

Godly Husbands

(This series of lessons was compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources and many teachers over a period of thirty years. The compiler is very grateful for their wisdom.)

Introduction: 1Sam. 4:9 "Be strong and conduct yourselves like men..."

- A. What Jeremiah said of his day is also true of our's, "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land" - Jer. 5:30
 - 1. Let me give you some astonishing and horrible news
 - a. There are over 1,000,000 divorces per year in America.
 - b. It has been said that only one out of six marriages today work in the sense of the two enjoying being together.
 - c. It has been documented that 70% of teenage marriages end in divorce within five years.
 - d. The eventual divorce rate of teenage marriages is 85%!
 - 2. God hates divorce - Mal. 2:16
- B. The main reason there are so many divorces in our world today is because husbands and wives do not know how or will not fulfill their God-given duties in the marriage relationship.
 - 1. Do you know what your duty to your spouse is, your God-given duty?

I. HUSBANDS MUST CLEAVE TO THEIR WIVES

- A. The institution of marriage first began in the garden of Eden - Gen. 2:18-24
- B. What does it mean to "cleave" to a wife?
 - 1. "Cleave" comes from the Hebrew word dawbak (dabaq) meaning "to impinge, cling or adhere; figuratively, to catch by pursuit; abide fast, cleave fast together, follow close or hard after, be joined together, keep fast, overtake, pursue hard, stick to, take" (Strongs 01692)
 - 2. Jesus quotes Moses (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5) and uses the Greek word kallaw which means to join together, to glue to cement together
 - 3. For a husband to "cleave" to his wife, he must strongly desire and work diligently that the bond be maintained.
 - a. Too many today go into their marriages with the attitude that if their marriage doesn't work out they can always get a divorce.
 - b. But this is contrary to God's plan (Matt. 5:32; Rom. 7:2).
 - c. Do not our marriage vows say, "Til death do us part"?
 - 4. The Bible teaches that every marriage can work and be beautiful - IF each partner in the marriage will hold true to and apply biblical principles to their marriages.
 - a. It has long been said that marriage is a two way street always under construction.
 - 5. Adam and Eve were literally one flesh for Eve was taken from the rib of Adam. In marriage, we are to be one flesh with our spouse. We can't become one flesh with our spouse simply by getting married, but by cleaving to our marriage partner.
 - a. Rom. 7:1-3

- b. This is the first principle that must be incorporated in marriage, that is, a mind to stay together for life.

II. HUSBANDS MUST LOVE THEIR WIVES

A. Eph. 5:25, 28

B. One out of every three marriages among Christians are breaking down. Why?

1. One reason: husbands are failing to practice Ephesians 5:25
2. Most marriages start out with the husband and wife loving each other, but this is only an affectionate love, a love that comes through physical attraction.
 - a. This is not the type of love that makes marriages strong.
 - b. Matt. 5:43-48 defines this kind of love. There Jesus states that human love must be patterned after the characteristics of God's love, as Paul said in Eph. 5:25
 - c. It doesn't matter how another treats you, you always seek their highest good. This is especially true in marriage
 - d. Love is seen in action, and not mere words 1John 3:16-18
 - e. You can tell your wife all day long that you love her, but until you show her that you love her, your words will do little to strengthen your marriage.
 - f. Even if she treats you wrong, you treat her right - every time!

III. HUSBANDS MUST DWELL WITH THEIR WIVES ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE

A. 1Peter 3:7

1. All the instructions the Bible gives concerning how to make marriages work are vitally important, and should be heeded carefully. But this one seems to be very often overlooked.
2. The word "dwell" is a term translated from the Greek word sunoikeo, and is used to denote domestic association
3. To dwell with one's wife "according to knowledge" means that husbands are to know, to understand, to comprehend the nature, the duty, the longevity and honorableness of his wife and their marital relationship.
4. It is a very simple principle to realize that a person cannot do that which he does not know
 - a. If one does not know the true nature of marriage, he cannot fully appreciate it - Gen. 2:23-24
 - b. If one does not know his duties in marriage, he cannot fulfill his obligations - Eph. 5:25
 - c. If one does not understand the longevity of marriage, he may not seek to keep his marriage intact - Matt. 19:6
 - d. If one does not comprehend the honorableness of marriage, he will not treat it with honor - Heb. 13:4
5. Also, involved in the meaning of dwell with your wives according to knowledge is to know your wife.

- a. Husbands must take the time and make the effort to know what their wives' likes and dislikes, what makes them happy and sad, and what makes them secure and insecure.
- b. It has truthfully been said that the more we know God, the greater love for God we will have, and the greater allegiance and obedience we will yield to Him.
- c. The same is true of our wives. The more we know our wives and our duties to them, the more we will love our wives and desire to serve and provide for them.

IV. HUSBANDS MUST HONOR THEIR WIVES AS THE WEAKER VESSEL

A. 1Peter 3:7

- 1. The instruction to give honor unto the woman was especially needed in Peter's day, for in the world outside of Christ, women were viewed with little respect and treated as property.
- 2. Treating wives with respect was a Christian principle that first century Christians were commanded to obey. The same holds true for us today
- 3. John 14:15; James 2:10

B. Husbands are to be sympathetic to the desires, and feelings of their wives.

- 1. Husbands have a higher duty than just providing for their wives' physical needs, they must respect, admire, and exalt their wives.
- 2. No rational person would want to hurt someone they honor.

C. Reason husbands must honor their wives is that they are the weaker vessel

- 1. This does not mean that women are inferior to men morally, intellectually, or with regard to their rights.
- 2. Nor is it talking primarily about something so trivial and variable as size and body strength
- 3. It does mean that in order to suit them for their role as nurturers of small children, they are emotionally more tender and vulnerable; therefore, they should be treated with admiring and compassionate care.
- 4. The husband who fails to do this jeopardizes his soul

V. HUSBANDS MUST RENDER PHYSICAL AFFECTION

A. 1Cor. 7:1-5

- 1. Some men cannot accomplish this for legitimate reasons: spiritual purposes (fasting and prayer) or ill health.
- 2. Other men fail in this for Divinely unacceptable reasons:
 - a. A lack of affection and love (shame on you)
 - 1) Men you are commanded to love your wives and all that implies, including physical affection
 - 2) God created physical desire in men and women not merely to aid in procreation, but to draw the couple closer in the relationship of being one flesh
 - b. To inflict hardship or punishment over a disagreement
 - 1) Shame on you for such shallow, petty thinking. You don't deserve a wife who desires your physical attention

- 2) Getting even is a sin in the bedroom, too
- c. To control, manipulate, or black mail your wife into something
 - 1) Shame on you for using love and physical affection as a means of getting your way
 - 2) It is still wrong, even if you think you are doing it for a good purpose
- d. To avoid having children
 - 1) Shame on you. God said multiple times in His word that children are a blessing
 - 2) It is an exhibition of selfishness when a man doesn't want children to divert any of his wife's attention away from him
 - 3) God designed your wife to have children and to be fulfilled in the process - 1Tim. 2:15, 5:14
 - 4) If your mate desires children, and you are selfishly refusing because you don't want to be bothered, then grow up!

Conclusion: Husbands: learn, love and live with your wives

- A. Make it a practice to give total attention when communicating.
- B. Do not interrupt or jump to conclusions about what the other is saying
- C. Acknowledge that you understand even though you may not agree.
- D. Repeat her feelings and thoughts back if you are uncertain what she means
- E. Don't make disagreement into disapproval
- F. Don't heap blame on the other; "you always" "you never"
- G. Never repeat to others what she shares with you in confidence.
- H. Silence is negative feedback
- I. Do not bring up past arguments or attack her family
- J. Give each other focused attention by turning off the TV or getting away from the children
- K. Share to her feelings without offering criticism or ridicule
- L. Park your ego; don't be afraid to show her you care
- M. Be completely honest; love demands it, God commands it.
- N. Apply BEST principle: Bless, Edify, Share, Touch