars,  
Friend of the poorest heart  
Touch me and make me whole.”

—Fernando Ortega, “Lord of Eternity”

## Part 5 — “Our Comforts in Christ” — 9/5/21

### Introduction

By God’s good design, marriage is the most important human relationship that most people have in life. This is why Satan seeks to undermine the institution of marriage and to destroy individual marriages, isolating spouses from one another and tempting them to question both His goodness and the truth of His Word.

**Key Point:** In order that we might honor God in our marriages and be preserved from the attacks of our enemy, God has given to us His \_\_\_\_\_ to instruct us and His \_\_\_\_\_ to enable our obedience to Him.

### God’s Instructions & Provisions for Marriage

#### **Provisions & Instructions in Ephesians 5:22-33**

Observations from the wider context:

1. Believers are exhorted to examine how they are living so that they may be characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

Eph. 5:15-17—<sup>15</sup> *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,* <sup>16</sup> *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* <sup>17</sup> *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

2. Believers are exhorted to be “\_\_\_\_\_” with the Spirit, so as to be continually under His control.

Eph. 5:18—*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.*

3. Believers are exhorted to worship God together in \_\_\_\_\_.

Eph. 5:19-20—<sup>19</sup> *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,* <sup>20</sup> *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

4. Believers are exhorted to recognize the mutual \_\_\_\_\_ that they have in one another’s lives.

Eph. 5:21—*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

#### **Instructions to Wives**

Eph. 5:22-24—<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* <sup>23</sup> *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.* <sup>24</sup> *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

The Command: \_\_\_\_\_ to your own husband!

“submit”—ὑποτάσσω (*hypotassō*)— To arrange under; to subject or submit oneself to.

Definition: Submission involves both a wife’s *attitude* and *will*.

⇒ A wife is to recognize that God has appointed her husband to a place of authority in her life.

⇒ A wife is to recognize God’s calling for her to organize and orient her life around her husband.

The Manner of Obedience: As the \_\_\_\_\_ submits to Christ!

**Key Point:** Biblical submission involves the choice to \_\_\_\_\_ God at His Word and trust the leadership of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Instructions to Husbands**

Eph. 5:25-28—<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* <sup>26</sup> *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* <sup>27</sup> *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.* <sup>28</sup> *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

The Command: \_\_\_\_\_ your wife!

“love”—ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*)— To love or take interest in (used of the active, unconditional love of God—John 3:16).

Definition: A husband’s love for his wife is to be both *active* and *unconditional*.

⇒ A husband is to recognize God’s calling for him to both understand and meet the needs of his wife. ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

⇒ A husband is to recognize that unconditional love for his wife will necessarily involve sacrificial, self-giving.

The Manner of Obedience: As \_\_\_\_\_ loves the church!

**Key Point:** Biblical headship involves a choice to take God at His word and to \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ.

## Provisions & Instructions in 1 Peter 3:1-7

Observations from the wider context:

1. Believers are exhorted to recognize that God has established \_\_\_\_\_, lesser authorities.

1 Pet. 2:13a—*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution...*

2. Living our lives under these lesser authorities will at times involve \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Pet. 2:19—*For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.*

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ must be central in our hearts and minds as we seek to live faithfully under lesser authorities.

1 Pet. 2:24-25—<sup>24</sup>*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.* <sup>25</sup>*For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

## Instructions to Wives

1 Pet. 1:1-4—<sup>1</sup>*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,* <sup>2</sup>*when they see your respectful and pure conduct.* <sup>3</sup>*Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—* <sup>4</sup>*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.*

The Command: Cultivate inner \_\_\_\_\_!

Definition: Inner beauty is a by-product of *spiritual growth*.

⇒ How a wife interacts with her husband is to evidence the work of the Holy Spirit in and through her.

“respectful”

“pure”

⇒ When a wife rightly prioritizes her relationship with Christ, her life will evidence her confidence and trust in Him.

A Realistic Example: \_\_\_\_\_

**Key Point:** A wife can trust that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ her and is at work in her life through her husband!

## Instructions to Husbands

1 Pet. 1:7—*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.*

The Command: \_\_\_\_\_ your wife!

Definition: Understanding involves *seeing* her as God sees her.

⇒ How a husband interacts with his wife is to evidence the work of the Holy Spirit in and through Him.

“an understanding way”

⇒ When a husband rightly prioritizes his relationship with Christ, his life will evidence the love of God.

**Key Point:** A husband can trust that Jesus is his Shepherd who \_\_\_\_\_ him so that he can lovingly care for his wife!

## Concluding Thoughts

• The first priority in a marriage must be each spouse’s active, ongoing relationship with the \_\_\_\_\_!

• The second priority in a marriage must be the spouses’ active, ongoing relationship with \_\_\_\_\_!



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### Introduction

By God’s good design, marriage is the most important human relationship that most people have in life. This is why Satan seeks to undermine the institution of marriage and to destroy individual marriages, isolating spouses from one another and tempting them to question both His goodness and the truth of His Word.

**Key Point:** In order that we might honor God in our marriages and be preserved from the attacks of our enemy, God has given to us His Word to instruct us and His Spirit to enable our obedience to Him.

## God’s Instructions & Provisions for Marriage

### Provisions & Instructions in Ephesians 5:22-33

Observations from the wider context:

1. Believers are exhorted to examine how they are living so that they may be characterized by Wisdom rather than Foolishness.

Eph. 5:15-17—<sup>15</sup> *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,* <sup>16</sup> *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* <sup>17</sup> *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

2. Believers are exhorted to be “Filled” with the Spirit, so as to be continually under His control.

Eph. 5:18—*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

3. Believers are exhorted to worship God together in Community.

Eph. 5:19-20—<sup>19</sup> *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,* <sup>20</sup> *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

4. Believers are exhorted to recognize the mutual Authority that they have in one another’s lives.

Eph. 5:21—*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

### Instructions to Wives

Eph. 5:22-24—<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* <sup>23</sup> *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.* <sup>24</sup> *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

The Command: **Submit** to your own husband!

“submit”—ὕποτάσσω (*hypotassō*)— To arrange under; to subject or submit oneself to.

Definition: Submission involves both a wife’s *attitude* and *will*.

⇒ A wife is to recognize that God has appointed her husband to a place of authority in her life.

⇒ A wife is to recognize God’s calling for her to organize and orient her life around her husband.

The Manner of Obedience: As the Church submits to Christ!

**Key Point:** Biblical submission involves the choice to Take God at His Word and trust the leadership of Christ.

### Instructions to Husbands

Eph. 5:25-28—<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* <sup>26</sup> *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* <sup>27</sup> *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.* <sup>28</sup> *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

The Command: **Love** your wife!

“love”—ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*)— To love or take interest in (used of the active, unconditional love of God—John 3:16).

Definition: A husband’s love for his wife is to be both *active* and *unconditional*.

⇒ A husband is to recognize God’s calling for him to both understand and meet the needs of his wife. ( Leadership )

⇒ A husband is to recognize that unconditional love for his wife will necessarily involve sacrificial, self-giving.

The Manner of Obedience: As **Christ** loves the church!

**Key Point: Biblical headship involves a choice to take God at His word and to Submit to Jesus Christ.**

## Provisions & Instructions in 1 Peter 3:1-7

### Observations from the wider context:

1. Believers are exhorted to recognize that God has established **Legitimate**, lesser authorities.  
*1 Pet. 2:13a—Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution...*
2. Living our lives under these lesser authorities will at times involve **Suffering**.  
*1 Pet. 2:19—For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.*
3. The **Gospel** must be central in our hearts and minds as we seek to live faithfully under lesser authorities.  
*1 Pet. 2:24-25—<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

### Instructions to Wives

*1 Pet. 1:1-4—<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—<sup>4</sup> 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.*

The Command: Cultivate inner **Beauty!**

Definition: Inner beauty is a by-product of *spiritual growth*.

- ⇒ How a wife interacts with her husband is to evidence the work of the Holy Spirit in and through her.  
*“respectful”*
*“pure”*
- ⇒ When a wife rightly prioritizes her relationship with Christ, her life will evidence her confidence and trust in Him.  
 A Realistic Example: **Sarah**

**Key Point: A wife can trust that Jesus is With her and is at work in her life through her husband!**

### Instructions to Husbands

*1 Pet. 1:7—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.*

The Command: **Understand** your wife!

Definition: Understanding involves *seeing* her as God sees her.

- ⇒ How a husband interacts with his wife is to evidence the work of the Holy Spirit in and through Him.  
*“an understanding way”*
- ⇒ When a husband rightly prioritizes his relationship with Christ, his life will evidence the love of God.

**Key Point: A husband can trust that Jesus is his Shepherd who Leads him so that he can lovingly care for his wife!**

## Concluding Thoughts

- The first priority in a marriage must be each spouse’s active, ongoing relationship with the **Lord!**
- The second priority in a marriage must be the spouses’ active, ongoing relationship with **one another!**