Prov. 30:19—*The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and* ***the way of a man with a maid****.*

A Man must be mentally prepared for marriage by the right understanding of the Word of God.

A Man must be Man enough to stay away from marriage and any kind of relationship with a woman until he is ready to do what he understands from the Word of God.

It is not what a man does only, but what he **is**in the sight of God.

God made or Man maid

1. Hear Godly counsel, receive instruction and be wise.

2Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Pr 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

1. Make a good marriage Great,
   1. Faith
   2. Virtue
   3. Knowledge
   4. Temperance
   5. Patience
   6. Godliness
   7. Brotherly kindness
   8. Charity

2Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

1Peter 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.

Roughness and strength go hand in hand; so likewise do beauty and frailty.

* The female has what the man wants-beauty and delicacy.
* The male has what the female wants-courage and strength.

The one is as good in its place as the other: and by these things God has made an equality between the man and the woman.

1Thess. 4:3*—For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

*4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

*5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

*6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.*

1. *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

It is not learning that makes a man holy and just, but a virtuous life makes him pleasing to God.

1. SELECT GODLY Friends

Godly qualities of life are to be sought for in friends, not based upon outward beauty and interesting personality, but excellent character which comes from fearing the Lord.

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

“*a woman that* ***feareth the LORD,*** *she* ***shall be praised***”

Charm is seductive; don’t be charmed by deceitful favor. subjective (deceitful kindness-favor) or objective (vain beauty)

Proverbs 12:4 ¶ A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

1Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

1. The testimony of others regarding the godly character of the one you are to be friends with must be taken into account.

What is her reputation among those whom she lives with and know her best?

Long before Boaz considered Ruth as a prospect for a wife, he had been observing her and knew the testimony she had in the community. He said to her,

Ru 2:11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. 3:11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

This virtuous character is precisely what Abraham’s servant was seeking above all else as he prayed.

Ge 24:12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: 14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

He sought for a believing woman who possessed certain qualities.

The “test” he had requested of God would demonstrate a remarkable character within the girl. For her to fulfill the requirements of that prayer she must be selfless, concerned for others, and hospitable. She must be strong, willing, and diligent. The good of others must fill her mind. Lowly domestic work must not offend her. She must show Kindness, compassion and love even for the stranger.

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Careful consideration is to be taken before any decisions are made.

Pr 19:2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth. 3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

Taking steps without knowing is a sin.

A man’s own foolish choice ruins his life, and his heart rages against the Lord.

Pr 19:14*—House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

The parents’ blessing is to be had in all decisions.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Pr 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Like attracts like. If you are compromising and worldly, you will attract and associate with those type of people. If you want a godly partner, you must be godly yourself.

Be self sacrificial in gentleness and understanding, have these qualities developed in your life now.

“She continued praying before the Lord” [I Sam.1:12].

Prayer is the atmosphere she breathes [I Sam.2:1-10; Lk.1:46-55; 2:37].

She was molded by the hand of God to be a helper for the man. Woman was thus created to assist the man as his companion. Her God-given purpose was to help him to fulfill what the Lord had given him to do.

[1] God is not leading those who are unequally yoked. God only leads in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake

[Ps.23:3]. He will never lead anyone into an unholy union of believer and unbeliever. He forbids this altogether.

[2] If you are a believer it is a lie to say you are in love with an unbeliever. You may be romantically involved and emotionally aroused, but you do not love one another. “This is love that we walk according to His commandments” [2 Jn.6]. True love requires obedience to the Word of God. It is disobedience to seek to marry an unbeliever and therefore cannot be genuine love.

Such romantic “love” is nothing more than sentiment, emotional attachment, or actual lust itself.

Samson saw a good looking woman from among the ungodly Philistines and demanded that his parents obtain her for his wife because “she looks good to me” [Jud.14:3]. The Scriptures tell us that later he “loved a woman in the valley of Sorek” [Jud.16:4]; the infamous and ungodly Delilah who became the snare to his soul. None of these attractions to Samson’s heart was true love; Philistines were the enemies of the Lord that were doomed for destruction under the wrath of God.

Again, listen to Amnon who professed, “I am in love with Tamar” [2 Sam.13:4]; but it was absolutely

nothing more than burning lust. After using and defiling her body in illicit sexual sin, he cast her out as despised and unwanted property [2 Sam.13:15-17].

The unbeliever will not then improve towards godliness, it is you who will decline even further from it.

Do not deceive yourselves: “It is a snare for a man to say rashly, ‘It is holy!’ and after the vows to make

inquiry” [Prov.20:25]. Beloved, do not rush into an unholy union that cannot have the blessing of God upon it.

“It is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he who hastens with his feet sins” [Prov.19:2].

May we contemplate and enter into this life long covenant of marriage with soberness and godly sincerity.

WHEN ARE PEOPLE MARRIED?

Two things make a marriage according to the Word of God:

[1] A culturally recognized ceremony which tells everyone that this man and woman are now husband and wife.

[2] The sexual union of the husband and wife after the ceremony.

[Gen.2:22-24].

[Gen.24:3,4].

[Gen.24:51].

[Gen.24:57,58].

[Gen.24:67].

[Ruth 4:9-11, 13].

THE WAY OF A MAN WITH A MAID

PURITY

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

PURITY & THE WILL OF GOD

Purity of heart and body is to be in the life of every follower of the true God. In every way we are to keep

ourselves pure. “The body is not for sexual sin but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body” [I Cor. 6:13].

Sexual relations are only good and pure when engaged in between a man and woman who are actually married to each other as husband and wife.

“It is God’s will that you be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should

learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

“And that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will

punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction

does not reject man but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit” [I Thess.4:3-8].

WHAT IS IMPURITY?

[1] Desires in the heart for sexual relations defile a person and makes him/her impure. “But I tell you

that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” [Mt.5:28].

[2] Touching a person’s body in any way that arouses lust is immoral and impure. “It is good for a man

not to touch a woman” [I Cor.7:1]. Young men are to treat “younger women as sisters, in all purity” [I Tim.5:2].

This informs us of what type of contact may be appropriate. Surely passionately kissing your own blood-sister is

not proper; neither is it with anyone who is not your wife.

[3] Caressing a woman’s breasts is the same as prostitution. “They became prostitutes in Egypt, engaging

in prostitution from their youth. In that land their breasts were fondled and their virgin bosoms caressed”

[Ezek.23:3].

[4] Lying sexually in shameful naked lust is hated by God. “You degraded your body and you spread

your legs to anyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry” [Ezek.16:25].

[5] Homosexual lust and sexual sin with animals are both unnatural perversions and even more hateful

to God than other kinds of immorality. “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Nor shall you have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself

to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion” [Lev.18:22, 23].

WHAT ENCOURAGES IMPURITY?

[1] Looking at nakedness stirs up evil desires to sin against God. “If a man takes his sister...and sees her

nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a wicked thing and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people”

[Lev.20:17]. Many defile themselves by looking at pictures of naked people in films, magazines, or on the

Internet. This is a great evil that must be stopped if you will become pure.

[2] Immodest dressing leads to lust in the heart and then to sin with the body. Clothing was given by

God to cover the shame of our nakedness [Rev.3:18]. Any clothes we wear that do not cover the shame of our

private parts are evil. Though you may not actually be showing your skin, if the clothing worn is tightly, it focuses

the eye upon your shame and invites people to lust after your body. This is how the Bible says that the prostitutes

dress [Prov.7:10].

[3] Much of the music that is popular today speaks openly about sexual sin. It fills the heart with lustful

desires to commit sin. You should stop listening to its evil words and rhythms.

[4] Wild dancing is nothing more than a lustful way to tell someone that you wish to have sex with them.

The movements of the body in public express what you wish to do with them in private. It is an evil that must be

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forsaken if you will be pure in mind and body.

[5] Being friends with people who practice evil will corrupt you along with them. “Do not be deceived:

Bad company corrupts good morals” [I Cor.15:33].

[6] Evil imaginations and lustful thoughts will lead you into actual sin with your body. “He plans

wickedness upon his bed; he sets himself on a path that is not good; he does not despise evil” [Ps.36:4].

GOD’S JUDGMENT ON IMPURITY

[1] If you reject the Word of God about the evils of sexual sins, God will reject you. He will give you up

to the lustful ways you have chosen which will bring you into destruction. “Therefore God gave them over in the

sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another...God gave

them over to shameful lusts...since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave

them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done” [Rom.1:24, 26, 28].

[2] The Lord expects that we will keep ourselves pure both in body and soul. Sexual relations are meant

for a husband and wife alone and with no one else. God will judge all sexual acts outside of marriage. “Marriage

should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually

immoral” [Heb.13:4].

[3] No sexually impure person will ever enter into the kingdom of God. All will perish in the fires of

Hell. Even if you are in the church or pray in the mosque, you cannot be saved while continuing in sexual sin.

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the

sexually immoral... nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders...will inherit the kingdom of

God” [I Cor.6:9, 10].

[4] In the Old Testament times, all sexually impure people were put to death for their sins; whether

fornicators, adulterers, rapists, or homosexuals [see Lev. 20-10-16; Deut.22:20-27]. In the New Testament times,

all who do not repent of their sexual evils will be cast into everlasting punishment in Hell. “But the...unbelieving,

abominable… and sexually immoral...shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which

is the second death” (Hell) [Rev.21:8].

SELECTING A GODLY SPOUSE

Godly qualities of life are to be sought for in a marriage partner, not based upon outward beauty and

interesting personality, but rather that excellent character which comes from fearing the Lord. “Charm is

deceptive, and beauty disappears, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” [Prov.31:30]. “A good wife is

like a crown for her husband, but a disgraceful wife is like a disease in his bones” [Prov.12:4].

The testimony of others regarding the godly character of the one you are considering must be taken into

account. What is her reputation among those whom she lives with and know her best? Long before Boaz

considered Ruth as a prospect for a wife, he had been observing her and knew the testimony she had in the

community. He said to her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has

been fully reported to me” [Ruth 2:11]. Sometime later after he had also observed her character firsthand he

declared, “All my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence” [Ruth 3:11]. It was only afterwards

that he determined to take her as his wife.

This virtuous character is precisely what Abraham’s servant was seeking above all else as he prayed in

Gen.24:12-14, “O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day…Now let it be that the young

woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give

your camels a drink’ – let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that

You have shown kindness to my master.’”

He was seeking for a believing woman who possessed certain qualities, and physical attractiveness was not

among them. The “test” he had requested of God would demonstrate a remarkable character within the girl. For

her to fulfill the requirements of that prayer she must be selfless, concerned for others, and hospitable. She must

be strong, willing, and diligent. The good of others would need to have filled her mind. Lowly domestic work

must not offend her. Kindness and compassion certainly would possess her soul with love for the stranger and

wearied. In short, that fruit which has its source in God Himself is what is to be desired and evident in a suitable

marriage partner [Gal.5:22,23].

The person chosen to marry must not only be a believer, but a godly obedient follower of the Lord Jesus.

It is what the Bible tells us: “If some people do not obey what we tell you in this letter, have nothing to do with

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them so that they will feel ashamed. But do not treat them as enemies. Warn them as fellow believers” [2

Thess.3:14,15].

So, careful consideration is to be taken in this life-long decision before any proposal is made. “He who

hurries his footsteps, sins. A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord” [Prov.19:2,3].

Do not rely on prophets, dreams, or impulsive desires in deciding whom to marry. These are uncertain

and unstable bases to make this most important decision of human life. God never says that a pastor or even the

person himself must receive a vision from God before a Christian man and woman can marry.

Seek the will and leading of God patiently in prayer in order to find a suitable mate as did Abraham’s

humble servant. “Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord”

[Prov.19:14]. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways

acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight” [Prov.3:5,6].

“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should

hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth” [Lam.3:25-

27].

Whether parents actually choose a husband or wife for their children, or if the children themselves

choose a marriage partner, the parents’ blessing is to be had on the proposed union. “Honor your father and

mother. This is the first commandment that has a promise with it – then everything will be well with you, and

you will have a long life on the earth” [Eph.6:2,3]. “A wise son makes his father happy, but a foolish son

disrespects his mother” [Prov.15:20].

Seek the counsel of the spiritually mature. “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is

he who listens to counsel” [Prov.12:15]. “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your

latter days” [Prov.19:20]. “Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war” [Prov.20:18].

Like attracts like. Should you be compromising and worldly, you will attract and associate with those type

of people. If you want a godly partner, you must be godly yourself. The way to find a suitable godly partner is to

devote yourself to what you will be required to be once you are married.

Since the man is required to be self sacrificial in gentleness and understanding once married, seek to have

these qualities developed in your life presently. Since quiet submission and domestic devotion is to be found in

the godly wife, pursue these characteristics at the moment. As you do, those who have the same aspirations will

be attracted to one another and the Lord will lead if a developing relationship is His will.

A GODLY WOMAN

“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she who shames him is as rottenness in his bones”

[Prov.12:4]. A virtuous woman will possess knowledge of the Lord and His ways, self-control, perseverance,

godliness, brotherly kindness, and love [2 Pet.1:5-7]. She will not dishonor him in the sight of others by her

words or conduct. One way to avoid shaming him is by asking her husband at home rather than speaking in the

assembly [I Cor.14:33-35].

“Wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may

be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior” [I

Pet.3:1,2]. A godly woman will be free from argumentation and contention [Prov.25:24]. Submission to his

leadership is to be evident in her as the church submits to Christ [Eph.5:24]. She will be free from impurity and

will fear her husband for the place that God has granted him as head [Eph.5:33].

“Adornment must not be external…but let it be the hidden person of the heart…a gentle and quiet spirit”

[I Pet.3:3,4]. She does not attract attention to herself by appealing to external beauty. Her precious quality is

meekness with its lack of self-interest and self-assertiveness. She is tranquil within, free from agitation and not

disgruntled.

Godly women are “to love their husbands, to love their children” [Tit.2:4]. Affectionate devotion to

husband and children characterizes the virtuous woman. Bringing up children in the way of the Lord

distinguishes her as a godly woman [I Tim.5:10].

They are to be “workers at home…so that the word of God will not be dishonored” [Tit.2:5]. The home

is her primary realm of influence where she is to maintain orderliness and purposefulness [I Tim.5:14].

“She continued praying before the Lord” [I Sam.1:12]. Prayer is the atmosphere she breathes [I Sam.2:1-

10; Lk.1:46-55; 2:37].

“Older women likewise are…to teach what is good so that they may train the young women to love their

husbands, to love their children” [Tit.2:3,4]. Her great sphere of ministry is with women and children that they

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might be trained up in the practical truths of the Word of God. She does not usurp authority over men or seek

to lead, teach, or be prominent in the gathering of the church [I Tim.2:11-13].

“If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay” [Acts 16:15]. Hospitality

and concern for strangers and their practical needs fills her heart [I Tim.5:10].

“This woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did” [Acts 9:36].

Assisting the poor and unfortunate is her consistent testimony.

“I will make a helper suitable for him” [Gen.2:18]. The primary arena of the Christian woman’s ministry

is to her husband and family. From the beginning she was fashioned for this distinctive purpose. She was

molded by the hand of God to be a helper for the man. Woman was thus created to assist the man as his

companion. Her God-given purpose was to help him to fulfill what the Lord had given him to do. Her

contribution is thus complimentary to his objectives and labors.

Helpers, by definition, are not initiators. They do not take the prominent role. They are not the leaders.

They occupy a support position and lend aid to those they are associated with. Helpers rarely appear in the public

eye, but typically carry on their works behind the scenes.

Her divinely appointed sphere is not public but in private. She is a follower, not the leader. He guides

and directs, she responds. He has prominence, she, retirement. The man influences his world, the woman, her

home.

This order ordained from Eden’s shade establishes the scope of her ministry in the church. She is to

marry, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach [I Tim.5:14]. Her focus is to love

her husband and children as a worker at home by being subject to her husband so that the Word of God will not

be dishonored [Tit.2:3-5].

A GODLY MAN

“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. He died so that He

could give the church to Himself like a bride in all her beauty. In the same way, husbands should love their wives

as they love their own bodies.

“The man who loves his wife loves himself. No one ever hates his own body, but feeds and takes care of

it" [Eph.5:25-29]. The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the Head of the church [Eph.5:23].

The Christian husband is to love his wife by a self-sacrificing giving for her. He is the leader and head of

the home. It is his responsibility to direct his family in the things of God.

“Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord”

[Eph.6:4].

He is to answer his wife’s spiritual questions at home as the Word of God says to. “As is true in all the

churches of God’s people, women should keep quiet in the church meetings. If they want to learn something,

they should ask their own husbands at home” [I Cor. 14:34,35].

In addition to this spiritual provision for his wife and family, he is responsible to feed and clothe them as

well. It is not the wife’s responsibility to feed and clothe the man and children. The man must do this according

to the Word of God.

“If any man does not provide for his own, especially those of his own household, he has denied the faith

and is worse than an unbeliever” [I Tim.5:8].

Even though he is the head and leader, he is to be kind and respectful, not harsh and cruel. The Bible

commands him, “Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them” [Col.3:19]. The wife is not the property of

the man as if she were some kind of goat purchased in the market. The following tells us how the Christian

husband is to treat his wife.

His Christian Wife is:

[1] to be honored, understood, and not mistreated since she is weaker [I Pet.3:7].

[2] to be loved as one’s own body, not treated as property [Eph.5:25,28,31].

[3] a helper, not an animal used as a sexual object for pleasure and to simply provide children [Gen.2:18-

20].

[4] not a slave whose labor profits the man. The man is to provide for her [I Tim.5:8]. Man is not king

[Gen.3:16].

[5] not to be divorced [Mal.2:16] and barrenness is no cause to do so [Lk.1:7; Gen.11:30; 18:10,11; I

Sam.1:5-8]. It may actually be the man who is barren and not the woman [Deut.7:14].

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[6] not under the authority of the extended family or clan. They have no rights over the wife of their

male relation [Gen.2:23,24].

[7] not the one held responsible for the training of the children; the man is [Eph.6:4; Gen.18:19;

Deut.11:18-21; Prov.4:1-4; Ps.78:3-8].

[8] not to be isolated and separate from the man and all that concerns him; no secrets covered up. All is

freely shared [Gen.2:25].

[9] a fellow heir of the grace of life, not of lesser privilege [I Pet.3:7; Gal.3:28].

[10] not to be shared among other wives. Polygamy does not have God’s approval [Gen.2:18-25; Mt.19:4-

6; Deut.17:17].

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor o the wife, as to the weaker

vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” [I Pet.3:7]. If the

man is not kind, gentle, and respectful; if he does not sacrificially give himself for her in genuine love, then

prayers will be hindered. And if prayers are hindered, his belief in God has become an empty form of godliness

only, but without power.

ONENESS

As husband and wife, the man and woman are one. There cannot, however, be two leaders, two heads.

Chaos would result. Yet they must not act independently from one another, each in their own isolated realms, or

living apart in separate houses or villages.

Two become one in heart. As planned and commanded in the Bible, the home is harmonious. Each

partner glorifies God in their appointed areas.

They share all. Nothing is secret between them. There is openness. Their private existence has ended as

the two have become one with nothing hidden. Decisions are discussed between them.

“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed” [Gen.2:25]. They share one purse,

one dwelling, one bed, and are united in their instruction to their children.

Oneness goes far beyond the physical union of man and wife; actually, that union is only the fitting

outward expression of the deep and profound union of purpose, direction, and desire between them in the truth

of Christ [Gen.2:18; Amos 3:3]. When this oneness does not exist, the children grow up in a divided home

amidst a deadly and deceiving mixture of the things of God and those of the world [Neh.13:24].

As created by God, she is his helper; and the man truly needs help. The male as head makes decisions by

analytical ability given by God tempered with the compassionate input of his wife. He is to be firm yet sensitive

through consideration of her concerns. He leads her with understanding and honor while she submits in godly

fear. He provides what is needful for the home [I Tim.5:8] while she processes that for the good and blessing of

all [I Tim.5:14; Prov.31].

UNEQUALLY YOKED

“What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?” [2 Cor.6:14,15]. The

unchallenged answer to each of these questions is, “None.” It is for this reason that a Christian believer is

forbidden to enter into an unequal yoke with one who does not possess the life of Christ.

A donkey is no mate for an ox if one wishes to harness both to perform the will of a master [Deut.22:10].

The one is stubborn and self-willed while the other is patient with determined strength to perform the service of

his owner. There could never be any agreement or harmony between the two. They are of different natures.

The God of heaven forbids His children to marry unbelievers. “You shall not intermarry with them: you

shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. For they will turn

your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and

He will quickly destroy you” [Deut.7:3,4].

“Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals” [I Cor.15:33]. If this is true in the associations

of everyday life, how much more so in that of an unholy marriage union? It was this violation of the Lord’s will

that led to multiplied wickedness in the days of Noah when the sons of God married the daughters of men

[Gen.6:1,2]. Casting aside all distinctions of godliness, they saw that these unbelieving daughters from Cain’s

descendents were beautiful and married whomever they chose. Yes, whomever they chose; that was the problem.

6

Abraham emphatically and solemnly charged his servant to never select a bride for his son from the

unbelieving daughters of Canaan among whom he lived; only one from among his people who were believers

[Gen.24:3,4]. Esau selected two wives from among the Hittite inhabitants of the land whose ungodly ways made

life miserable for his godly parents [Gen.26:34,35]. Listen to Rebekah’s lament, “If Jacob takes a wife of the

daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?” [Gen.27:46].

Such spiritually mixed marriages bring strife and sorrow into the family [Gen.28:8].

No man is wiser than God, not even Solomon. When the Lord’s ways are despised and disobeyed, not

even the greatest among mortals will be immune from the defiling effect of violating the standard of God by

marrying an unbeliever. What God had fearfully warned Israel of came upon Solomon: His foreign wives turned

his heart away to serve other gods, and the Lord’s wrath descended upon him [I Kings 11:1-9].

The chilling reality is that his ungodly wives influenced him, and all of his wisdom had no effect upon

them. Such is the tragic end of all who deceive themselves in thinking that marrying an unbeliever is no small

matter. Even though loved by his God, he sinned greatly in this and suffered terrible consequences while leading

others astray by his ungodly example [Neh.13:23-27].

Harsh are the daily griefs borne by those who willfully chose to disobey God in this matter! It is better to

dwell in a desert or a rooftop corner than with her who shames you by her ungodliness within. Indeed, it is

rottenness to the bones [Prov.12:4; 21:9,19; 25:24].

Brethren, a prudent wife is from the Lord [Prov.19:14]. But only a godly wife is prudent; the others are

among the foolish ones who tear down their houses with their own hands [Prov.14:1].

Those contemplating or having decided to disobey God in this way deceive themselves by three deadly

snares. Their minds have become deluded when attempting to justify this disobedience when they say:

[1] God is leading. This is error indeed. God only leads in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake

[Ps.23:3]. He will never lead anyone into an unholy union of believer and unbeliever. He rather forbids this

altogether.

[2] We are in love. That is simply not true. You may be romantically involved and emotionally aroused,

but you do not love one another. “This is love that we walk according to His commandments” [2 Jn.6]. True love

requires obedience to the Word of God. It is disobedience to seek to marry an unbeliever and therefore cannot

be genuine love.

Such romantic “love” is nothing more than sentiment, emotional attachment, or actual lust itself.

Samson saw a good looking woman from among the ungodly Philistines and demanded that his parents obtain

her for his wife because “she looks good to me” [Jud.14:3]. The Scriptures tell us that later he “loved a woman in

the valley of Sorek” [Jud.16:4]; the infamous and ungodly Delilah who became the snare to his soul. None of

these attractions to Samson’s heart was true love; Philistines were the enemies of the Lord that were doomed for

destruction under the wrath of God.

Again, listen to Amnon who professed, “I am in love with Tamar” [2 Sam.13:4]; but it was absolutely

nothing more than burning lust. After using and defiling her body in illicit sexual sin, he cast her out as despised

and unwanted property [2 Sam.13:15-17].

If this type of “love” as viewed in American films is the basis of a couple’s commitment to one another,

contained within it is its own undoing. For if “love” wanes, paths drift, interests change, dissatisfaction emerges,

or conflicts arise, “love’s” foundation of sand is swept away as the morning mist evaporates before the noonday

heat. This false “love” contains the seeds of its own self-destruction. For if it ever vacillates, all collapses with it.

Commitment, life-long covenant, and unflinching fidelity demanded by godly marriage cannot rest upon such an

unstable foundation.

We are not to make the commitment of a life long covenant based upon “love;” we do not do so with

God. Commitment precedes love. We do not love God to the extent that we decide to commit ourselves to

Him. Rather we enter into a new covenant and thus commence to love Him. Commitment is based upon

objective realities that we have observed and have become convinced of.

The Holy Spirit portrays to our awakened conscience our own wretchedness, the legitimacy of a salvation

obtained through the agonies of the Lord Jesus, the power of resurrection from the dead, and the terrors of

eternal torments. We thus decide to enter the covenant. Thereafter, we learn to love our Redeemer.

How good it would be if we entered marriage thus with the foundation of sober commitment to that

covenant having objectively weighed the requirements and consequences of so doing with all solemnity. Then,

when the waxing and waning of affection, the trials of privations, disappointments, and incompatibility arise, the

foundation is unshaken because it is not comprised of these things deemed to be the constituents of “love.”

7

If “love” leads to the commitment of marriage, the lack of “love” will as surely result in the abandonment

of that pledge. For, if the “foundation” is destroyed, of what value is the superstructure? In this respect, “love”

plants the seed whose fruit is divorce.

[3] He/she will change once we marry. This is the height of deception. First of all, it is you yourself as a

believer who has already changed for the worse by being willing to disobey God in entering the relationship in the

first place! Then you think to rise to godliness thereafter? It will not happen.

The unbeliever will not then improve towards godliness, it is you who will decline even further from it.

Or do you think God Himself is deceived or a liar? He has already told us that the ungodly will exert their

influence to draw away the believer’s heart after other gods, not vice versa.

Do not deceive yourselves: “It is a snare for a man to say rashly, ‘It is holy!’ and after the vows to make

inquiry” [Prov.20:25]. Beloved, do not rush into an unholy union that cannot have the blessing of God upon it.

“It is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he who hastens with his feet sins” [Prov.19:2].

May we contemplate and enter into this life long covenant of marriage with soberness and godly sincerity.

WHEN ARE PEOPLE MARRIED?

Two things make a marriage according to the Word of God:

[1]

A culturally recognized ceremony which tells everyone

that this man and woman are now husband and wife.

[2]

The sexual union of the husband and wife after the ceremony.

This is seen from the very first marriage at the time of creation. This is what the Word of God says: “The

Lord God brought the woman to the man. And the man said, ‘This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my

flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ So a man will leave his father and mother

and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body” [Gen.2:22-24].

There is no one ceremony that God has given to all peoples in all places. The customs and ceremonies in

your culture may differ from others. The important thing is that whatever form the ceremony takes, it

communicates to all that the couple is now properly married and can live together as husband and wife.

In some tribes, the parents and/or families choose husbands or wives for their children. Some of the

marriages in the Bible were done in this way similar to Isaac and Rebekah’s.

Abraham sent his servant to find a bride for his son, Isaac. He said, “Don’t get a wife for my son from

the Canaanite girls who live around here. Instead, go back to my country, to the land of my relatives, and get a

wife for my son Isaac” [Gen.24:3,4].

After the dowry was paid to them, her father and senior brother said, “Rebekah is yours. Take her and

go. Let her marry your master’s son as the Lord has commanded” [Gen.24:51]. They asked the girl if she was

willing to be Isaac’s wife as they had arranged for her. “Rebekah’s brother and mother said, ‘We will call Rebekah

and ask her what she wants to do.’ They called her and asked her, ‘Do you want to go with this man now?’ She

said, ‘Yes, I do’” [Gen.24:57,58].

They traveled back to Abraham’s land. “Then Isaac took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved

her” [Gen.24:67].

Another type of ceremony is like that of Boaz and Ruth’s; a simple public testimony before witnesses.

“Then Boaz said to the elders and to all the people, ‘You are witnesses today...I have acquired Ruth…to be my

wife.’ And all the people…and elders said, ‘We are witnesses.’ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife, and

he went in to her” [Ruth 4:9-11, 13].

Though the ceremonies may vary from country to country and tribe to tribe, each one makes it clear to

everyone that this man and woman are now husband and wife. Each custom shows that they now have the

exclusive right of sexual relations with each other and with no one else.

However, Christians should not and must not include traditional practices in their ceremonies that are

against the Word of God. No traditional idolatrous elements should be allowed or practiced.

A meek spirit means a spirit that is gentle, tender, humble, mild, and considerate.

A spirit that is disciplined and under control at all times. It does not flare up, talk back, act defensively, cut in, rant, rave, or go on and on, talking and talking. Neither does a meek spirit whine or whimper or act persecuted or take on a martyr complex A meek spirit is: gentle, tender, meek, considerate, disciplined, and controlled.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:4).

A quiet spirit means a quiet and peaceful spirit, a spirit that is at peace with God and with itself and that builds peace with its husband. A quiet spirit spreads peace all throughout its home and around to everyone who enters its home.

The meek and quiet spirit is of great value to God. God has His eyes upon the Christian woman who has a meek and quiet spirit: "in the sight of God [they are] of great price.

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still (Psalm 4:4).

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth (Psalm 46:10).

Better is a handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit (Eccles. 4:6).

I Thes. 4:11And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price (1 Peter 3:4).

There is a strong reason why Christian women should focus upon adorning their hearts with a meek and quiet spirit. It was exactly what the holy women of history did, including Sarah who is the spiritual mother of every Christian woman.

This is not a new commandment. Holy women have always subjected themselves to their own husbands. Women who have loved and trusted God have subjected themselves to God and to their own husbands (1 Peter 3:5).

Holy women trusted in God, not in fashionable hairstyles, clothes, and jewelry (1 Peter 3:5).

Holy women, by trusting in God, sought inward beauty, not outward beauty. They adorned themselves with a meek and quiet spirit, not with the worldly concerns and cares of this life (1 Peter 3:5).

Holy women, including Sarah, the spiritual mother of all believers, obeyed their own husbands and acknowledged their leadership in the family (1 Peter 3:6).

Christian women, the holy women of today, are not to live in fear and terror of their husbands, even if they do not obey God's Word. They are to trust God and His care and strength and to do well; that is, they are to adorn their hearts with a meek and quiet spirit.

Christian women who truly trust God and who do well are the true daughters of Sarah. What is the significance of this? Sarah is the first great woman of belief. She stands as the spiritual mother of all women who believe. Every Christian woman who truly believes and adorns her heart with a quiet and meek spirit is a daughter of Sarah, a true daughter of God.

**T**he Christian wife must win her husband to the Lord by subjecting herself to him. What is meant by subjection? It means...

•  that she lives a chaste or pure life.

•  that she lives in the fear and reverence of God.

•  that she does not dress and behave to attract attention.

•  that she adorns her heart with a meek and quiet spirit.