

Ephesians 5:28-33 Read.

Today we will look at the great calling of the Christian Husband.

What is the Biblical pattern for marriage? It goes right back to the beginning in Genesis.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. Right here you see the Fathers care for man, "It is not good that he should continue thus alone." One was given to Adam he could talk to, that he had fellowship with, someone on his level he could exchange ideas with, someone to Love and to be loved by someone. No single animal could provide this fellowship. Nor even all the animals together. God gave a compatible, (suitable, adapted, complementary) Help meet. Bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. Not exactly the same, but of the same kind.

King Solomon says the same in another way.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Alas to Him who is alone. How lonely, and empty life becomes, A paradise becomes a desert. The best house, becomes a dungeon, But God said, "*I will make a help-meet for him;*" one of the same nature and the same rank of beings; a help that would be *near to Him*, one to live together with him, and to be always at hand for each other; one that they would look upon with pleasure and delight. **A Godly marriage is a pleasure and a delight.**

Remember the scripture, *Proverbs 18:22* Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD. he has found a *good thing*, a jewel of great value, a rare jewel; he has found that which will not only contribute more than any thing to his comfort in this life, but will forward, and encourage him in the way to heaven. Oh, how we should thank God for favoring us with a good wife.

Adam was without sin before the fall, yet it was the Lord Who said, it is not good. Everything else was good when God created it. But here is one thing not yet good. It is not good that man should be alone. We cannot say we don't need one another for we are members one of another, and *the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee.*

No there is a blessedness in receiving help from others and also a great blessedness in giving help to others. **That is how we were made.** Great satisfaction comes in life when we are able to help others. Yet we remember it is God who is our helper and who is truly able to supply all of our help and all of our helpers are from Him. **So our helper, our wife is a precious and valuable gift from Him. Adam walked with God** -Those who walk close to God, those that find their satisfaction in God are in the best position to receive the good things God has for them in this

life. He that has a good God, a good heart, and a good wife, has truly found favor with the Living God.

Our wife So precious. Eve was made after Adam, and out of Adam. She was crowned as the glory of Man. Adam was made of the dust of the earth Eve double refined, and further removed from the earth. If man is the head, she is the crown, a crown to her husband, the crown of the visible creation. **This is who God has given us to be our helper.** The marriage of Adam and Eve the first marriage, a perfect marriage, You have heard the saying, a marriage made in heaven, He made them for each other. It was done by His work and His power. Yet Consider He made your wife just for you. So a marriage made in heaven is a marriage where husband and wife are joined together.

Let's Consider this point joined together What does it mean?. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother goes all the way back to Genesis, **and shall be joined shall cleave unto his wife,** and **they two shall be one flesh, joined.** as if they were one person, one soul, one body.

Are husbands and wives to be joined? Yes the bible says they are, **but how are we Joined?**

These points I'm going to mention will be well known, they will ring true with us, I think we will all agree and know this is Gods best for a marriage.

Also, It's a good examination to see how we fair in keeping and living these points. It's a sort of a test to how Godly our marriage is.

Are we married? Do we honour marriage? It stands to reason the first in our list is, **joined in love.** It is Gods design that we are perfectly joined in love.

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **love your wives,** even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.*

The Husbands Love for his wife's will be made up of strong and warm affection for them; in a real delight and pleasure in them; in showing respect, and doing honour to them; in seeking their contentment, satisfaction, and pleasure; in a quiet, constant, and comfortable dwelling with them; in providing all things necessary for them; in protecting them from all injuries and abuses; in covering up their faults, and infirmities; in considering the best opinion of them and their actions; and in labouring to promote their spiritual good and welfare. **A difficult list...** but if you love your wife, you will do all these. But not difficult if you do love, only difficult if you do not love.

The Husbands love should be whole-hearted and sincere, it should be shown in private, as well as in public; it should be more than that which we show to neighbours, and friends or even to parents, and should be equal to how a man loves his own Body. **EVEN AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH. CHRIST GAVE HIS ALL.** This is the calling of every husband that wants to obey God. To love his wife In the same way Christ Loved the Church his bride...

Here we see just how much Christ loved His bride. for his bride, he left Heaven's glory. For his bride. He was willing to lie in Bethlehem's manger, He was willing to work as a carpenter in Nazareth workshop. For his bride. He suffered years of abuse by a wicked and adulterous generation. For his bride. He had no place where to lay his head. For his bride he headed himself over to the Jewish leaders. For his bride, he was stripped naked. for his bride, those cruel nails were driven through his hands and feet, for his bride. He was lifted up on that terrible cross between heaven and earth. for his bride. He gasped for breath and cried out, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me. for his bride, he cried out It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. **Men, This is what it means to Love your wife as Christ loved the Church.**

ABSOLUTE LOVE. Do you know some husbands say it's hard to love my wife she makes so many mistakes. Christ Jesus shows us **how absolute our love is to be.** He loved us when we were still sinners. Lost and unrepentant. Yet He loved us. The Lord didn't wait for us to be perfect in order to love us.

We are to love our wives even although they are not perfect. Some say, or the world says, marriage should be 50%-50%. We each give 50%. No Marriage is 100% we each give 100%. That's when a marriage is precious and becomes so beautiful. **Don't forget, we love our wives best when we love them under God.**

Do you only love your wife when she looks, or acts perfect. I read a very moving Story of how much a man loved His wife. This Husband took a Minister to see his wife in intensive care. As they walked in he was met with a terrible sight. The dear woman was a terrible yellow colour, All the pipes were connected to her body. The machines were counting her heartbeat. Such a terrible sight. The situation was very very bad. But the Husband looked at His wife and said, pastor, isn't she beautiful, Isn't she beautiful, I Love her so much. **He loved her just as she was,** and that's what we are to do. That's the example Christ Gave us.

He knows our secret sins, He knows our thoughts He sees our spots and wrinkles He sees all our ugly selfish behaviour our pride. But He loves us. He never gives up on us. He will present us faultless to the Father.

Loyalty are we joined in loyalty. Absolutely loyal to each other. Loyalty concerning the marriage bed goes without exception. So, we won't focus upon that. But be Loyal to one another.

The loyalty should even extend to emotional loyalty. You don't make sarcastic or cruel or undermining remarks about each other. You don't belittle your partner; you don't make fun of their weaknesses or their mistakes. When we love each other, we wouldn't betray each other in that way. You are one, the two shall become one flesh.

I've never heard anyone saying you know my hand is so foolish. I just can't believe it... No our hand is part of us and one with us, if the hand suffers the whole body suffers. Just the same as a husband and wife are one flesh. When you love her you are loving yourself. When you hurt her you are hurting yourself.

JOINED IN CARE. Do you care, care for each other. The husband doesn't leave His wife to just do everything. Leave her to bear all the burdens alone. He cares and shares and there's mutual care, and supportiveness going on all the time, understanding of each other.

He loves her sacrificially. Paul says Husbands Love your wife as you love your own body. Who doesn't keep His body fed and keep it warm? We are to Love our wives in this way. Providing, Nurturing, and appreciating.

Providing is so much more than just finically. Yet provision includes money, Who would not buy some bread to eat if they were hungry? Or a warm blanket if they were cold at night. We care for ourselves. We must care for our wives in the same way. Never the attitude, what is mine is mine. Rather we are one. We are Heirs together. You love one another and trust one another and there are no secrets financially. What is yours is hers and what is hers is yours.

Provision includes talking to our wife. Spending time with her. Did you know the greatest breakdowns in marriage happen when husband and wife stop talking. A good marriage is only possible when you talk.

Imagine saying that you have a good relationship with the Lord, yet you never pray or spend time with Him. No your relationship with the Lord would be lacking and weak. Marriage becomes dysfunctional when there is not talking, no fellowship.

Provision includes Nurturing Her. She needs nurture, not anger and bitterness. We nurture our own bodies. We cut our hair we wash our bodies If we neglected this nurture, things would rapidly go downhill. If you love your wife as our own body you would nurture her in a loving way. You would not be harsh and bitter.

1 Peter 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.

Understand your wife is strong, but the weaker vessel. For example, her feelings can be hurt much easier than yours can. The good Husband is considerate, and respectful. I read this little paragraph that I thought was good advice.

The husband is the head, not the fist. As the head you have eyes to admire your wife and see her needs. You have ears to listen to her lips to compliment her and kiss her, and a brain to

understand her and think about what matters to her. So if you're the head act like it don't act like a fist. What wise advice that is.

In provision we must not neglect Appreciation I owe so much to my wife, I owe so much to my husband. He has done so many things for me. She has done so many things for me, made so many sacrifices, endured many difficulties. I am indebted. **Husband tell your wife every day that you appreciate her.** The greater the diversity of compliments the better.

She is God's gift to you. Think how you prayed for her, think how thankful you were when you met her. But also think, how when you mistreat her how it grieves the Lord.

Don't be harsh to her even in the tone of your words. Don't speak harsh words to her. And never harsh in a physical way.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Our wives need to hear our praise not our bitterness

In a good healthy marriage. The common goal is that we help each other, to be a stronger Christians, to be more Godly, to be more faithful. But God singles out men, saying, this is your purpose with your wife, not just to have her serving you, not to have a slave beside you. But someone you nurture and cherish saying my goal is to help my wife, be a better person, be more holy. My goal is to be a good influence on her to allow her to flourish within her own personality. I love her Purposefully. When She Knows I care and she feels safe in my presence. My goal is to make her feel loved at all times. Even when she is struggling.

If I give Evil for evil, I souldnt be surprised at what I will get. We can destroy one another or we can build one another up. No Husbands our duty is to Love your wives. We are Joined with them.

Then Lastly in closing *Ephesians 5:28-29 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. [29] For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

These verses give a very practical level here. Men, I'll tell you how to love your wife. **You love your wife sacrificially.** The same way you love your body. If you get something in your eye, you can't rest, you must get it out. You would never say, now my eye tomorrow I'll discuss it with you. You drop everything and attend to your eye and you don't rest till you get it out. Husbands Love your wife in this way. When there is an emotional need. Woman are much more sensitive and have deeper emotions than men do. So I learn to dwell with my wife with understanding. I don't just give a quick solution. I learn to listen to her. I put myself in her position, her emotional needs are different to mine. So I think what does she need? Generally, at this point when wives are emotional about something they are not looking for a quick answer, she is looking for love, security, direction, understanding.

So men, we sacrifice in our mind our simple common sense solution. But I have the solution it's so simple. No, she doesn't need to hear that. She needs time, she needs understanding, she needs to talk about it. As a man you may say I can solve all this so easily. No, be an understanding man, love your wife sacrificially, listen to her. When a wife sees this she will respond. How blessed you will be.

Lets pray

Dear Lord, we bow before you and we thank you for this time together. And we pray that we men may love our wives Absolutely, purposefully sacrificially. Lord, that we may love them realistically. Not expecting them to always be perfect when we ourselves are not perfect. Lord we ask you to help us to see our wives as precious gifts that you have given to us. Help us to treat them like precious jewels which they are. Forgive us all of the times we failed.. Help us to be doers of the Word of God, We pray in Jesus name. Amen.