

The Work Within The Marital Relationship (Part 1)

I. Introduction: If both of the lessons in this two part series seem to focus more on the man, there is a reason for that. As the God appointed leader in the home, there is more responsibility on the man. There is a principle to consider there (**Hebrews 13:17**). At the same time, that doesn't free those being led from accountability (**Isaiah 9:16**).

A. It is really easy to throw out Scriptures about the roles within a marriage (i.e. **Ephesians 5:22**).

1. What happens if the husband is not a good leader to follow (**Luke 6:39**)?
2. What happens if the wife sees hypocrisy in her husband and thus cannot respect him (**Luke 6:41-42**)?
3. What if he has his own wisdom or is quick to speak (**Proverbs 26:12; 29:20**)?
4. So, men, we have to work on being leaders that our wives trust to follow. Again, think about the principle that leaders are meant to be followed (**Hebrews 13:7**).

B. What happens when the "man of the house" always answers his wife with "submit to me" because that's her role (**Genesis 3:16**).

1. What about the love he is supposed to show (**Ephesians 5:25**)?
2. What about a husband that believes he is beyond question and thus expects his wife to shut up and follow rather than, as she is commanded to, test all things (**I Thessalonians 5:21**)?
3. So, men, isn't there times wherein we need to not just have a mentality of "my way or the highway" (**Proverbs 12:15**)?

II. Body: The Work Men MUST Do Within The Marriage (**I Peter 3:7**).

A. Dwell with them - make a household (**Genesis 2:24**).

1. According to knowledge (**Proverbs 13:16**).
2. Giving honor [as valuable; precious] unto the wife, as the weaker vessel (**Ephesians 5:28-29**).
3. The pattern of "as heirs together of the grace of life" (**Titus 3:7**).
4. Think about if such is not followed prayers are hindered. What does that mean (**Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12**)?
5. Additionally, if two Christians are married the instructions about how we treat one another apply (i.e. **John 13:1-17 and Galatians 5:13**).

B. Submission to the man also requires that the man be loving (**Colossians 3:18-19**).

1. Remember, as Christ loved the church (**Ephesians 5:25**). Jesus is not overly demanding (**I John 5:2-3**).
2. As the ultimate authority (**Matthew 28:18**), He uses that authority to give us a life we can enjoy (**I Timothy 6:17 and I Peter 3:10**).

3. Remember that marriage includes some authorized carnality wherein you should seek to please your wife (**I Corinthians 7:33**).

4. The things that happen in the bedroom (**Hebrews 13:4**) should be about both being pleased (**I Corinthians 7:3-4**).

5. If the home is not as it should be, don't be bitter against your wife. It's more on you than on her (consider qualifications of elders - **I Timothy 3:4-5**).

C. Most Christian men want the virtuous woman (**Proverbs 31:10-31**).

1. What did verse 10 say about women at that time? What principle can be learned from **Luke 12:41-48**?

2. What if the man of the house isn't merciful in what he expects or demands from his wife (**Matthew 7:2** and **James 2:13**)?

3. Remember, Jesus loves the church and that includes those more feeble (**I Corinthians 12:22-24**).

D. As with all things, there is a pattern to follow in the Scriptures (**II Timothy 1:13**) regarding marriage.

1. We live under the perfect law of liberty (**James 1:25; 2:12**). Thus, there is some liberty for the pattern not to be upheld. Ex. Though the pattern is for a Christian to marry a faithful child of God (joint heirs); we have liberty to do otherwise (**I Corinthians 7:12-13**). However, the Scriptures will not be the standard in that home.

2. What we have to understand though is, once the pattern is broken, you cannot pick and choose to implement certain aspects and not others. That is not the pattern. Remember, Moses was taught that following the pattern is "according to all" (ex. **Exodus 25:9**).

3. For consideration, how can I expect my wife to be a "keeper at home" (**Titus 2:5**) when I also expect her to help be the provider? The pattern is that the man is the provider (**I Timothy 5:8**). Yes, there is authority and liberty for wives to work outside the home (**Acts 16:14**). Yet, there are only so many hours in a day. If I lay forth heavy burdens for my wife to follow, I am not loving her as Christ loves the church.

III. Conclusion: Wives, you're not off the hook. There is expectations from God you must fulfill too. We will have a part two of this lesson for that (see: **Titus 2:3-5**).