

## Marriage as a Mission Partnership

Christian marriage is a committed partnership between a believing man & woman. A successful “Christian” marriage requires that both partners fully commit themselves to spiritual growth and fulfillment of God’s design.

**(Genesis 2:24) For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**

- § Two – you will always be separate individuals – as unto the Lord
- § One – partnership – two working in union to accomplish God’s mission
- § Become – **hayah** – qal pf – partnership is developed – not automatic

**(1 Peter 3:7) You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

- § Joint heirs – **sunkleronomos** – equal inheritors of God’s grace
- § Honor – **time** – consider valuable – equal in value – equal partners
- § Emphasis is the mutual valuing & equal importance of partner

**(2 Cor 6:1) working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain**

- § Working together – **sunergeo** – fellow workers in Christ
- § H/W are fellow worker with Christ in the ministry through marriage

**Emphasizes mutual responsibility of making marriage a ministry to others. (2 Cor 6:14) “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”**

- § Unequally yoked – married, partners in business, etc
- § Partners – **metoche** – business partners – Herodotus, Euripides
- § Fellowship – **koinonia** – **koinos** – to share in common – joint stockholders
- § H/W are partners in the business of marriage and both hold stock
- § Fellowship emphasizes the mutual sharing of spiritual life in marriage
  - Vs 15 – Harmony – **sumphonesis** – symphony – sing together in harmony
  - Vs 16 – Agreement – **sunkatathesis** - vote the same; mutual consent

## General Principles

### 1. All believer’s, both men and women are equal in Christ

- § **Koinos** – all have an equal share of grace assets – GHS, WG, prayer
- § **Sunkleronomos** – equal opportunity for inheritance – growth/ministry/rewards
- § **Sunergeo** – equal servants – equal responsibility to serve God in marriage
- § **Dikaioisune** – justified – equal in +R standing before God
- § Equally valuable to God – love, grace, mercy, power, opportunity
- § **Sumphonesis** – working together in harmony
- § **Sunkatathesis** – working together by mutual agreement

## 2. God has designed different roles for Christian men/women in marriage.

Ex: Godhead – GF-GS-GHS are all co-equal & co-eternal – different roles in the plan  
GF – Plans/Head; GS – Executes; GHS – Reveals  
Phil 2:6-8 – Christ existing as God, humbled himself to the point of death on a cross

- § Eph 5:23 – husband is head (authority) over wife as Christ is head of the church
- § Eph 5:24 – as church is submissive to Christ, so wives to husbands in everything  
**Husband/wife are equal partners in Christ with different roles in marriage.**

## Partnership

### 1. Partnership is a position, a point of view and a practice.

**Position** – equal partners in the business of marriage

**Point of View** – Mind-set - we are in this together, we are partners in this journey

- § Belief system – what you believe marriage should be, could be
- § Expectations – what you expect of yourself & your partner

**Practice** – fully participate in those activities that are agreed upon

- § Acceptance – accept your partner w/out trying to change them
- § Change - change yourself to be a good partner – become the right person
- § Action - do that which will promote partnership in marriage

### 2. Point of View – how you see your partner and the relationship

**Belief System** (faith) – orderly arrangement of beliefs into a viewpoint

- § Believe biblical principles – God says you are equal partners in the marriage
- § Believe that God's plan is advantageous – God knows how marriage should work
- § Believe that partnership is possible – overcome hindrances – mental sins

**Expectations** (hope) – What is realistic to expect from your partner

- § Understand your partner's personality, background/baggage, beliefs
- § Partnership develops over time if both partners decide to pursue it
- § Eliminate unrealistic/idealistic expectations – we are sinners saved by Grace
- § Do not expect that your efforts to change your partner will work – manipulation

### 3. Practice – what you decide and do to develop partnership

**Acceptance** – allowing your partner to be himself or herself

- § Your partner comes to the marriage with strengths & weaknesses
- § They must work on themselves through spiritual growth – change self
- § You cannot change another person – you can only change yourself

**Change** – working on yourself

- § Spiritual growth is a renewing of our beliefs, expectations and relating skills

§ Only you can decide to change by using God's grace assets

**Action** – where the rubber meets the road

§ Committing time, thought, energy, effort into the daily activities of your home

§ Sacrificing your own interests in order to fulfill those responsibilities

§ Doing partnership – be responsible to do daily activities together

**4. Partnership requires discussion & agreement about mutual activities.**

§ Partnership does not preclude individuality, preferences or alone time/activities

§ One partner should not dominate the planning or the preferences – compromise

§ Partnership requires that each consider the preferences of the other – feelings

**5. Partnership begins with daily duties and develops into a partnership of the heart**

§ Daily duties of work, house cleaning, children, church, finances, etc.

§ Partners help each other grow in their relationship with the Lord – encouragement

§ As trust develops based on considerate treatment, hearts can merge together.

**6. Hindrances to developing partnership.**

§ Egocentrism – belief that your view and preferences are the right/only ones

§ Old man – hurts/pain in core of the heart – defenses – avoid/withdraw/confront/rigidity

§ Over emphasis of biblical roles – take care of your job & I will take care of mine; over/misuse of authority; refusal to accept submissive role

§ Misdirected priorities – excessive pursuit of money, ministry, social life, pleasure