



Relationships

## GOD'S PATTERN FOR MARRIAGE

### AT A GLANCE

#### BIG IDEA

Marriage is not just a social contract but a divine institution modeled after Christ's relationship with the church. Understanding and following God's pattern for marriage is crucial for achieving the intended harmony and purpose. This study explores the responsibilities of spouses, the importance of developing one another, and the non-negotiable stance against violence.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Ephesians 5:31

Romans 5:8

1 Peter 3:1-2

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- Marriage reflects the union between Christ and the church.
- Husbands are called to nurture and develop their wives.
- Wives can influence their unbelieving husbands through conduct.
- Violence in marriage is unacceptable and must be addressed.
- Following God's pattern is essential for a successful marriage.

## INTRODUCTION

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Marriage is a sacred covenant designed to reflect the profound relationship between Christ and the church. This study delves into the biblical principles that define the roles and responsibilities within marriage, emphasizing the importance of love, respect, and mutual development.

## SCRIPTURE READING

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- **Ephesians 5:31** — Illustrates the union of marriage as a reflection of Christ and the church.
- **Romans 5:8** — Demonstrates Christ's sacrificial love as a model for marital love.
- **1 Peter 3:1-2** — Offers guidance for wives on influencing their husbands through behavior.

## KEY POINTS

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1. **MARRIAGE AS A DIVINE MODEL** — Marriage is intended to mirror the relationship between Christ and the church, emphasizing unity and sacrificial love. Just as Christ loves the church, spouses are called to love each ...

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

**1. MARRIAGE AS A DIVINE MODEL (CONT.)** — other selflessly. This divine model sets the standard for commitment and unity in marriage.

- Reflect on how your marriage mirrors the relationship between Christ and the church.
- Discuss with your spouse ways to strengthen your unity.
- Pray together for guidance in following God's pattern for marriage.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:31

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

- 2. HUSBAND'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT** — Husbands are encouraged to actively nurture and develop their wives' gifts and potential, reflecting Christ's nurturing of the church. This involves providing support, encouragement, and love that fosters growth and fulfillment.
- Identify your wife's strengths and encourage her in those areas.
  - Create an environment where your wife feels valued and supported.
  - Pray for wisdom to lead and nurture your family as Christ does the church.

Scripture: **Romans 5:8**

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

**3. CONDUCT AND INFLUENCE** — Wives have the unique ability to influence their unbelieving husbands through respectful and pure conduct. This biblical principle highlights the power of behavior and character in impacting others positively.

- Examine your conduct and its impact on your spouse.
- Seek to demonstrate respect and purity in your interactions.
- Pray for strength and patience in influencing your spouse positively.

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:1-2

**4. ADDRESSING VIOLENCE** — The church stands firmly against violence in marriage, advocating for safety and respect. Violence undermines the sanctity of marriage and must be addressed with seriousness and urgency.

- Commit to resolving conflicts peacefully and respectfully.
- Seek help if violence is present in your marriage.
- Support others in your community who may be experiencing violence.

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

### **OBSERVATION**

- What does Ephesians 5:31 say about the purpose of marriage?
- How does Romans 5:8 illustrate Christ's love for the church?
- What guidance does 1 Peter 3:1-2 offer to wives?

### **INTERPRETATION**

- How can marriage reflect the relationship between Christ and the church?
- In what ways can husbands nurture their wives according to biblical principles?
- Why is conduct important in influencing an unbelieving spouse?

## APPLICATION

- How can you apply the principle of sacrificial love in your marriage?
- What steps can you take to nurture your spouse's potential?
- How can you address and prevent violence in your marriage or community?

## PRAYER FOCUS

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- Pray for marriages to reflect the unity and love of Christ and the church.
- Ask for wisdom and strength for spouses to nurture and support each other.
- Seek guidance in addressing and preventing violence in marriages.

## NEXT STEP

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Reflect on how your marriage can better mirror the relationship between Christ and the church, and discuss with your spouse ways to strengthen your unity.

## **CONCLUSION**

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Understanding and following God's pattern for marriage is essential for achieving the harmony and purpose intended by this divine institution. By reflecting Christ's love and nurturing one another, spouses can build a strong, respectful, and loving relationship that honors God.