

Lesson #2

THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MARRIAGE

During the month of February, we are studying the following four lessons on marriage.

- **Origin of Marriage**
- **Husband's Responsibility to Marriage**
- **Wife's Responsibility to Marriage**
- **Resolving Marital Conflict**

INTRODUCTION:

Please note the following four point homiletical outline of our lesson text (NIV).

SPIRITUALITY – “Husbands **love** your wives, just as Christ also **loved** the Church and gave Himself up for her.” (5:25)

SANCTITY – “To make her **holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, to present her to Himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but **holy** and blameless.” (5:26-27)

SECLUSION – “In the same way, husbands ought to love their own wives as their **own bodies**, he who loves his wife loves himself. After all, none ever hated his **own body**, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does his church – for we are members of **His body**. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become **one flesh.**” (5:28-30)

SECRET – “This is a **profound mystery** – but I am talking about Christ and the Church. However each of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband (5:31-33)

Because marriage is a perfect institution with imperfect people, God designed laws of divine establishment for both the husband and the wife. These laws allow the imperfect people to function in marriage as designed by the plan of God.

We will study TEN laws of divine establishment regarding the Husband's Responsibility to Marriage.

1. **Love** (*agapao/ biblical love associated with God/ John 3:16*) – The husband is commanded (*agapao/ p.a.impv2pl*) to love his wife unconditionally and sacrificially as Christ loved the Church. God has provided GOA (grace operating assets) to spiritually and supernaturally produce this love (Gal.5:16, 22-23; 1 Cor.13:4-8; Eph.5:25-29,33).

2. **Nourish** (*ektrepho/ p.a.ind/ to bring to maturity of femininity/ Gen.1:27; Matt.19:4; 1 Cor.11:7*) – The husband is responsible to mature the femininity (womanliness) of his wife. This same word is used with parenting children in Eph.6:4 (bring them up) (5:29).
3. **Cherish** (*thalpo/ p.a.ind/ to foster with tender care*) – The husband is responsible to foster tender care towards the maturing of the femininity of his wife. This same word is used with the Apostles authority over the church in 1 Thess.2:6-7. Note that this word is also associated with the parenting of children.
4. **Do not embitter** (*pikraino/ p.p.impv.2pl/ to treat harshly or to upset so as to get sick*) - The husband is commanded to not treat his wife harshly (Col.3:18). Harsh criticism of the wife is forbidden in private or public (Heb.12:15). Rather the husband is commanded to love her unconditionally just as Christ loves her (Eph.4:29-32).
5. **Please** (*aresko/ mutual*) – The husband is responsible to keep his wife as the priority of life. One area of conflict is often associated with the man’s curse of work (Gen.3:17-19) (1 Cor.7:33-34).
6. **Sexual intimacy** (*apodidomi opheile/ fulfill duty/ mutual*) – The husband has the authority over his wife’s body not his own. This means that he is to work to please his wife sexually and vice versa (1 Cor.7:1-5). Note the special warning given with it (7:5).
7. **Grant her honor** (*aponemo time/ to give her what is due based on the valued place by God*) – The husband is responsible to grant his wife honor because of the value God places on her in Christ (1 Pet.3:7/ joint heirs of the grace of life). Note the special warning associated with it.
8. **Provide for** (*pronoeo/ forethought regarding livelihood*) – The husband is responsible to provide for the household so that his wife can be a home wife (1 Tim.5:8; Titus 2:5). He must also plan ahead for the care of their aging parents and grandparents (1 Tim.5:4-8). Employment is the husband’s area of curse (Gen.3:17-19).
9. **Live with wife understanding way** (*sunoikeo kata gnosis/ dwell together according to the norms and standards of word of God*) – The husband is responsible to live with his wife according to the norms and standards of the teaching of the word of God on the subject (an example is this doctrine). Husband understands that his wife is a weaker vessel to the curse of Gen.3:16. And that marital happiness will require God’s grace operating assets (GOA). (1 Pet.3:7)
10. **Divorce** (*apoluo/ to let loose from DI#2*) – The husband is instructed to not dissolve the marriage (Matt.19:1-12/ read 19:8 carefully). Moses permitted it under the exception of fornication (Matt.5:31-32/ sexual perversion). At the same time, the husband is not permitted to embitter his wife. He is still commanded to love her just as Christ loved the Church. God is in the heart and life changing business (2 Cor.5:17; Acts 15:7-11).