

# Marriage

## The Word of God Says



The bible talks about marriage and express a widely different view of marriage than the world does. What, exactly, does the bible say about marriage? In modern society, it is common for a person to sleep with many different people before "settling down", to live with a partner in order to "try them out" before marriage, and to divorce and end the marriage very quickly if it is "not working out". But this is not the way God intended for marriage to work. Scriptures paint a completely different picture of marriage. The biblical model for marriage is for a man and a women who have kept themselves pure to join themselves together as "one flesh". Sex outside of the marriage is absolutely forbidden and men and women are given specific roles to fulfill within the marriage.

When you see a truly Godly marriage in action it is an awesome thing. But let us not get ahead of ourselves. Let us go back to the very beginning in order to understand God's original design for marriage. In **Genesis 2:22-24**, God created the institution of marriage.....

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

God's original design was for a man to leave his father and mother and to take his own wife and to start his own family. Marriage was always meant to be permanent and one of the foundational institutions of society. In fact, Jesus reinforced this permanence in **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."

In modern society, to even suggest that men and women may have different roles in marriage is unthinkable to many people.

The bible says In Ephesians 5:22-25

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

The reality is that the scriptures tell us that there are specific gender roles, and one of the things that really jumps out in this passage is the huge responsibility placed on men. Husbands are given the responsibility to do whatever they have to do in order to protect their families. In fact, this passage tells us that husbands are required to go as far as dying for their wives and families if that is what it takes. A godly husband is instructed to provide for and to protect his family in the scriptures. The husband is the one who is ultimately responsible before God for the welfare of his family. But if you turn on the television today, you are not going to see this kind of husband. Instead, what you will mostly see on television or in the movies are sex crazed, beer swilling, irresponsible slackers who cower before their more mature, more responsible and more dominant female partners. But that is NOT the biblical model.

According to the scriptures, women are supposed to let men be the strong, responsible and sacrificial leaders of the home. Men are supposed to be willing to sacrifice their own desires and their own welfare for the overall good of the family. But in America today most homes are absolutely dominated by the female. The truth is that there should not be a male dictator or a female dictator in the home. Rather, the bible tells us that the husband is to exercise self-sacrificial leadership in the home by putting the needs of his wife and children above his own. But how many homes do you know where that is happening? Even in homes where men are "wearing the pants", they are way too often using that position to make themselves happy instead of serving their wives and children. There are very, very few truly biblical marriages out there.

Instead, unhappiness is rampant and many choose to run out and find fulfillment in the arms of another. But God says that adultery in marriage is absolutely forbidden.

In fact, it is one of the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20:14** says this:

"You shall not commit adultery."

**Hebrews 13:4** is even more explicit about this.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. God takes adultery very, very seriously. God always intends for marriage to be permanent, but Jesus instructed his followers that adultery is one thing that would justify divorce. In **Matthew 5:32** He said this:

But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

God does not approve of all of the "easy divorces" that are taking place today. In fact, the scriptures tell us that God hates divorce. While many would view what the bible says about marriage as "old fashioned", the truth is that it works. If all men and women stayed pure until marriage and never got divorced, there would be no teen pregnancies, no sexually transmitted disease pandemics, no fear of getting AIDS from your partner and a lot less broken families. The world would be a far better place. But instead we felt like we knew better. We rebelled against God. We ran around and had sex with everyone we wanted to before and during our marriages. We promoted easy divorces and watched the consequences. Now millions of families are a mess. The truth is that God knows what is best. As long as we rebel against him we will continue to suffer the consequences of our rebellion.



## Choosing A Mate

We know that it is the Lord's will for people to have a mate if they desire one. In the beginning when God created Adam, God himself made this statement:

"... It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (**Genesis 2:18** ).

"Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, completing) for him"

The Lord wants to bring a mate to those who will ask him and **have the patience to wait for His choice.**

There are some single people who are constantly out looking for a mate, and they are miserable because God has not sent them one yet. They have prayed and prayed, yet they still have no mate. Some settle for Satan's provision instead of asking God for the patience to wait for the one whom he would send. If they would look to Jesus and seek to please him, rather than being concerned about a mate, soon they would find the right one crossing their path. Looking for a man or woman to just keep them from being lonely or just to fill their needs or to be a father or mother to their children should not be the only reasons for desiring a mate. They also need to be concerned about what kind of husband or wife they would be for a mate. These single people are still much in the flesh if they just want their own needs met. They should ask the Lord to fill them with his love and peace.

Being single is an important time to prepare us for marriage. It can also be a time to experience a closer communion with God. As we seek God to cleanse us of the world and help us become the kind of wife or husband that would bless someone, we will soon find that we are not lonely. First, the Lord would begin using us to bless others; then we will find we are content in him. Eventually, in God's plan and timing, He will bless us with a wonderful mate so that both lives can be a witness for him.. If a marriage cannot glorify the Lord, then it would be better to remain alone. There are worse things than being alone. One of these is to be out of God's will by compromising and marrying someone who does not feel the same way you do about the Lord.

Marriage is the second major choice we make in our lives, and we should never enter into it without much prayer. To rush into a marriage can be disastrous. The most important decision of our lives, of course, is our decision to follow the Lord. This decision is not a one-time declaration, but a daily determination to follow Jesus above all. If we allow the emotional or soulish realm to dominate our lives we become more susceptible to the enemy leading us astray through someone.

This area of the flesh should be brought under the Lord's subjection so that Satan does not get the advantage and consequently destroy our lives and ministries. So many have failed the Lord because they chose a man or woman over the Lord.

We find this true throughout the bible, also. Solomon's heathen wives led him into idolatry. Samson lost his eyes because of a woman, Delilah. David committed murder because of passion for Bathsheba.

Our emotions need to be cleansed as they are not the sign of love. The true definition of love is "**God is love.**" If God is not in a relationship it is not true love. What this world calls love is really lust since it is built on what the other person does for me, not what I can do for him or her. If the other person fails to keep up his end of the bargain, a divorce occurs because the offended mate is no longer pleased. This is the attitude of the world's so-called "love." God's love loves without receiving back; God's love is forgiving and patient. God's love is gentle and kind. God's love waits. God's love sacrifices.

**1 Corinthians 13** in the Bible gives us a beautiful definition of real love: (In this King James translation the word "charity" means "love.")

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Man's emotions are not a reliable gauge upon which to establish a marriage relationship. We must know in the spirit that it is God's will. It is much better to marry for character than for emotion. Emotions fluctuate; character doesn't. Emotions are in the soulish realm, and unless the carnal mind has been renewed, Satan can give us emotions or feelings of love for someone of his choosing. (If he did not have this in his power, he could not split up marriages.) One of his favorite techniques is to suddenly take away the feelings one once had for his mate and give feelings for someone else. When he has successfully convinced a person that he no longer loves his or her mate, then he leads them to divorce, whispering, "You are living a lie." After he has destroyed that marriage, he then leads one to marry again by stirring their emotions for another. Often after their next marriage something happens that they do not expect. Before too long, friction begins to develop with the new mate, then arguing. Finally, they find the same thing has happened again; they feel no emotion for their new mate and the next divorce is in the making. "Falling" in love is Satan's way. The very expression of these words should tell us something. A Christian should not blindly "fall" into any trap. Love is bigger than simply falling for someone. Certainly, the Lord gives us a wonderful emotional feeling for the one we are to marry. However, this "feeling" without God's direction can be disastrous as Satan can tamper with our emotions and feelings too.

Marriage, in a Christian's life, should be based on a decision directed by the Holy Spirit. A Christian's love for another is a commitment. Of course, the Lord will supply the emotions for the mate He sends, but that should not be the criterion for making the decision to marry. The Lord should be sought, and whatever He speaks to us we should do. He knows the future and what is best for us. If we trust Him He will not fail us in this or any other important area. Women or men who allow emotions to rule them will never be victorious Christians. Emotions should always follow, never lead.

Marriages that are loveless can be saved and restored simply by asking God to restore the love that was once there. Sexual relationships can also be healed by praying for a desire for one's mate. Prayer is a mighty weapon. God's love can mend and heal, providing people are willing to lay down their lives for their mates. His love will not fade, as does the love of the world.

Those who are single and have never been married are cautioned in God's word to seek a mate who is a like believer. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? **(2 Corinthians 6:14).**

Many precious people suffer because they are living with unsaved mates. Some did not have Christ when they made their marriage decision, but they have since found the Lord. Those will have God's grace and love to win their mates for Jesus. The Lord always strives to bring the lost mate to himself through the partner who knows him.

Mighty miracles of deliverance and salvation have occurred when people have endured suffering in order to bring their mates to the Lord. Those people who have the light, but choose to marry into darkness by yoking themselves to unsaved mates find that their flesh has led them away from God.

The Lord wants to bless marriage unions and see his plans fulfilled in both mates' lives. What a glorious plan he had from the beginning for both male and female. We can trust him in this important decision. If we will totally commit to do his will we will never be disappointed in the one he sends into our lives.



**Marriage is designed by God to be life-long between one man and one woman!**

## **The Scriptures Contain Numerous Verses Relating To Marriages And The Interactions Between A Husband And Wife.**

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'" **Genesis 2:18**

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"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." **Genesis 2:24**

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"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." **Joshua 24:15**

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"I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart." **Psalms 101:2**

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"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions." **Proverbs 10:12**

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"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." **Romans 13:10**

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"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." **Ephesians 4:31-32**

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"And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband."

**Ephesians 5:21-33**

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"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart." **1 Peter 1:22**

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"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." **1 Peter 3:1-7**

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"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. For, THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT." 1 Peter 3:8-11

## Divorce and Remarriage

In Biblical times, marriages were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom. The parents sometimes allowed their children to have a say in the choice, but frequently they did not (**Genesis 21:21, 24:1-4, 38:6, Judges 14:1-2**). Dating and courtship did not precede marriage. The negotiations by the parents resulted in a *betrothal*, a binding agreement pledging the bride and groom to marriage. Once the groom took the bride into his home, they were considered married. Typically, girls were betrothed shortly after puberty, and the marriage was consummated one year later.

Various ceremonies and feasts accompanied the wedding day at different times in history, but the wedding was not performed, sanctioned or blessed by religious officials. As far as is known, there was no exchange of **marriage vows**, and our commonly used marriage vows do not come from the bible. The marriage was neither a civil nor a religious matter, but numerous religious obligations came as a result.

**Levirate marriage** was practiced in Old Testament times. If a man died leaving no male heir, his brother was required to marry his widow and produce children (**Deuteronomy 25:5-10**). This, and other forms of **polygamy**, were acceptable in Old Testament times, although only wealthy men could afford multiple wives. King Solomon was the most notable polygamist with his 700 wives and 300 concubines (**1 Kings 11:3**).

# Institution of Marriage

Marriage was instituted by God as a lifelong commitment (**Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:3-61, 1 Timothy 4:1-5**). In Old Testament times, everyone was expected to be married and have children (**Proverbs 18:22, Jeremiah 29:6**). However, Jesus was unmarried and said remaining unmarried (**celibacy**) was a good choice for those who could accept that life and devote themselves to God (**Matthew 19:10-12**). The apostle Paul was also unmarried. He said remaining unmarried was a good and holy alternative, but it is better to marry than to be tempted into immorality by passion (**1 Corinthians 7:8-9**). Peter and many of the other apostles were married (**Matthew 8:14, 1 Corinthians 9:5**), so marriage is compatible with committed service to God.

## Dating and Choosing a Spouse

There are some mentions of **courtship** in the bible (**Judges 14:7-8, Ruth 3:7-11, Song of Songs 2:8-14**). But most marriages were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom, and dating as we know it today was not practiced. The bible does not give any rules or advice about dating practices.

The Israelites were prohibited from intermarrying with the pagan peoples who surrounded them (**Deuteronomy 7:1-4**), and the apostle Paul advised Christians to marry only other believers (**1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14**). However, an already married Christian should not divorce a nonbelieving spouse (**1 Corinthians 7:12-16**).

There is no indication in the bible that we are predestined to marry a certain person or that there is one special person or "**soul mate**" that we should find and marry. Except for the preference to marry another Christian, we are free to marry whomever we wish (**1 Corinthians 7:39**).

# Love

The family of biblical times had the husband as "lord" of the household and the wife as his helper. The husband worked diligently to provide material needs and protection while the wife worked diligently at domestic chores. In these New Testament passages, the need for a strong, healthy marriage is expressed in terms of the idealized family of the ancient world:

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. **(1 Peter 3:1-4, 7)**

Contemporary marriages may follow the biblical model or may be quite different. Regardless of how we divide the roles and responsibilities in our marriages, though, we must be sure the marriage fulfills its essential family functions and provides a loving environment for children to grow into responsible adults.

Unselfish love is the "glue" that holds families together. In marriage, we must subdue our own egos and selfish pride for the sake of the family. The Apostle Paul states it eloquently in this passage from First Corinthians:

Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

# Sex

Sex is a wholesome and normal part of a marriage relationship, and it is for pleasure as well as for reproduction (**Genesis 2:24, 18:9-12, Proverbs 5:15-19, Song of Songs 4:1-16**). The apostle Paul said neither husband nor wife should deny sexual pleasure to the other (**1 Corinthians 7:3-5**).

The bible does not give any rules for how sex should be practiced between husband and wife except for a prohibition against sex during menstruation - a woman's period of "uncleanness." (**Leviticus 18:19**). However, the Old Testament rules about unclean foods and practices are not binding on Christians (**Mark 7:1-5, 7:14-23, Romans 14:13-14**).

## Remarriage after Death of a Spouse

After a husband or wife dies, the bible permits remarriage to another, and it is even encouraged in some cases (**Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 7:39, 1 Timothy 5:14**).

# Church Doctrine

Christian denominations have different interpretations of the bible and various beliefs and policies concerning marriage, divorce and remarriage. Most support the biblical ideal of a marriage that lasts for life, but they must also deal with the reality of marriages that end in divorce for a number of different reasons.

Faith Deliverance Ministry Outreach, Inc. believes in what the Christian bible says about marriage and will only perform a marriage ceremony or even allow a marriage to take place in its churches if the bride and groom to be meets the church requirements which are biblically based.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and his church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to his people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

# Marriage Problems

## **James 5:16**

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

## **Proverbs 10:12**

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

## **1 Peter 3:7**

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

## **1 Corinthians 7:2-5**

But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

## **Ephesians 5:25**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

## **Malachi 2:16**

“For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

## **Romans 7:2**

For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.

### **1 Corinthians 7:12-16**

To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

### **Romans 14:1-23**

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

### **Matthew 5:32**

But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### **Hebrews 13:4**

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

### **Ephesians 5:33**

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### **Ephesians 5:22-24**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

### **1 Corinthians 7:15**

But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.

### **1 Corinthians 7:1-40**

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

### **Acts 8:22**

Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

### **Matthew 5:28**

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

### **1 Peter 3:1**

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

### **Hebrews 13:1-25**

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

### **Ephesians 5:22-33**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

### **Acts 26:20**

But declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

**Ephesians 5:22**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**Acts 17:30**

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

**Acts 5:29**

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

**John 12:48**

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

**Luke 14:28**

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

**Matthew 19:4-6**

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

**Matthew 19:3-9**

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"

**Proverbs 21:20**

Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

**Proverbs 13:22**

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

### **1 Corinthians 7:12-15**

To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

### **Romans 7:3**

Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

### **Matthew 19:9**

And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

### **Matthew 19:1-12**

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

### **Matthew 14:3**

For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,

### **Matthew 5:31**

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’”