

Husbands and Wives and Marriage

Recently this family has gone through some trials. This shouldn't be a surprise as we are a true church of God seeking His Kingdom. I think I can speak for the group when I say we do our best to honor God's commandments, holy days, statutes, judgements and laws. However, what does that make us? It makes us a true enemy of Satan the devil. Satan despises the light and will continue to try to lead us astray by any means possible. Well, challenge accepted pal. Maybe we can even embrace these challenges from "our adversary" because each time we "endure," we become stronger as a family of God.

I Peter 5:

8. Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary the devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, **seeking anyone he may devour.**
9. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who are in *the* world.
10. Now may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered a little while, Himself perfect you, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

(A Faithful Version)

We can NOT allow Satan to get a foothold in this family. We must sustain our shared faith in God's TRUTH and not allow false "prophets," pushing their own agenda to divide this family. We know that our adversary is going to try and possibly succeed for temporary periods of time, but when it comes down to it, we must endure to the end.

The subject of how spouses should treat one another as well as certain questions about marriage have come up recently. This writing details some Biblical research I have done on these topics. I look forward to hearing your opinions.

Ephesians 5:

1. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children;
2. And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.
3. **But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among you, as is fitting for saints;**
4. **Nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or jesting, which are not becoming; but instead, thanksgiving.**

5. For this you know, that no fornicator, or unclean person, or covetous person, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
6. **Do not let anyone deceive you with vain words;** for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.
7. Therefore, do not be joint partakers with them.
8. For you were once darkness; but now *you are* light in *the* Lord. Walk as children of light,
9. (Because the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
10. Proving what is well pleasing to the Lord;
11. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*;
12. For it is shameful even to mention the things being done by them in secret.
13. But all of these things being exposed by the light are openly revealed.
14. Therefore He says, “*You* who are sleeping—wake up, and arise from the dead! And Christ shall shine upon you.”
15. So then, take heed that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as those who are wise,
16. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
17. For this reason, do not be foolish, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.
18. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is debauchery, but be filled with *the* Spirit:
19. Speaking to each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and offering praise to the Lord with your hearts;
20. Giving thanks at all times for all things to God and the Father in *the* name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
21. Submit yourselves to one another in *the* fear of God.
22. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to 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* Savior of the body.
24. For even as the church is subject to Christ, in the same way also *let* wives be *subject* to their own husbands in everything.
25. Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;
26. So that He might sanctify it, having cleansed *it* with the washing of the water by *the* Word;
27. That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be holy and without blame.

28. In the same way, husbands are **dutybound** to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself;
29. For no man has ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord *does* the church.
30. For we are members of His body—of His flesh and of His bones.
31. For this reason shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall be one flesh.
32. This is a great mystery; but I am speaking in respect to Christ and the church.
33. Nevertheless, let each one of you love his wife even as himself; and *let each wife see that she reverence her* husband.

[\(A Faithful Version\)](#)

Let's go back to verse three and break it down. **3. But fornication...**

Thayer's definition of fornication-

1. illicit sexual intercourse
 - a. adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.
 - b. sexual intercourse with close relatives; [Lev. 18](#)
 - c. sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; [Mar 10:11](#),[Mar 10:12](#)

[\(A Faithful Version\)](#)

Would anyone disagree that this sounds pretty serious and something people should avoid; especially God's elect?

Cont. verse **3 ...and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among you, as is fitting for saints;**

Thayer Definition of uncleanness:

1. uncleanness
 - a. physical
 - b. in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living
 1. of impure motives

[\(A Faithful Version\)](#)

We know that the mere thoughts of sins like adultery or murder are the same as the action itself in our new covenant oath with Christ ([Matthew 5:27-28](#)). Why would it be ok to think that men can mistreat or overly control their wives? Especially a loyal, God fearing wife! [Ephesians 5:3](#) says not to even give thoughts like fornication, uncleanness or covetousness the time of day. When we break this verse down, it clearly parallels having sinful thoughts which would include having multiple marriages.

Now for verse 28. In the same way, husbands are **dutybound** to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself;

Maybe I'm crazy, but this does NOT sound like your wife is your slave and must do whatever you say, at whatever time you say it. If a man is "dutybound" to love his wife as himself, just as Christ instructed us to love your neighbor as yourself (**Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31**), why would a man be allowed to unjustly rule over his wife?

Is it a mistake that verses 1 – 21 cover how we are to act?

Be "imitators of God," "walk in love" like Christ did. Don't be fornicators, unclean, covetous, filthy, disobedient. "**Do not let anyone deceive you with vain words**," don't partake with them. Live in the light and in 'truth.' Have nothing to do with unfruitful works, in fact, we are told it "is shameful" to even mention them in secret. Walk "circumspectly" (vigilantly) and wise. Do not be foolish or be a drunkard. Speak to one another politely and offer praise to the Lord. Give thanks at all times "to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Right then and there in verse 22 begins our instructions as to how we are to treat our spouses.

Is there any doubt that verses 1-21 instruct married couples what is required of each spouse? What about specifically for the man? Just like many other verses in the Bible, if someone solely reads verses 22 and/or 33 of **Ephesians 5**, a person could conclude that a woman is to submit in all ways to her husband under any circumstance. We know this not to be true in many situations. Is a woman to submit to cruel and unusual punishment from her husband? Should a woman blindly follow her husband into un-riotousness? What if the man is teaching false doctrines like murder, thievery, lying, and adultery are acceptable to God? I can go on and on about this but the point is, no one should follow or obey un-riotousness!

Look at these verses again

Ephesians 5: 22. Wives, submit (not be ruled over by your husband) **yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord;** (Key words, "as to 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* Savior of the body.

24. For even as the church is subject to Christ, in the same way also let wives be subject to their own husbands in everything.

Unless I am missing something, I believe I just read that wives should submit to their husbands just as the church submits to Christ. So why would a righteous man, living by the example of Jesus Christ, have to rule over his wife, or anyone for that matter? If a husband is living correctly, he is putting God first in his life and setting the example of how to live by his actions. That in turn should cause a righteous wife to willfully mimic her husband's actions because she too is putting God first in her life. I don't know of a place in the Bible where we are instructed to obey any fleshly person regardless of their disposition. Just some thoughts.

I ask this of the husbands in this group; is this how we love our wives? Because if not, we are falling short.

I Corinthians 13:

2. If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3. And if I give away all my goods, and if I deliver up my body that I may be burned, but do not have love, I have gained nothing.

4. Love is patient *and* is kind; love envies not, does not brag about itself, is not puffed up.

5. *Love* does not behave disgracefully, does not seek its own things, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil,

6. Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.

7. *Love* bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8. Love never fails...

(A Faithful Version)

Hebrews 14: 4. *Let marriage be held honorable by all, and the marital union be undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.* (A Faithful Version)

This does not sound like there are grounds for multiple marriages. Can a man "honorably" marry more than one woman, love them equally and fairly? Is there any way to justifiably say multiple marriages is honorable?

Some synonyms of honorable – moral (ethical), decent, proper, noble, good, fair, etc.

Matthew 19:

4. But He answered them, saying, “Have you not read that He Who made *them* from *the* beginning made them male and female,

5. And said, ‘For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife (singular); and the two (2 not 3 or 4 or 5, etc) shall become one flesh’?

6. So then, they are no longer two (again only 2), but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.” ([A Faithful Version](#))

Proverbs 18:22. *Whoever finds a wife finds a* (still only one) *good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.* ([A Faithful Version](#))

The verse says “a” wife, not “wives.” Here’s a hint, all of the Proverbs that discuss marriage or having a wife, are all singular. Ready for the big whammy? There are zero verses in the Bible that say it’s ok to have more than one wife.

Malachi 2: 14. Yet you say, “Why?” Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife (singular) of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously—yet she is your companion and your covenant wife.

15. And did He not make you one? Yet the vestige of the Spirit is in him. And why one? That He might seek a godly seed. Therefore guard your spirit, and **do not act treacherously against the wife of your youth.**

16. The LORD, the God of Israel, says, “I hate divorce—and the covering of violence with one’s garment,” says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore guard your spirit, and **do not act treacherously.**”

([A Faithful Version](#))

Synonyms for treacherously – deceitfully, unfaithfully, disloyally, falsely, etc.

Quick Summary: Husbands are not the owners of their wives. If a husband is living a proper Godly, Christ-like life, there is no need for a dictatorship. There is no biblical justification for a husband treating his wife with cruelty. Clearly Christ would be including a wife when He mentions “your neighbor.” I doubt many husbands around the world would say they don’t mind that their wife rules over them unfairly. Therefore, no wife should feel being treated unfairly is ok. Similarly, there is no biblical justification for multiple marriages. I look at it like this. Specifically obeying the Sabbath commandment is only mentioned maybe twice in the New Testament ([Matthew 24:20](#), [Hebrews 4:9](#)). Why is that? It’s because they were all doing it! People didn’t have to be reminded over and over

again to specifically obey the Sabbath Commandment when we are already told countless time in the Old and New Testaments to obey the commandments. We are not a Sunday church that pretends to strictly obey 9 of the 10 Commandments. We are a church of God who obeys all 10 Commandments. Nevertheless, it was “a given” that men were to only take one wife, therefore, it did not have to be specifically identified.

I'll end with a ridiculous analogy. God doesn't have to tell me that I shouldn't eat feces; I'm just gonna use common sense? Love you all.