

# A Biblical Perspective of Marriage & Roles and Responsibilities

## Chapter 5

Submit to one  
another out of  
reverence for  
Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

Jon and Beth Weber

# What difference does a Biblical Perspective make?

- We are learning Biblical Perspective on:
  - Communication
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Personalities
  - Love Languages
  - Marriage
  - Sexual Intimacy
  - Finances
- The most contrary topic to the world's perspective on these topics is the perspective on marriage.

# Whose job is it anyway?

As we read the tasks...

If you think it is your responsibility, stand up.

If you think it is not your responsibility, stay seated

- Who takes the lead on paying bills?
- Who does meal preparation?
- Who does the laundry?
- Who does car maintenance?
- Who cuts the grass?
- Who keeps the family calendar/schedule?
- Who drives the car?
- Who takes out the trash?

# Items to Consider:

- Food shopping
- Taxes
- House decor
- Mail
- Paperwork
- Insurance
- Yard work
- Plans vacation
- Makes the coffee
- Shovels snow
- Kids ready for school
- Packs Lunches
- Cleans:
  - Kitchen
  - Bathrooms
  - Bedroom
  - Dusting

Be aware, there are plenty of opportunities for frustrations to creep in if there are unmet expectations in any of these areas.

# Avoid Frustration

- Clarity
  - Who?
  - When?
  - How?
- Grace
- Communication
- Quickly, completely, excellently
- Be grateful and thankful
  - Frustration doesn't grow well in a grateful heart.

# Starting at the Beginning

Unity should be the primary goal of a marriage.

God made everything perfect from the start. Mankind made the choice to go a different way.

Adam and Eve struggled. Give yourselves a break! Also realize that we have real obstacles to overcome in our fallen state!

Vitally important: Since the Fall, unity takes intentionality. It must be acted on to reach the goal.

# Goal is Unity

Genesis 2:20b-24

But for Adam no suitable helper was found...

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

# Goal is Unity

God gave Adam and Eve a job to do together that neither of them could do separately:

1. Be fruitful and multiply
2. Rule the Earth and subdue it

Unity is essential to complete these tasks. The plan could not be fulfilled without each partner playing their vital role.

# Goal is Unity

For the woman the punishment is different and falls along her role as child bearer:

Genesis 4:16

To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labor you will give birth to children...”

The woman’s specific and unique role was to bear the children.

# Goal is Unity

For the man the punishment is different and falls along his role of provider:

Genesis 4:17-19

To Adam he said...

“...Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food...”

Adam’s role was to produce for his family. After the fall, his job would be much harder and take much more effort.

# What difference does a Biblical Perspective make?

- Each of us has a choice to make:
  - God's design for your life (and marriage)
  - Self-directed paths
- Paul wrote a significant part of the New Testament in the Bible, and he struggled with the same choice. Romans 7 & 8.
- Non-Biblical or anti-Biblical perspectives of marriage include:
  1. No marriage at all, not any commitments
  2. Marriage as long as I am happy with things (completely self-focused and self-pleasing)
  3. Same-sex Marriage

# Bible's Perspective:

- Perfect Partner: Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”
  - The term “suitable” literally means “fits like a suit.” There are many ways a man and a woman can complement each other, but one of the clearest ways is sexually. God’s plan.

Satan’s contradictory plan is same-sex marriage.

# Bible's Perspective:

- **Permanent Partner:** Matthew 19:4-6 “Haven’t you read, he replied, that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”
  - God is clear that marriage is intended to be permanent. Later in the passage, Jesus says that he hates divorce. These are strong words that should not be taken lightly.

Satan’s plans are living together while unmarried, being unfaithful (adultery), divorce



# Bible's Perspective:

- **Dependent Partner:** 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 “In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.”
  - Healthy reliance on your spouse is a sign of a strong relationship.

Satan's plans are to live without regard for your spouse. Do not consider their wants, needs, goals and desires. Just roommates.

# Bible's Perspective:

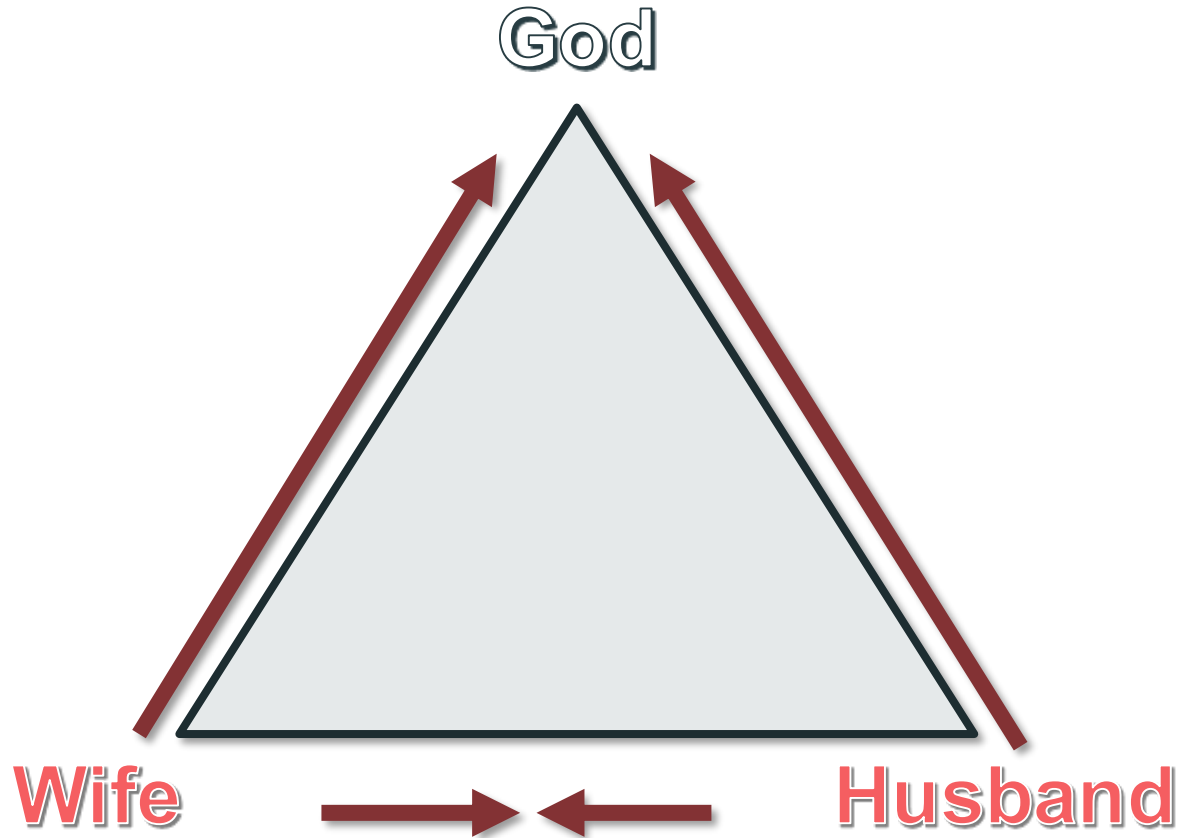
- **Loving, Respectful, and Sacrificial Partner:** Ephesians 5:31-33 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”
  - Read the book from Emerson Eggerich: Love and Respect (also on Right Now Media)
  - Marriage is a deep and fulfilling commitment to sacrificially serve your spouse.

Satan's plans are to only carry out self-serving plans and actions.

# Discussion Time

- Discuss in your groups some practical ways to be a perfect partner, a permanent partner, and a loving/respectful partner.
- What do these things look like?
- What do they not look like?

# A Biblical Perspective of Marriage: God's Blueprint



# A Biblical Perspective of Marriage

Marriage is a Holy Covenant. It is not just contract.

## Contract:

- Personal minimum requirements
- Termination possible
- Protects interest
- Defines expectations
- Commits to a term
- Between people
- Emotion-less
- No moral obligation

## Covenant:

- Not for a term
- Non-qualified commitment
- No built-in exit strategy
- Before God and between people
- Promise

# Marriage: Christ's relationship to his church

- We have an amazing opportunity in marriage to display Christ to the world.
- We put Christ on display by the way we love our spouse.
- First we must submit and surrender to God before we can submit to our spouse.

# Instructions for Wives

- When you're filled with the Spirit, it's easier to submit to one another.
- The way we submit to our own husbands is a direct reflection of the relationship we have with God and the evidence of His Spirit at work within us.
- Respect



# The Wife's Role

- Respect him
- Affirm him
- Value his opinion
- Admire his wisdom and character
- Appreciate his commitment to you
- Consider his needs and values

*Love and Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggerich

# Instructions for Husbands

Love your wives purely and sacrificially like Jesus did for us.

- Not with just words, but actions too
- Laying down your own wants, desires, and dreams for hers
- Love her like you would love yourself
- Provide moral direction, strength, protection



# The husband's role

We are all called into servant leadership.

- Headship is not a right to command or control
- Not to puff up, but build up
- Lead by serving
- With great power comes great responsibility
- 51%
- Win or fail together

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NLT)

“But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

Luke 22:26 (NLT) Jesus says, “But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.”

# Submission

“And further, **submit** to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Ephesians 5:21

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

John 15:12-13

Submission addresses structure and function, not value, equality, or importance.

It is an attitude of the heart.

# Mutual Submission

- One flesh = Mutual and voluntary submission
- Notice: Paul does NOT say “Husbands, tell your wife to submit”—or, “Wives, tell your husband to step up and be the spiritual head of the home.”
- Instead, he speaks to each person and asks each to work on his or her own attitude.

# Love and Respect

# Love and Respect

The Crazy Cycle



The Energizing Cycle





# Love and Respect

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