

ENJOY MARRIED LIFE

Translators have struggled with the translation of the opening statement of Eccl.9:9 from the Hebrew to English.

- **KJ**
 - “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun.”
- **Amplified**
 - “Live joyfully with the wife you love all the days of your vain life, which He has given you under the sun.”
- **NAS**
 - “Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun.”
- **NIV**
 - “Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun.”

The Hebrew word for “**See**” is (raah / kal impv/ ms) [#1 means ‘to see’, but #7 means “a mental observation; to give attention to; to consider with joy or pleasure] **lives** (chayyim) [plurality of life; days or years of life **with the wife**] (im-ishah) (Gen.2:23-25).”

There are three verbs in this verse that will make-up our study outline.

- Godly enjoyment (kal impv./ raah) Command to husband
- Godly love (kal pf./ aheb) Commitment to wife
- Godly given (kal pf./ nathan) Companionship in life - “For this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.” (NAS)

This lesson will study four aspects of Enjoying “Married Life”

1. As a good parental Father, God orchestrates bringing believers together for the prospect of marriage.

(Gen.2:22 NAS) “Then the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which he had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.”

(Prov.18:22) “Her who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor (grace) from the Lord.”

The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah is an example of this doctrinal principle (Gen.24)

(Gen.24:12-14) “Then he prayed, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.’”

“Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder.”

(Gen.24:26-27) “Then the man bowed down and worshiped the Lord, saying, ‘Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned His kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.’”

You can read this doctrinal principle in the Book of Ruth with Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.

2. **Godly love is called aheb in Hebrew and agape in Greek. When God is the source of love, it is a spiritual love.**

This is the way we are interested in studying it.

“Enjoy life with the **woman whom you love** (aheb / kal pf) (LXX) (agapao / a.a.ind2ps) all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun.” (Eccl.9:9a)

All three members of the Godhead are involved in godly love.

- God, the Father (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10)
- God, the Son (1 John 3:16; Eph.5:2)
- God, the Holy Spirit (Rom.5:5, 8; Gal.5:22-23)

3. **Because of this doctrinal principle, Paul could demand Christian husbands to spiritually love their wives JUST AS Christ loved them.**

“Husbands, love (agapao / p.a.impv.2pl) your wives, just as (kathos / adv. of comparison) Christ also loved (agapao / a.a.ind.3ps) the church and gave (paradidomi/ a.a.ind.3ps) Himself up for her.”

Paul described this godly love in 1 Cor.13:4-8. Paul described what it isn't and what it is so that we might understand how we conduct ourselves in relationships.

- **Love is** (patient, kind, rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things). This love builds up people and the relationship – “But love edifies.” (1 Cor.8:1b)
- **Love is not** (not jealous, not brag, not arrogant, not act unbecomingly, not seek its own, not provoked, not take into account a wrong suffered, not rejoice in unrighteousness). You can see that this type of love tears down people and relationships.

Husbands are commanded by Paul, “Husbands, love (agapao / p.a.impv.2pl) your wives, and do not be embittered (me pikraino / p.p.impv.2pl/ harsh, bitter, resentful) [Amplified] against them. (Col.3:19)

Godly love will never fail as long as its source is the Godhead – “Love never fails.” (1 Cor.13:8a)

4. **Godly love is the glue that binds together all other virtues of the CWL (Col.3:12-14).**

Wm. James said, “It is easier to act yourself into a better way of feeling than to feel yourself into a better way of acting.”

Paul listed seven virtues of the CWL (heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness) (Col.3:12-13)

(Col.3:14) “And beyond all these things **put on** (enduo / a.m.impv.2pl) **love** (ten agapen), which is the perfect bond of unity.”

The believer's soul capacity for giving and receiving godly love comes from spiritual growth maturity - “That their hearts may be encouraged, **having been knit together in love**, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself.” (Col.2:2)

(1 Cor.16:14) “Let all that you do be done in love.”

(1 Cor.13:13) “But abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Ignorance and neglect of the application of the bible doctrine of godly love is the major cause of marital conflict and divorce within the 21st century Christian church in USA.