

God's Plan For Your Marriage



A clear concise study guide

- for pre-marital counsel,
- for marital help, or
- for marital renewal
- for order in your home.

Covering:

Marriage I - God's Design for the Home

Marriage II - The Role of the Wife

Marriage III - The Role of the Husband

Marriage IV - The Role of ONE FLESH

**Marriage V - The Role of ONE FLESH
In Communication**

**Marriage VI - The Heritage of God =
Children**

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Marriage I - God's Design for the Home

Memory Verse: Psal 101:2

*I will behave myself wisely
in a perfect way. O when
wilt thou come unto me? I
will walk within my house
with a perfect heart.*

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Eph 6, Heb 12:7
Mon	Gen 2:18-25
Tue	Heb 13:4, Psa 68:6
Wed	Matt 19:4-6
Thur	Prov 31
Fri	Eph 5:23-33
Sat	Jos 24:15, Prov 5

"We believe that the home and marriage is holy and ordained by God; that in marriage the husband and wife become one flesh and establish a home; that the husband is to be the head of the home, the wife an obedient help meet to the husband and the children are to obey and honor their parents."

The Authority of the Bible

What is the Role of the Bible in My Life?

What separates Christianity from any "religion" in the world is its claim to an absolute, written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the Word of God.

This study is to acquaint you with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to his everyday life, so you can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of your marriage and your walk with Jesus Christ.

We need to be Loved,
We need to Love
We need to be Significant,
We need to give Significance
We need Security,
We need to provide Security

Emotional Love,
Love on a Spiritual plane,
Physical Love
Significance Emotionally,
Significance Spiritually
Physically Significant
Secure Emotionally
(Commitment),
Secure Spiritually,
Secure Physically

I Introduction to the Bible.

It is universally accepted that there are two fundamental sources of human knowledge: reason and experience. Both are essential to the understanding of the world around us. Yet, reason and experience do not answer the most profound and important questions of life. Where did I come from? What is the purpose for my existence? Where am I going, if anywhere, after death? Is there another source of knowledge that carries us beyond the limitations of human reason and experience? A source that answers these, the three most important questions of life?

Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth

There is a third source of knowledge called revelation. This revelation is found primarily in the Word of God, commonly called the Bible. The Bible teaches us that God has revealed Himself and His commandments in the Holy Scripture. In these Scriptures we have direct access to an infinite and personal Being, who created all things for His pleasure, and who is non limited like His finite creation. He is a God who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and immutable.

God chose to reveal Himself in a progressive way. As time passed, more and more was revealed and recorded about God, His will and His ways. At the completion of The New Testament, God's written revelation was complete, and this was carefully pointed out in ***Revelation 22:18-19***.

The Scriptures are unique in several ways:

The Bible is a book which is composed of 66 books written by more than forty authors over a period of more than 2,000 years. It is totally accurate in its record of history and prophecy fitting together as though one man wrote it without one contradiction. The middle verse of the Bible is Psalms 118:8; the middle words are "The Lord."

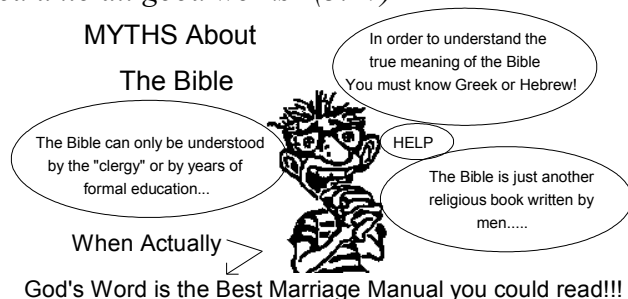
The purpose of Scripture in your marriage.

The Scriptures have been inspired and preserved by God that we might have an infallible guide that will bring us to salvation and daily sanctification. For what purpose? That while we are here on this earth we might fulfill God's objectives of giving glory to Him while we, in our home live a marriage that portrays His love, and Christ's relationship to the Church.

The teachings of Scripture fall into four major categories according to II Timothy 3:16

- 1) Doctrine = What is right.
- 2) Reprove = What is not right.
- 3) Correction = How to get right.
- 4) Instruction in Righteousness = How to stay right.

"... that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (3:17)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Reason and experience do not answer the three most important questions in life. What are they?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

There is a third source of human knowledge other than reason and experience. What is it?

The teachings of Scripture fall into four major categories.
List them and explain.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

The promise God makes to your home.

The whole premise for next few lessons on the home, all the promises made, all the instruction given are from the Word of God, The Holy Bible. In your marriage you should be willing to make not only a commitment to your mate for life, but a commitment to order your home and life in accordance to God's instructions. These will be outlined in the next few lessons. With that kind of commitment, look at the promises that God has made to you:

Josh 1:7 Only be thou _____ and very _____, that thou mayest observe to do according to _____, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest _____ whithersoever thou goest.

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt _____ therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way _____, and then thou shalt have good _____.

Psal 1:1 _____ is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the _____ LORD; and in his law doth he _____ day and night.

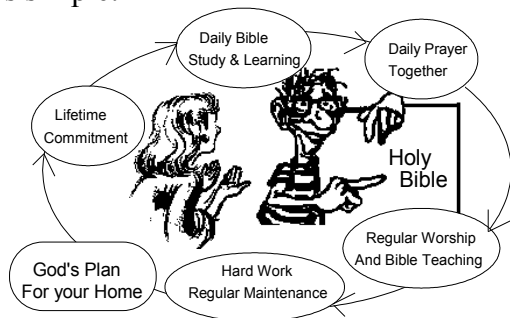
3 And he shall be like a _____ planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall _____.

Matt 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and _____, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his _____ upon a rock:

John 13:17 If ye know these things, _____ are ye if ye do them.

There are a myriad of other Scriptures that spell out the promises of following God's plan in your marriage. Is that the plan you want to follow? Is that the peaceful, joyful, happy home that you want to build?

The key is simple:



Marriage is Holy Ordained of God

1) It was in the Garden of Eden that God himself planned the idea of marriage.

Gene 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be _____; I will make him an _____ for him.

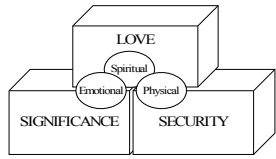
2) The word '*meet*' is not common in our English, look it up and choose a synonym,. The woman was to be a(n)

3) _____ help for the man
God made the kind of man who needed a wife. God knew his hearts needs and his physical needs, and so God declared it was not goof for man to live without a wife. God made Eve because she would fulfill the natural longing and fit in with the natural and normal happy life of Adam. Marriage was ordained by God.

3) God intended that a marriage union be indivisible. The term '*divorce*' as used in Jewish custom, refers to the dissolving of the marriage before the couple had come together in the physical marriage bond, before they left father and mother and *they twain shall be* _____. (Matt 19:4-6) In that light any divorce, as used today is against God's precepts.

Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let _____ put _____.

Why does one marry?



Three needs on Three Levels

Christ can meet all our needs!

Likewise, marriage is meant to.

What is True Love? Love is the mental, emotional, and physical, self-less desire to fill the needs of another.

Mutual love is the selfless concern two people have for each other.

There are four kinds of love, in Greek, All four should be found in a functional home.

storge = parental and filial family affection

philia = human affection or friendship

agape = self giving, self less love, pure(can be 1 way).

eros = physical love

Marriage II - The Role of the Wife

Memory Verse: Eph 5:22-24 *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

Daily Bible

Readings

Sun Gen 3:1-16
Mon Numbers 30
Tue Psalm 128
Wed Prov 5:15-21
Thur Song 1:1-2:17
Fri Rom 7:1-6
Sat Song 3:1-4:16

"We believe that the home and marriage is holy and ordained by God; that in marriage the husband and wife become one flesh and establish a home; that the husband is to be the head of the home, the wife an obedient helpmate to the husband and the children are to obey and honor their parents."

God's order in the Home, - God's role for the Woman

It is interesting that God always begins his instructions on the Husband - Wife relationship with instruction to the wife. In God's Word the woman is the completer of man. The success or failure of a home hinges on how well the wife fills the role of completer. Ladies, please examine this lesson carefully, and Gentlemen, you need to be familiar with this lesson because God holds you responsible for the leadership in every aspect of your home.

This study is to acquaint you with the basics of the role of the woman in God's creation, in accordance with God's Word. It conflicts with what our society (especially our media) has pumped into our heads since our birth, so clear your mind and pay particularly close attention to the Scriptures used.

Role of a Woman in Creation

Gene 2:18 *And the LORD God said, It is _____
_____ that the man should be alone; I will make*

him an _____ for him.

Get a Dictionary and look up the word 'MEET'

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there

was _____ an _____
_____ for him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and _____ of my _____: she shall be called _____, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man _____ his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one _____. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Woman was made for man. Literally as a completer of man, as an appropriate help for the man. Consequently a woman will find fulfillment and completion when she fills the role or accomplishes the purpose that God made her for. Recognize that a woman filling the role that God made her for will find complete fulfillment and peace that can be found in no other way. A woman may say that this kind of submission to a man is not in my nature, and be absolutely correct. The age old question here is "Do you want to simply do what is in your nature, or do you want to follow God's plan for your life, and your home?" The two do not line up. I can highly recommend the following of God's plan, especially when it counters our nature and the world's advice.

Wives be Subject to Husbands

Every time God gives orders to husbands and wives about their treatment of each other in the Bible, He speaks to wives first then to husbands. When He commands fathers and children about their duties to each other, He commands children first, then fathers. He commands servants first, then masters, subjects first then rulers. . . . God wants no excuses for a wife who does not want to obey her husband or to children who will not obey their father. Eph 5:22 is the heart of this teaching, though it is repeated several times throughout scriptures.

Wives, _____ yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Since this word is often ugly in our society, get a dictionary and look it up: SUBMIT

It may be helpful to write in the margin of your Bible here:

Submission is the overwhelming consideration of the needs of others.

Christians are told to submit one to another.

A woman begins down a road of rebellion in the home by first finding several excuses to disregard this command.

The home has a ruler and subjects. The Husband is appointed by God, as the ruler, the wife the subject.

People always have plausible excuses for not doing right. Women give many reasons for not being subject to their husbands as God commands. They are all excuses, whereby we call God's plan, God's Word, untrue or ineffective.

It is often insisted upon that on these modern days of liberty and equality, no woman could keep her self-respect and live in a home and NOT be counted an equal with her husband in authority. But the same woman, who objects to being under the authority of her husband attends clubs of which she is not the president. She works in a Church of

which she is not the bishop. She is a citizen of a government where others rule over her. . . . Man too cannot avoid authority over them. The rebellion of a wife against her husband (of her taking command in his silence) is exactly the same spirit as the rebellion of a disobedient child against his father, of an incorrigible pupil against the teacher, as a criminal against the government; it is lawlessness pure and simple. In any government, business corporation, or home there must be those in authority. God has appointed the husband and the father in the home, as the head, and the wife, the weaker vessel, as the help meet.

In his book "The First Years of Forever", Dr. Ed Wheat outlines these scriptural areas of "How to Love your husband."

A. In Genesis you are "**His Help Meet**". your Husbands self confidence rests in your hands for safe keeping. See Genesis 2:18-22

B. In Proverbs 31:10-31, "**His Trusted Partner.**" These 22 verses start with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet and contain vast wisdom for a wife.

Prov 31:10 Who can find a _____ woman? for her price is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband doth _____ in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 12 She will do _____ and not evil all the days of her life. 25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She openeth her mouth with _____; and in her tongue is the law of _____. 27 She looketh well to the _____ of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he _____ her.

C. In the Song of Solomon "**His Darling, His Love**" Observe the example of the Shulamite. If you would learn how to fuel the fires of an ongoing love affair with your

husband, study her behavior and responses. Analyze them. You will find that her husband's love making thrilled her, and she let him know it" She focuses her eyes and conversation on him when they were together, complimenting his appearance, expressing appreciation for his skillful lovemaking, and always communicating her high respect for him as a man.

D. In 1 Timothy "**The Guide of His Household**"

1Tim 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, _____ the _____, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

E. In Titus "**His Loving Wife**" *Titu 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be _____, to _____ their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be _____, _____, keepers at home, good, _____ to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

F. In Ephesians "**His Beautiful Wife**" *Ephe 5:22*

Wives, _____ yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 3 For the husband is the _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

G. In 1 Peter "**His Beautiful Wife**" *1Pet 3:1 Likewise,*

ye wives, be in _____ to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste _____ coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that _____ adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of

putting on of _____; 4 But let it be the
_____ man of the heart, in that which is not
corruptible, even the ornament of a _____ and
_____ spirit, which is in the sight of God of
great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy
women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves,
being in subjection unto their own husbands:
6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him
_____: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye
do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

God Will Bless You as You follow His Plan

A Bold Word about Womans Dress and Modesty

There was a time, just a few years ago, when preaching against worldly dress was heard from fundamentalist and independent Baptist pulpits across the land. No longer. All too often, any kind of preaching about clothing has become an oddity, an embarrassment. The resistance of the rock & roll culture to such preaching is so pervasive that many pastors have decided to ignore matters of dress. To do so, though, is to ignore the fact that clothing is a language. . . .

In the book *How to Marry the Man of Your Choice* by Margaret Kent (New York: Warner Books, 1987), the secular author instructs women how to use clothing to "manipulate men." She recommends body hugging skirts and revealing blouses: "Don't let the power of clothing pass you by, for it can be a major asset in attracting men. . . . stir his sexual imagination without satisfying his curiosity about your body. . . . To avoid being a nerd, wear clothing that follows the natural form of your body" (pp. 29, 32, 33). The author observes that "shirt-type blouses with

buttons on the front" send a signal of "easy access" (p. 35). As for pants on women, the author states that "jeans are likely to get a positive response because they are snug and outline the body; they also represent casualness" (p. 36). (My thanks to John Shrader for the quotes from this book.) This reminds us that pants on women are wrong not only because they are unisex garments, but because they are inherently immodest. Secular advertisements leave no doubt about what part of the body is emphasized by women's jeans. A woman in pants is either gross or sexually appealing, depending upon her figure. A woman in pants is never as modest and feminine as she can be in a proper dress.

Another clothing style that is immodest is SLIT SKIRTS AND DRESSES which are so popular in the female fashion industry today. The obvious purpose for this fashion is to tease men with the flashing effect that is created by the movement of her legs. It is strangely enticing. Even if the slit is below the knee the effect is very sensual. A few months ago we asked a group of young Bible college men if they were tempted sexually by slit skirts, and every one of them admitted that they are. This should speak volumes to Christian women and young ladies to avoid this immodest fashion. . . . The clothing industry is controlled by unsaved people who are in open rebellion against the laws of God.

Let's make a clear difference between ourselves and the world. Let's stand in the old paths. Those who are giving up high, plain standards of holiness in dress and are moving closer and closer to the fashions of the world should remember that the world is moving farther and farther from God's Word. May 9, 2001 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061-0368, fbns@wayoflife.org)

Marriage III - The Role of the Husband



Memory Verse: <i>1Pet 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.</i>	Daily Bible Readings Sun Genesis 2 Mon Gen 3 Tue Titus 3 Wed Eph 5 Thur Prov 5 Fri Col 3 Sat Josh 1
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This study is to acquaint you with the basics of the responsibilities of the husband in God's creation and plan for the home in accordance with God's word. If conflicts with what our society (especially our media has pumped into our heads since our birth, so clear your mind and pay particular attention to the Scriptures used.

The Husband The Head of The Home

Let's begin in the book of beginnings, Genesis. Read Genesis 2:15-18 and complete these 4 easy questions:

1) Why did God put man in this world, particularly in the Garden of Eden, (vr 15) *to _____ it and to _____ it.*

2) When God laid out the rules did he give them to the man or the woman? (vr 16) "*And the LORD God commanded _____, saying,....*"

3) What was the penalty for disobeying God? (vr 17) "*for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt _____.*"

4) In God's perfect creation what was the first 'not good' thing that is mentioned? (vr 18) *And the LORD God said, It is _____ that the _____*

_____ ; I will make
him an help _____ for him.

Notice now God's curse because of sin and God's provision for life under the curse. Let's look at four parts of this curse and how Christ is our freedom from its effects.

The curses are found in Gen 3:9-24. In verse 17 God said
*Thou shalt not eat of it: _____ is the ground for
thy sake; in _____ shalt thou eat of it _____*

_____ of thy life; But in Christ Jesus,
we can have *Joy unspeakable and full of Glory*. In Curse
sorrow, In Christ Joy. In verse 19 God said "*In the*

_____ of thy _____ shalt
thou eat bread, But in Christ a hard days work brings peace
and contentment and 1 Cor 15:58 says *be ye steadfast,*
unmoveable, always _____ in the

_____ of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that
your _____ is not in vain in the Lord. In verse

19 we will "*return unto the _____; for out of it
wast thou taken.*" But in Christ look at what it says in 1 Cor
15:55 *O death, where is thy _____? O grave,
where is thy _____? 56 The sting of death is*

_____ ; and the strength of sin is the law.

*57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

So Likewise is there a curse for a woman in verse 16 and it
is *thy _____ shall be to thy husband, and he
shall _____ over thee.*

Likewise Christ does not take us out of this curse but
gives grace that our living in it can bring greater peace and

contentment. To try to over-rule it, to ignore it, or to disprove this curse is equivalent to trying to over-rule the sorrow in this world, or ignore man's need to work for life, or remove death from this world. No,... for a man to rule in the marriage is God's plan for this life, as plainly as man must work, sorrow and die. Or society strives to disprove all four of these curses, God's word teaches us instead to live wisely considering each one.

Is it your choice to follow this plan of God's Word?

The Bible clearly and prominently declares that the husband is to be the head of the home. For the husband is the _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the _____ of the Church. (Eph 5:22-23)

To say that this teaching is now old-fashioned and untrue, to say that men and women are equal in the home, is to say that you know more than the God of the Bible.

In the home the man is the image of God. 1Cor 11:7 says *For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the _____ and _____ of God: but the woman is the _____ of the man.*

The man is to rule in the home. A bishop or pastor is to be an example to us and I Tim 3:4,5 says he is to be *"One that _____ his own house, having his children in _____ with all gravity.*

How the husband rules his home can consume hours of discussion, but God in *Eph 5:25* intends that it be with a divine _____. As seen here *'Husbands,*

_____,
even as Christ also loved the church, v 28 says So ought men to _____ their _____ as their own

_____. In *Colo 3:19* he adds *and be not*
against them.

1Pet 3:7 tells husbands to *dwell with them according to*
knowledge, giving _____ unto the wife, as unto
the _____ vessel, Note that love here, is not
treated as something you feel, not something we fall into or
fall out of , it is a command of God.

God tells the wife to be subject to the husband,... woe be to
the man that shirks his responsibility of love and leadership
after God has so emphatically commanded your wife to be
your follower.

The Husband the Wisdom of the Home.

In 1 Pet 3:7 we see that Husbands are to do several things.

Note: *Likewise ye husbands, _____ with them.*

Listen, that means you should hang around the wife, not the
'guy', not the fishing hole or hunting camp, DWELL with
the wife. Look further,... *ye husbands dwell with them*
according to _____. Wow, not only

are you to hang around your wife,
you are to have some UNDERSTANDING of her. How
many wives have said of their husbands "You don't
understand me!" I want you to know she is right. It takes
effort to understand and be understanding. Buy or barrow
and then read the book by Dr. Dobson, *What Wives Wish*
Their Husbands Know About Women." It can help you a
lot in this area because (if you have not yet noticed) **women**
think and act different than men do. (Note that in
general Dr. Dobson has a dangerous mixture of some Bible
and some psychology (man's wisdom). Use great caution
for any Biblical doctrines he totes outside of his marriage
council and child rearing advice, he is not Baptist.

Continuing in verse 7 notice that the husband is to be

giving _____ unto the wife, as unto the
_____ vessel, Get a dictionary and define
"HONOR" DEF _____

Give four synonyms for RESPECT

Not only are you to honor her as the weaker vessel, but *as being* _____ together of the grace of
_____;

Thus recognize that before God, as an heir of eternal life, she is your equal. She needs to be honored as a fellow heir before God.

Now to ignore this instruction is to destroy your fellowship with God, and cause that *your prayers ARE hindered*.

Read the rest of this chapter (1Peter 3) it deals with unity, compassion, love vr 8, with fighting vr 9, prayers heard vr 12, long-suffering vr 14, sanctification vr 15, and a good conscience vr 16. All these have a direct application in your wisdom as a Husband, the head and leader of the home.

The Husband the Example of the Home

In Titus 2 Paul is exhorting Titus to speak things which become sound doctrine. He then lists things for 'matured' men to have in their behavior. Get your dictionary so you capture the exact meaning of each of these behavior patterns you are to have as a husband. *Titu 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

DEFINE:

sober, _____

grave, _____

temperate, _____
sound in faith, _____
sound in charity, _____
sound in patience. _____

The Husband, The Spiritual Leader in the Home and In the Church

Look at 1Cor 14:29-35 and let's draw some conclusions about this portion of Scripture. First look at v. 29 and get the subject of this section firmly in your mind. It says *Let the _____ speak two or three, and let the other judge. 1Cor 14:29* We need to understand that a prophet is one who is told something by God, (today, only from His Word) and then stands and says "thus saith the Lord". In the Word of God, a prophet is one who gets instruction from God, and then says, per God's bidding, "Thus Saith The Lord". Many times they were given future events that God would do and were told to tell others about them, but a prophet is still only one that has a communication from God, and then communicates that to others. Now look at verse 34.

1Cor 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Are women to be standing up and declaring "Thus Saith the Lord?" _____
If the Bible is true and comes from God, then Women are not to prophesy!

Now look at verse 35. Who is to teach what the Lord has said in the home? _____
Husband you are to be the spiritual teacher, the spiritual

councilor, the spiritual adviser in the home! May God empower you to fill the role that God has for you.

Study the principle in Numbers 30:13-15. If the husband remains silent in the home, or allows the wife to rule the home (against God's direction), or if he does not provide the spiritual leadership in the home, Who does God hold responsible? _____

Three Essential Characteristics of a Leader, A Husband

You need to develop, build, practice and hone these three characteristics if you will be a leader.

Have the **Higher Purpose, a Vision, the Goals** (for your home)

Have an **Ability to Move, Motivate, and Provide Direction** (to people)

Have an **Ability to fulfill the needs in others.**

Trying to lead anything (much less a home) without any one of these characteristics will end in failure. Do you have these three? Do you know where to get them? (see James 1:5)

Husband Led Family Devotion Time

The Christian home is the most important institution in the world. God places the home first -- in time as well as in importance. It is the foundation upon which all other institutions are built; upon it the church and state will either stand or fall. What the homes are, the churches and schools are -- and the government will be. The home has the first responsibility' its influence is the greatest force in the life of a child. However, a Christian home is like a Christian teacher. Just because a person is a Christian and a teacher, this does not make him a Christian teacher. SO a home with people who profess to be Christians does not make it truly a Christian home. Eighty-five percent of evangelical Christians families do not regularly have family devotions of a regular basis. A Christian home should regularly have

a family altar time. This is the time when the family gets together to read the Bible and pray. Husband, it is your responsibility to lead in a family devotional time with three characteristics -- **PARENT LED, -- PRACTICALLY PLANNED -- and PURPOSEFUL.**

Parent Led: The father is the protector , the provider, and the presider in the Christian home. The mother is to support the spiritual leadership of the husband. She is the vice president of the family corporation. Gen 18:19, Psa 78:5, Eph 6, Gen 7:7. Josh 24:15, ISam 2:17-25,4:11,17,8:1-3, IISam 18:33.

Practically Planned: Use these concepts, Bible Centered, Adapted to needs of the family, varying order and participants, specified time for the devotions, create a taste for spiritual things as per Proverbs "Raise up a child in the way he should go." . IITim 3:16-17, Eph 5:18, Col 3:15-17

Purposeful: 1) Salvation 2) Cleansed and kept from sin, 3) Growth, 4) Instruction continually, 5) Commendable Children (learn to sit and pay attention!) 6) Discernment 7) Magnify the Lord.

God Bless you as a Husband and Grant you the Wisdom for the Role.

Marriage IV - The Role of ONE FLESH

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 5:15

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

Daily Bible Readings

Sun Proverbs 5
Mon I Cor 6
Tue I Cor 7
Wed I Thes 4
Thur Mal 2
Fri Matt 5:31-32
Sat Matt 19:1-12

This study is to acquaint you with three essentials for you and your spouse to be one flesh. The guidelines come from principles taught in God's Word, principles for successful living, and apply to an even higher degree if two people are to be together on a daily basis.

FAITHFULNESS The First Essential

Clearly and emphatically in God's plan for your marriage you are expected and commanded to be forever and completely faithful to your mate "*Until death*" parts you. To be unfaithful sexually, to your marriage vows, and to God's direction not only removes God's blessing from your marriage, but clearly brings God's curse upon it.

What four things does Proverb 5:3-5 promise to the unfaithful?

Prov 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is _____ as _____,

_____ as a _____.

5 Her feet go down to _____; her steps take hold on _____.

Look carefully at Pro 5:15-21. Why should we NOT embrace the bosom of a stranger?

Prov 5:15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. 16 Let thy fountains

be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. 17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. 19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of _____ are before the eyes of the _____, and he _____ all his goings.

Read 1 Cor 6:15-20. Notice that our bodies are not to be part of whoredom because : *your bodies are the _____ of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the _____ of an harlot? God forbid.*

Fornication, (any sex outside of marriage) is a sin with inward consequence as well as outward consequence, ... *"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that*

committeth fornication sinneth _____ body.

Read 1 Cor 7:1-5. According to this passage husband and wives are not to withhold sex from the other. This is established in order *to _____ fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*

Being unfaithful sexually is warned against over and over in Paul's epistles to the believers in the Churches. It is the most prevalent sin. It is the most consequential sin. It is the sin with the most warnings. Purpose in your marriage

that it will not once be named among you. Nobody falls into this sin, it is done on purpose. It is never something that cannot be helped! It is never something that just happened! Keep its effects in your conscience, yes it can happen to you. And it is never without life changing consequences.

Ephe 5:3 But _____, and all _____, or _____, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

1The 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from

_____ : 4 That every one of you should know how to _____ his _____ in sanctification and honour;

Keep your COVENANT! In Mal 2:11-16 Judah is warned about worshiping other gods, and such is likened to adultery towards a wife (one reason that God hates and swiftly judges adultery is because of this similitude.) Look at verse 14: *Mala 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy _____, and the wife of thy _____.*

Divorce in the Bible

There was such a practice, however, Christ intends that divorce not even be considered an option for a Christian home. Matt 5:31 *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit*

_____ : *and whosoever shall marry her the is divorced committeth* _____. Read carefully
Matt 19:1-12 and Mar 10:1-12

FORGIVENESS: The Second Essential

Dr. Ed Wheat writes "Marriage becomes a series of surprises for most of us, and one of them is how frequently we need to forgive and be forgiven. Faithfulness may be the first essential of a love filled marriage but even the best relationship cannot remain intact for long without FORGIVENESS: the second essential of marriage." Look at a few pointers for keeping you forgiveness not only present but running at the appropriate depth in your marriage.

Def:FORGIVE _____

Ephe 4:32 And be ye _____ one to another, _____, _____ one _____, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

What two attitudes should accompany forgiveness?

Notice from God's word that forgiveness is a promise: *Jere 31:34 ... saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will _____ their sin no more.*

When you have truly forgiven you will **Remember their sin no more**. Too often, down the road often in a battle, a mat will bring up a previous offense as a ware weapon, often in a vicious way. When that happens you know that there was not a Biblical forgiveness for that offense. This type of true forgiveness can only occur if you have a new

nature born inside of you See Col 3.

Here are Four excellent steps to forgiveness.

1. Choose with your free will to forgive.
2. Make the promise to lift the burden of guilt from the person as far as the wrong against you is concerned. Remember the person's sin no more - never mentioning it again to the person, to others, or to yourself, even by innuendo.
3. Seal it with your behavior, demonstrating love in suitable ways with tenderhearted kindness, and doing what the Bible shows you to be right in the situation.
4. Trust God to allow you to forget and to renew your mind with new attitudes.

What happens when you will not forgive?

1. If you hold on to your resentments, they will turn to bitterness. As a result, your life will be poisoned, and others lives, too *Hebr 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*
2. By refusing to release the burden of the other person's wrong against you and choosing to carry that burden yourself, you will become crippled in the living of your life. *Hebr 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. 14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*
3. If you are not willing to forgive, (and forget), there is no way you can expect to walk in personal fellowship with God. *Matt 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

What do I do when it seems impossible to forgive?

1. God never asks His children to do anything that He does not provide both the instructions for, and the strength to accomplish.

2. You do not have to be controlled by your feelings and you are not the helpless prisoner of your past. *John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. . . .36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

3. Jesus Christ has special deliverance and healing for you if you have been bruised and wounded by the sins of your mate - or anyone else - against you. *Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

Do we have to forgive everything?

Sometimes people say "I can forgive everything but *'that'*! Is there any sin that you can't be expected to forgive? The answer is that God is not selective with us. When He forgives us in Christ, He **forgives everything**. *Ephe 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Forgiveness in your love relationship.

Here is how forgiveness can take its place in your love relationship, soothing the irritations and healing the hurts, which occur even between two people who love each other very much, and, afterward, restoring your sense of oneness.

1. Make a habit of forgiving and never keep count.

2. Settle your accounts quickly. If you cannot kiss your mate and say "I love you" before going to sleep, it is best to work on the conflict until it is reasonably resolved. *Ephe 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down*

upon your wrath:

3. Remember that forgiveness always includes the idea of restoration and a new start.

Communication : The Third Essential

The third essential for your surviving as one flesh with your spouse is communication. This is such an important can complex essential that we will take the whole next lesson to cover some of it's basics.

Lets review some differences between men and women.

Men and women differ in every cell of their bodies. This difference in the *chromosome combinations* is the basic cause of development into male or female as the case may be. Women have greater constitutional vitality, perhaps because of this chromosome difference. *Normally women outlive men by 3 or 4 years* in the US. They differ in skeletal structure. Women have a *shorter head, broader face, less chin, shorter legs and longer trunk*. There are also internal differences. Women have a larger *stomach, kidney liver, appendix, yet smaller lungs*. In bodily functions, women have several important ones totally lacking in men: *menstruation, pregnancy and lactation*. Women's hormones are different and more numerous than men's. These hormonal differences influence behavior and feelings.

The thyroid gland behaves differently in the two sexes. Women's thyroid is *larger and more active*. Consequently, it enlarges during pregnancy and during menstruation; it make her more prone to goiter, provides resistance to cold, is associated with the smooth skin, relatively hairless body and thin layer of subcutaneous fat. Women's blood contains *more water (20% fewer red cells), thus they tire more easily and are prone to faint*. *In England war factories increase the work day from 10 hours to 12 hours caused a 150% increase in accident rates for women and 0 % increase for men.*

In brute strength, men are *50% stronger*. Women's hearts beat more rapidly 80 to 72. Their blood pressure is 10 points lower, and varies from minute to minute, but they have much less tendency to have high blood pressure, at least until after menopause. Women's breathing power is significantly lower. Women withstand higher temperature variations better than men because their metabolism slows down less. As to sexual drive, the woman's relates to her cycle and man's drive is fairly constant. Women are affected by touch, words, and emotional feelings. Men are affected by sight.

Intuition is an unconscious perception of minute details which are sometimes tangible, sometimes abstract in nature. Since it is usually an 'unconscious' process, many times a woman isn't able to give any specific explanations for the way she feels. A man tends to follow a logical analysis of circumstances or people.

God made us different. God made us for different roles. Obey God's roles, live life to the fullest.

Marriage V - The Role of ONE FLESH

In Communication

based on *The First Years of Forever* by Dr. Edward Wheat

Memory Verse:

Ephes 4:26-27 Be angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

Daily Bible Readings

Sun Ephs 4
Mon Prov 13
Tue Heb 12
Wed Psalm 127
Thur Heb 13
Fri Prov 7
Sat Matt 5:1-16

This study is to acquaint you with the third essential for you and your spouse to be one flesh. The guidelines come from principles taught in God's Word, about

? COMMUNICATION. A marriage without it is a dismal existence at best, but communication with your spouse is an extraordinary delight of marriage. Nothing, not even sexual intimacy, will bring as much enrichment into your marital relationship

Recall briefly the first two essentials to being one flesh.

FAITHFULNESS The First Essential

Clearly God commanded you to be forever and completely faithful to your mate "until death" parts you. A solid up front commitment to each other via wedding vows taken before God is the only union God can bless. Faithfulness to those vows is essential. Hebrews 13:4 says "*Marriage is*

_____ in all, and the bed _____: but
whoremongers and adulterers God will _____."

FORGIVENESS: The Second Essential

Matthew 6:14-15 says "*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will*

also _____: *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father*

_____ *your* _____." Faithfulness may be the first essential of a love filled marriage but even the best relationship cannot remain intact for long without FORGIVENESS: the second essential of marriage.

COMMUNICATION: The Third Essential

The third essential for your survival as one flesh with your spouse is communication. Communication is your lifeline in marriage. Perhaps you not listening let me say again

Communication is your lifeline in marriage.

The lifeline of Communication will supply these marital necessities:

- The knowledge and understanding of one another which you need for intimate closeness.
- The interchange of information and ideas you need to work together as a husband-wife team.
- The capability to work out your differences and resolve your conflicts.
- The continuing "in touch" contact you must have to grow together in the same direction, and to be there to support each other during the changes and difficult times of life.

How does your communication system check out?

Five Characteristics of a Communication Lifeline in GOOD WORKING ORDER

- A sense of freedom to express yourself.
- A sense of being understood.
- An absence of win-lose arguments.
- A reduction in tension.
- A sense of being safe and secure in the relationship.

Further symptoms of a CRITICALLY IMPAIRED LIFELINE

- One or both repeatedly assumes negative intent on the part of the other.

- There is increasing distance and silence.

Every Home needs some improvements, use this study to build your lifeline up.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR LIFELINE SYSTEM

5 STEPS - One at a time!

Step 1. You will feel free to express yourself when both of you accept one another just as you are.

Acceptance (or rejection) sends one of the most powerful messages known to humans.

How can I communicate with my husband/wife when

- × he/she makes a value judgment on everything I say.
- × he/she decides it's not worthy of his/her attention.
- × he/she quits listening.
- × he/she says "That's not important enough to discuss."
- ×REPLACE A JUDGMENTAL OR FAULT FINDING ATTITUDE
- ×WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE AND A CONSISTENTLY CARING ATTITUDE!

×

× Become sensitive to reactions when you criticize or show impatience, in communication; so sensitive that it hurts you deeply when you see your spouse hurt this way.

×

×*****

×Step 2. You will feel understood when both of you learn to listen with your ears and hearts to one another.

×*****

×We listen at about 25% efficiency! Most misunder-

standing is attributable to poor listening.

×

×**Eight ways to develop Your Listening Skills**

×1) "**Half is Not Enough**" Give Complete attention-
listen with your heart as well as your ears. The human
heart holds more than speech does.

×

×2) "**No Interruptions**" Don't interrupt each other!
Don't jump to conclusions about what the other is saying
Hear your partner out, then respond.

×3) "**Repeat, Re-pete**" Prove that you have listened by
repeating your partner's thoughts AND FEELINGS back
to them so that they are sure you have understood them
correctly.

×4) "**Respond with Your Eyes**" Real listening in-
volves concentration accompanied by eye contact. Stop
what you are doing and respond with your eyes. Stop
and make yourself available when you sense that your
partner may be wanting to talk.

×5) "**Don't wait for Commercial Breaks**" Give each
other focused attention with the television OFF. Forego
television, put away the video, turn off the radio, move
away from the computer, close the doors, get the chil-
dren occupied elsewhere, and take the phone off the
hook.

×6) "**Silence a NEGATIVE Feedback**" Remember
your silence can be a negative feedback unless you ac-
company it with a nonverbal signal of approval, such as
a smile, or squeeze of the hand, or loving eye contact.

×7) "**With a Breakthrough Don't Overwhelm**"
Never overwhelm your partner by demanding more than
he or she is ready to give. Just show appreciation and
thankfulness for what has been shared with you. And, of
course, never repeat what your partner has told you in
confidence.

×8) "**Give a LOVE Message**" Remember that when you

listen to your partner, you are showing love. You are giving your partner the message, "What you have to say to me is important because *you* are important."

×*****

×Step 3. You will be rid of win-lose arguments in your marriage when you learn what causes them and how to replace them with real communication in resolving disagreements and conflicts.

Disagreements are rarely life-death matters, often they are petty, but they can start viscous wars!

Lets look at 6 ways a Discussion Goes Wrong...

Then 8 ways to replace arguments with communication!

Six Ways a Discussion Goes Wrong

1) A War to Be Won When the disagreement becomes a power struggle, no one wins.

2) A Personal Rejection People often take rejection of their ideas as rejection of themselves. Bring your varying viewpoints together and discuss them, finding a solution, and gaining a deeper appreciation for one another at the same time.

3) A Change of Weapons. People change the subject and drag in other issues to use as weapons instead of limiting the discussion to the original disagreement.

4) Sweeping Generalizations. People, frustrated by their inability to make their point, resort to these, characterized by the use of these expressions "You always ..." or "You never..." fighting words.

5) Shouting or Siberia. Inappropriate and Childish ways. "I wish my husband could discuss a matter without shouting. He seems to think that talking loud and fast is the

only way to communicate." OR "My only option is to agree with my wife on every point. Otherwise, she sends me to Siberia for weeks at a time."

6) Yea But! People often pull out this prize communication stopper. It simply escalates the argument. Refuse to use those two words in combination again. Learn to make your point differently, beginning with a favorable response, such as "That's an interesting way of looking at it, I hadn't thought of it that way." OR "I see what you mean." then present your point as a question.

Eight ways to replace Arguments with Communication.

1) Response, Not Reaction. Don't interrupt. Listen carefully before you respond. Keep the discussion Squarely on the issue at hand. No side issues. Limit discussion to the present!

2) Disagreement, Not Disapproval. Acknowledge that you understand what your partner is saying, even though you disagree. Show respect.

3) The Gift of Empathy. Make it a point to share your feelings, but not criticize. Encourage the sharing of feelings and respond lovingly. Give sympathy, give empathy.

4) Carefully Clarify. What you are both saying, so there is no misunderstanding. Take turns at this.

5) Truthing in Love. Speak the truth in love. Gently, with your speech and behavior, Honesty and Love.

6) Say "I Need You." Be willing to show your vulnerable, needy side to your partner. Learn the value of being honest, even about your own weaknesses. Real communication means revealing yourself even at the risk of rejection.

When both are willing to do this, you are well on your way to building loving intimacy in your relationship.

7) Surprise, and Disarm. Stop being defensive, when the issue is a personal one. Agree that there is wrong on your side, since there always is (even if you don't wish to admit it). "I was wrong", can stop a fight, and demonstrate to your partner how to admit wrong too.

8) Apply the B-e-s-t BLESS with your words. *EDIFY* your partner by what you say, and by your interest. *SHARE* openly and honestly. And *TOUCH* affectionately while you talk.

BLESS - EDIFY - SHARE - TOUCH

communicate the BEST to your mate.

STEP 4. You can reduce tension by recognizing and correcting the communication practices that cause frustration and by learning to fight the Biblical way - a way that deals constructively with anger, resentment, and hurt feelings.

RECOGNIZING THE FRUSTRATIONS

Five Deadly Sins in Communication which can blight any relationship. (Also Sins against Love)

SHUTTING DOWN: Not Listening

SILENT TREATMENT: Not Talking

STABBING: Using the other's words against him/her.

SCOLDING: Putting guilt / blame on the other.

SHALLOW LIMITS: Surface Talk Only.

Another Look at silence: Silence is often used . . . in a power struggle . . . The withholder often feels powerful for

he/she can manipulate both the feelings and behavior of the other. This is a favorite ploy in the "something-is-wrong-but-i-will-never-tell" game. Sometimes a fierce competition takes place and the competition is in the form of who can be the coldest and most uncommunicative, breaking the silence becomes a sign of weakness . . . Silence can be passive-aggressive behavior, which is indirect, covert, and camouflaged hostility. The hostility is never dealt with openly and , therefore, often feeds on itself and becomes greater. Because the silence prevents hostility from being overtly recognized and dealt with, alienation may result, which is more destructive than fighting. ¹

Alienation leads to more alienation. The more distance you've placed, the more likely you are to miss or distort messages transmitted between you. Considering the delicate and complex nature of the hundreds of messages sent and received in a day's time between husband and wife, with words comprising only seven percent of what is communicated, (the rest coming through tone of voice, body language, and even more subtle factors), is it any wonder that misunderstood messages can seriously damage an already shaky relationship?

Here are some other frustrating communication practices:

- 1. Pretending** you are communicating, when you're merely attacking your spouse.
- 2. Not knowing** how to express your feelings without putting each other down.
- 3. Stating** your views as though they are the absolute truth.
- 4. Not hearing** the message from your partner because you're too busy figuring out what to say next.
- 5. Faking attention**, but not really listening.

¹ Barbara E. James, Ph.d., "The 'Silent Treatment' in Marriage," *Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality* (February 1983): 100

6. Trying to communicate when you each have two different goals for the conversation.

7. Husbands and wives communicate differently, and this can lead to misunderstandings and mutual exasperation.

8. Cultural differences and personality differences take their toll on patience necessary for communication.

STEP 5: You will feel safe and secure in your relationship if you get to know one another through good communication and remain closely in touch for a lifetime.

Think about this rather melancholy statement spoken by the Duke of Wellington at the end of his life in 1852:

"It is a strange thing that two people can live together for half a lifetime and only understand one another at the very end."

You can build a lifeline system of loving, unhindered communication that will make it possible for you to become:

- ×Intimate lovers
- ×Best friend who always enjoy being together
- ×A team that can accomplish anything because you work together rather than fighting for control.
- ×Two people who understand one another as unique individuals, not as extensions of yourselves, and accept each other just as you are.
- ×A couple who stay in touch during the changes of a lifetime, who "grow up together" and "grow old together" and remain "at home" with each other no matter what else changes.
- ×Compassionate partners who can help one another adjust to the difficult times of life and endure them together.

GUARDING YOUR LIFELINE

Security takes a bit of guarding. In your case you will know more than anyone else about the sensitive points in your relationship, which need special watchfulness. Here are Dr. Wheats suggestions:

- ×Be alert to Unusual Tension
- ×Never Betray Your Best Friend
- ×Beware of the Heat of the Moment
- ×Never Look at Your Mate Without Compassion
- ×Remember the power of words
- ×Watch out for the 'third-partner' in you marriage. Your TV!

How To Have A Good Biblical FIGHT!

In Strike the Original Match, Charles Swindoll says that Ephesians 4:25-32 "offers seven rules for having a good fight. These rules will allow you to carry on normal, natural, disagreeable times without breaking with Scripture." Here are Chuck Swindoll's *Rules on How to Keep it Clean* from Ephesians 4:25-32

- 1 Keep it honest (v. 25). Be committed to honesty and mutual respect.
2. Keep it under control (v. 26). Make sure your weapons are not deadly.
3. Keep it timed right (vs. 26-27). Agree together that the time is right to talk.
4. Keep it positive (v. 28). Be ready with a positive solution right after taking a swing,
5. Keep it tactful (v- 29). Watch your words and guard your tongue.
6. Keep it private (v. 31). Don't swing at your mate in public. When you swing in public, your malice is showing.
7. Keep it cleaned up (v 32). When it's all over, help clean up the mess.

We encourage you to study these 'rules' and make them part of your new life together. They are practical; they are wise: they work! They can guide you through your conflicts

in a controlled, constructive way that hurts neither of you and actually causes you to love each other more, after "the fight" is over.

TV A Major Cause of Problems Leading to Divorce

"the TV itself, that noisy box in the corner of the living room, has become an equal-and essential - partner in many marriages (the Third Partner) Even when it's turned off, there's a blank screen waiting to rejoin the conversation or to monopolize one's spouse's attentions."

For 15 years Dr. Wheat urged newly weds to begin their marriage without a television set in the house. Young people sometimes thought that was asking too much. Now, couples are realizing what a thief television can be, robbing them of prime time together, A bride reported "We decided not to get a TV, and it has been wonderful. There's nothing else to do but spend time paying attention to each other!" Decide how much TV is necessary in your home, a decision of NONE will be richly rewarding If you will not get rid of it be sure and limit it to a minimal effect (i.e. less than 1 hour per day with at least 2 days OFF per week)

Never stop studying and improving your communication; else your pool of living water becomes stagnant. Guard your lifeline. May God Bless your marriage.

Pastor Ed Rice
Good Samaritan Baptist Church

Let me pause here and say that it is impossible for you to follow God's plan in your marriage without God living inside of you, without being born-again, with a new nature as described in John chapter 3. In Romans 8:8-9 it says "*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.* Do you have the Spirit of God dwelling with you? Call on the Lord Jesus Christ right now, give him your life and soul and he will save you, he will indwell you.

Marriage VI - The Heritage of God = Children

Memory Verse:

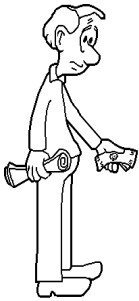
Proverbs 13:24

*HE that spareth his rod
hateth his son; but he that
loveth him chasteneth him
betimes.*

Daily Bible Readings

Sun Psalm 127
Mon Prov 19:18, 23:13-14
Tue Prov 29:15-17
Wed Prov 13:24, 22:6
Thur Eph 6
Fri Prov 1
Sat Eccl 12

This study is to acquaint you with the basics of the responsibility you undertake to rear children in your home. It directly conflicts with what our society has pumped into our heads since our birth, so clear your mind and pay particularly close attention to these Scriptures.



God's Order in the Home

Sociologists of all ages have directly contradicted God's Word concerning the sin nature in man. Today, still, they say things like "Our studies show that capitol punishment is not a deterrent to crime." God says that it is; they say that it is not. Who are you going to believe? In the rearing of your children the stakes are much higher, the results much more near term. They say do not punish, God says "*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. (Proverbs 22:15)*" The all important question to you is, once more, "Who are your going to believe?" To say "I tried spanking and it didn't work for my child." Is to say God is wrong and the world and I are right. To dawdle in the middle will bring a horribly painful 18 years and a future filled with anguish Lets admit up front that God is right here and carefully, knowledgeably pursue the following of His directions.

The Blessing of Children?

How does Psalms 127: 3-5 describe our children?

_____.
How are fathers commanded to bring up children in

Ephesians 6:4? _____

Get your Dictionary and define:

NURTURE _____

ADMONITION _____

What does the Bible teach about punishing a child in Heb

12:7-8 _____

What does the Bible teach about spanking a child in
Proverbs 23:13-14 _____

In Proverbs 29:15? _____

Children can ruin a marriage, a home, a
life. But raised in God's way they can bring
blessing untold.

Proverbs 29:17 says "*Correct thy son, and*

he shall give thee _____.



Yea, he shall give _____ *unto*
they soul."

Correcting a Child God's Way



A reason that the sociologists react to spanking as they do is because there have been numerous misuses. When we act in the flesh, in anger, in impatient haste, or in selfishness to correct a child we are outside of God's purposes. Look quickly at these illustrations.

- 1) If you spank a child when you are angry you are in error.
- 2) If you strike a child when they are not expecting it, it is hasty and wrong.
- 3) If you spank a child without addressing the disobedience and expressing your love for them you are not correcting.
- 4) If you fail to spank a child you do not love the child (Prov 13:24)
- 5) There is much more to child reading than spanking.



NOTE from Pastor Rice

Do not send your child to a public school, they do not teach Reading Writing & Arithmetic. They teach anti-creation, anti-moral, anti-Bible, anti-God. They start this rigorous training in kindergarten! Afford any other option!

Bill Rice wrote a book called "Love 'em Lick 'em and Learn 'em". If you are going to raise a child, do not do it without this book. It is very practical and addresses all the world's arguments against doing it God's way.

God said to chasteneth him betimes. This entails doing it Early. Over 200 years ago Jean Rousseau (1712-1778) wrote "Lacking all sense of right and wrong, a child can do nothing which is morally evil, or which merits either

punishment or reproof." Again this directly contradicts God's instruction as well as blatant observation. From his first day in a home a child begins learning to manipulate parents to get his own way. Any parent knows (except perhaps some of us fathers) that a child quickly learns to cry for food, when not hungry, but knowing that mom will pick him up. (That's called lying, to get your own way, they did not need instructions to figure it out, it comes in our morally evil nature Miss Rousseau.)

Again God says: *Pro. 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*"

Bill Rice records for us: "There was a Texas preacher named B.B. Crim...He was a rough and tumble cowboy preacher who preached in great revivals... Somebody said: "Dr. Crim, do you believe in spanking children?" He said: "Of course!" They said, "Well how soon do you think you should spank your children?" He said: "Well, you ought to wait about a week to spank a little girl but you'd better give a baby boy a lickin' the day he's born."

Of course he was joking (is that hyperbole?) but he was right to emphasize the fact that parents should begin training children early.

Somebody says: "well, when should you spank a little child?" The moment he knows that you say "don't and he does. He has bought and paid for a paddling."

I had a co-worker who knew I was a youth director. I observed his defiant 8 year old son, who did nothing his father told him and was big enough to do his parents physical harm. He asked if I thought spanking him was the solution. He never had spanked or disciplined his children,

never forced them to obey him because the sociologists said that would ruin his children's creativity. Now, the father was terrified of an 8 year old who had been thrown out of 2 schools for disobedience and had beat his mother for telling him what to do. He wanted to change his tactics from what the world had taught him. What could he do now? The sociologists hate our tactics but they love our results. Purpose to do it right from the start.

Spanking or Other Means to an end?

Again from Bill Rice- Somebody says, "Well, I just think we ought to make Junior sit in the corner." Fine. And he'll be sitting there... getting madder every minute. You make him sit in a corner and he will think, "Boy, when I get big enough, pow! He will get it! I'll tell you right now..." No, No, why don't you get it settled? Why in the world don't you just take and turn him over your knee and blister his britches and get the thing settled. You say: "Well, aren't there other ways to discipline?" Yes, there are, but I don't believe any of them work nearly as well as this. This is how God told us to do it. You can take away the allowance, and there may be a time you ought to do it. You may ground him. You may turn off the T.V., and that's a real good idea. But spank him. Spank him! This is what God says to do. Paddle him. Get it settled.

I have often heard young parents say; "Oh, we tried spanking him, and it doesn't work." But God's word says that it will work. I will either believe that God was right and they did something wrong, or that God is wrong and they are learning a better means. What would you believe? Let's look at some important principles.

Seven Rules

From Bill Rice's Book "Love'em Lick'em Learn'em"

When my wife and I were married and expecting the first baby, we read everything we could find in the Bible about

parents and children. We made some rules concerning spanking. Perhaps they may be of help to other parents.

1. Talk. Try to anticipate things that might happen. that might go wrong. Don't be quick to spank them. Be quick to talk and try your best to talk them into doing right. "Don't do that any more, son, you mustn't do it any more." Talk! there are a few things where there was no second chance. We live on a ranch. If a house catches on fire it is very serious.. So our children simply could not play with matches. The fire department can't get to u. So we warned our children that playing with matches was a spanking matter.

2. Keep your word. Don't ever, ever get into the habit of saying, "Now, if you do it I'll spank you. Now don't do that again. All right , the next time I'll spank you." No, if you ever say; "I will spank you if you do it," spank him! If your mother-in-law is there, if the governor is there, no matter who is there... If you say you will spank him, do it.

3. Husband and wife agree. Don't ever argue in front of the kids. If one thinks he shouldn't be spanked and the other one thinks he should, say, "Go to your room. We will call you." Talk it over. You will probable agree. You say you won't spank him or you will. Call him and tell him. If you can't make up your mind and you disagree, then spank him. Every time spank him. Anything is better than that he divide his father and mother. Don't ever let a kid get the idea that one of you is going to be his lawyer and if he can just get to you, you'll take up for him. Don't ever do that.

4. Next thing, co-operate. One of you hold him and one of you spank. Your child ought to be made to

realize - in our home we serve God, we do it right. Make him realize he is being punished because it's right - not because one is mad and one isn't. It's a matter of right and wrong and both parents are in favor of seeing that he does right.

5. *Spank soundly.* Don't ever slap him, or hit him, or kick him. Not ever. Spank your son or your daughter on the buttocks. Hard. And Long. Don't ever use your hand. It'll sting and you'll quit... If you've ever spanked your child and he's mad at you, then you didn't spank him. If you've ever spanked him and he gets up and hits you, you didn't spank him.

You spank until you get the thing settled. And no matter how much yelling and promising don't stop. He's had his opportunity to show whether he will or won't do right. If you ever have to start spanking, keep it up. Make it a sound one while you are at it. Always. Don't have little bitty eensy weensy itsy bitsy make'em-mad-and-cry spankings. "Let not your soul spare for his crying," the Bible says. A psychiatrist heard me preach and she said, "Dr. Rice, if my father had spanked me I'd have hated him for the rest of my life." I replied, "Lady, if my dad had spanked you, you'd have loved him to death, just for stopping!" Spank Soundly.

6. *Talk after the spanking.* Explain again how vital it is that children obey parents. Tell him how much you love him and how concerned you are for him.

7. *Be consistent!* And the last point, do it again when you need to. Be consistent!

Child Rearing 101

This is but introductory material to pursue you to raise your Child "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." To be a Godly parent you will need to study far more of His Word and His principles. Decide now that you will study

and follow his plan, instead of the sociologists plan, your mom's plan, or Hollywood's plan. Although I say I have hundreds of books, I only have one written by God. Let me encourage you to get and study several Godly books on the home and on child rearing. May God bless you as you follow his plan.

Child Discipline with 7 Rules

1. Talk Before
2. Keep your Word.
3. Husband and Wife Agree.
4. Husband and Wife Co-operate.
5. Spank Soundly. Hard. Long.
6. Talk after Spanking. Pray.
7. Be Consistent!



Pro. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.