

Marriage, Husband/Wife Relationships

1. Marriage was instituted and designed by God.

Gen. 2:18–25.

2. At the heart of marriage is companionship and intimacy, which both husband and wife must promote.

Gen. 2:18, 24. And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

3. The relationship between husband and wife is similar to that between Christ and the church.

Eph. 5:23. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Eph. 5:31–32. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

4. The husband is the head of the wife and the home.

Eph. 5:23. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

5. Husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church.

Eph. 5:25. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

6. Husbands must exercise headship in love.

Eph. 5:25–33.

Col. 3:19. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

7. Husbands must treat their wives with respect and as equal heirs of God’s gifts.

1 Peter 3:7. Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

8. The husband must manage his own home well; he is the manager.

1 Tim. 3:4. One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence

9. The husband and father is primarily responsible for training the children.

Eph. 6:4. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

See also TRAINING CHILDREN.

10. God’s design for the wife is that of a helper suitable for man.

Gen. 2:18. And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

11. Both husband and wife must seek to reflect the relationship between Christ and his church.

Eph. 5:25, 32.

12. A wife is to submit to her husband, as the church submits to Christ.

Eph. 5:22–24. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Col. 3:18. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

1 Peter 3:1–2. Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

13. A woman is not to exercise authority over a man.

1 Tim. 2:11–14. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

14. The Bible gives a description of a wife of noble character, who uses her gifts faithfully.

Prov. 31:10–31.

Prov. 31:10–11. Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

15. The fear of the Lord is more important than physical beauty.

Prov. 31:30. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

1 Peter 3:3–4. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

16. Husbands and wives must not fight and destroy each other.

Gal. 5:15. But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

17. Both husband and wife must quickly pursue peace when trouble arises.

Matt. 5:23–24. “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Rom. 12:18. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

18. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Matt. 12:25. But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

19. Keep loving those who are wayward.

2 Sam. 18:33. (*David never lost his love for his son Absalom, who tried to kill him. When he learned of his death, he wept.*) Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: “O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”

Mixed Marriages

1. Don't be yoked with an unbeliever.

2 Cor. 6:14–16. Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For 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? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

2. **Two cannot walk together unless they are agreed.**
Amos 3:3. Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?
3. **There were sad results of mixed marriages prior to the flood.**
Gen. 6:1–4.
4. **God’s people are warned against mixed marriages; unbelievers will lead them to sin.**
Exod. 34:16. “And you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.”
5. **God will reveal his anger if and when his people marry unbelievers.**
Josh. 23:12–13. “Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.”
6. **In Ezra’s time many did intermarry. This led to much sin, and Ezra confessed the guilt of God’s people.**
Ezra 9:1–15.
Ezra 9:2. “For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass.”
7. **Men of Judah intermarried and were led into deep sin. God was angry with them.**
Neh. 13:23–27. In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people. So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, “You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves. Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin. Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?”¹

¹ John G. Krus, *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1994).