

# **DISCIPLESHIP**

## **BOOK 3**

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Australia**

# Home Life and Relationships

## Rationale:

*There is significant evidence to show that the Biblical concept of courtship, family, marriage and home life is being challenged.*

- \* Divorce rate has sky rocketed
- \* Living with a partner outside of marriage becomes an acceptable norm
- \* Home violence on the increase
- \* Premarital sex and extra-marital affairs are common
- \* Rebellious children demanding their “rights”
- \* Authority in the home is being questioned

*Therefore these lessons will be helpful for everyone.*

- \* Couples who want to begin a relationship.
- \* Couples who are considering marriage.
- \* Individuals who are hoping to marry someday,
- \* People who are already married
- \* Unmarried people - even if they never plan to marry

*The purpose of this study is to consider some biblical perspective regarding preparation for a relationship and marriage, how to improve your marriage, home and relationships. In this study, sharing is a very important matter, but please be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. Confidentiality is paramount. You can discuss things with sincerity and integrity without compromising and destroying the reputation of others. Always go back to the biblical principles you will study.*

# Chapter One

## Authority in your Home

### Expected Outcome:

1. To have a greater understanding of the importance of the Bible as the authority of our faith, our relationships and how to conduct our home life.
2. **Memory Verse: Psalm 127:1** “Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain”.

### Study Questions:

**1. What can you say about the authority shown in these passages?**

(Fill in the blanks below before going to Bible Study)

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- a. **Worldly marriage “experts”** - psychiatrists, feminists, sex educators, civil government

**Read:** [1 Corinthians 1:19-21; 2:4,5; Proverbs 14:12]

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- b. **Practices of Society** - advice or example of friends, neighbours etc

**Read:** Romans 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 10:12; Matthew 7:13,14]

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- c. **Practices of our parents** – traditions and practices of your upbringing

**Read:** [Matthew 10:34-37; Acts 5:29]

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**d. Personal desires or desires of the family members – our priorities in life**

**Read:** [Matt 16:24,25; 10:34-37]

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**Note:** There are people who have been given skills and abilities to counsel us because of their experience and education. Some of their advice is good and reasonable. However, we need to be discerning because their emphasis might have some ingredients of a worldly perspective. They might be an authority in some areas but as believers we have a higher standard for guidance, our infallible source. If these human guides disagree with our biblical principles we need to think twice before taking action.

**2. The Bible is the ultimate source of guidance in your home as shown in these passages. (Fill in the blanks before your Bible Study)**

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**Read:** Genesis 2:18-24. Who created home and marriage from the beginning? Why is it important to know this in relation to marriage and home life?

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**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 2:13. How does the word of God impact your life and relationship with others?

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**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:16,17. To what extent are these verses applicable to your home/married life or relationships?

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**Read:** Isaiah 55:8,9. In the area of relationships what encouragement do you get from these verses compared to ‘worldly wisdom’?

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**Read:** Joshua 1:8. We have success in following God’s word in many aspects of our lives. Many claim to believe this regarding salvation, the church, worship, etc. But do we likewise follow God's plan for our homes? Discuss and everyone to share what you have written below.

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**Read:** Psalm 127:1 What is the key message presented in this verse?

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**Read:** Matthew 7:24-27 This is talking about our faith and the word of God but the principle can also be applied in every relationship. How can you be a ‘wise builder’ of your home?

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**Life Application:** (Leader please encourage everyone to share)

1. Does my home need 'home improvement'?

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2. What aspect in my life can I develop in order to be a better husband, wife, daughter or son?

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3. What have I learnt about the Authority of God's word in my life and for my life?

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**Note:** The Bible is the word of God, and God is never wrong. If you want a good marriage and a good home, you must follow the proper guide.

[2 Peter 1:3; Acts 17:11]

# Chapter Two

## Choices – God, Gold or Glory

### Expected Outcome

1. That every truly born-again believer will decide to choose to love God above all else.
2. **Memory Verse: Joshua 24:15** “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

### Study Questions

1. **What are some of the goals emphasized in these passages? Unjumble these words.**

**Read:** - Luke 12:15-21; 1 Timothy 6:9,10; 1 John 2:15-17. (trmaelia sssonpoessi)

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**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:24-26. (capsulers)

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**Read:** John 12:42,43. (lypupoatir); (clsoia dsgintan)

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**Read:** Proverbs 31:30; 1 Peter 3:3,4 (tyeabu)

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**Read:** - 1 Timothy 4:8 (trecireona); (htlaciest)

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**2. The most important goal our homes should seek to accomplish is to serve and worship God.**

**a. What examples do we have here?**

**Read:** Genesis 18:19

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**Read:** Joshua 24:15

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**Read:** Malachi 2:15

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**Note:** There are other important goals for our homes, such as love and companionship and raising our children to be good citizens. But even if a family has all these, let us encourage ourselves that the most important goal is – **to serve God**.

**b. How do these verses relate to serving God?**

**Read:** Matthew 6:33

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**Read:** Romans 12:1,2

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**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:58

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**3. What do we learn from these passages that will enrich our marriage, family life and other relationships? Write your answer below.**

**Read:** Hebrews 3:13

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**Read:** Genesis 18:19

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**Read:** Deuteronomy 6:6-9

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**Read:** Ephesians 6:4

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**How can prayer enrich your marriage, family life and relationships?**

**Read:** James 1:5 Are there things about your marriage that you wish you had the wisdom to improve?

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**Read:** James 5:16. What is required for spiritual healing to take place in a relationship?

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**Read:** Philippians 4:6 As the leader of your home what is your average anxiety or stress level on the scale of 1-10?

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**4. What do we learn from Genesis 24:12 when Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac?**

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**5. How does this challenge you as a parent of a teenage child who is seeking for a future spouse?**

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**Life Application:** (Leader please encourage everyone to share)

1. How do you balance your work, your leisure, your church and family life? Remember all these things can be blended

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2. Because of your work schedule or different timetables do you endeavour to set aside special time for a devotion and pray time together as a family?

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**Note:** Remember that your work, your leisure, your church and family life can all be blended together as one-word **WORSHIP** if all of them are being done for the glory of God. Every Christian who wants a good marriage and a good home life should never let a day go by that you don't pray to God for your spouse, your children, and yourself that all of you will serve God faithfully in your home. If you want a good marriage and a good home life, you must pray to God regularly.

# Chapter Three

## Christ-centred Relationships

### Expected Outcome

1. Healthy relationships are based on Biblical Principles
2. **Memory Verse: 2 Peter 1:2,3** “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”

### Study Questions

1. **Read: 2 Peter 1:2,3 – What promise has God given us in these verses as a guide for healthy relationships?**
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**Note:** Someone has said: The words “*courtship*” and “*dating*” are not mentioned in the Bible once. In Biblical times, marriages were generally arranged by families for reasons varying from economical to political. Love was usually not an important determinant. Fast forward to now, one’s spousal choice is generally a free choice based on love. In Biblical regard, there is no other reason for courtship than to find the right person to marry. A marriage is intended to be a permanent and unbreakable relationship, but how should we go about finding the right one?

2. **Read: Romans 12:2. As believers where should we NOT look to form principles for courtship?**
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**3. What should the central goal be of your relationship based on this verse?**

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**Note:** Are there any worldly influences which have shaped your relationship? If so, what? Are there any worldly practices in your courtship which you think you may need to change or adjust? (share and discuss)

**4. Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 – What can you learn from this verse about who you should pursue a relationship with?**

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**5. Are there any other principles you can learn from the passage above? (note the contrasts in these verses)**

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**6. Read: 1 Timothy 2:9-10, 1 Peter 3:1-4. What kind of things should you be looking for in a partner?**

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**7. Why is it important to focus on internal qualities rather than external?**

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**8. Read: Ruth 2:11. What qualities can you find in Ruth as an example?**

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**9. Read: Philippians 3:18-20, 1 John 2:15-17 –What is the worldly approach to relationships?**

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**10. What are some “earthly things” which many couples set their minds on?**

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**11. Read: Colossians 3:1-11 Why should we set our mind on the things above?**  
(Make a list)

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**12. Read: Psalms 143:10, 2 Corinthians 5:15, Philippians 4:8. Is your courtship or marriage relationship God-centred? In case you are not or unsure, what specific things could you do in order to make your relationship more God-centred?**

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**13. Read: Psalms 119:105 – Do you think the word of God is sufficient to help you ‘iron out’ the challenges and disagreements in your relationship?**

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**14. Why do we make “no time” as an excuse for not spending time together to study the Word of God?**

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**15. Read: Proverbs 11:14, 15:22 – What principles can you learn from these verses?**

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**Life Application:** (Leader should encourage everyone to share)

**Scenarios:**

1. You had no personal relationship with Jesus when you got married
2. You may be the only follower of Christ in your relationship
3. You may have been converted together as a family to Christ after you were married
4. You may have been brought up in a Christian home
5. You may have married a non-Christian and led him/her to the Lord and you are now both serving him faithfully
6. Are there any more scenarios?

**1. If you identify yourself with one of these scenarios, please share how you were able to face the challenges in your relationship?**

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**2. Are there any examples of areas in your relationship where you need to be either less earthly minded or more heavenly minded?**

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**3. On a scale 1-10 how determined are you, with God's guidance, to marry a God-fearing person? (If you are already married, flash back and share your experiences and score yourself on a scale 1-10.)**

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# Chapter Four

## Two Biblical Case Studies - Marriage at 'first sight' - Love at 'no sight'

### Expected Outcome

1. That divine guidance is important when choosing a life-long partner.
2. **Memory Verse: Psalm 37:4-5** “Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.
3. Absolute faithfulness to God results in faithfulness in marriage.

**Introduction:** This time we are going to have a Case Study of 2 couples. We will begin with Samson and Delilah and compare this with Isaac and Rebekah. Even though these stories are very old and set in a different culture there are timeless biblical principles we can learn in the area of relationships.

Samson and Delilah story – Judges 14:1-20; 15:1-5; 16:1-22

Isaac and Rebekah story – Genesis 24:1-67

**Section One -Samson and Delilah – Read the story and answer the following questions:**

### Study Questions

1. **What can we learn from this story how NOT to pursue a relationship?**

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2. **What mistakes did Samson make in seeking a wife?**

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**3. What was the motivation behind Samson's decisions?**

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**4. How could Samson improve his communication skills?**

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**5. What were the main problems in Samson and Delilah's relationship?**

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**6. What mistakes did Delilah make?**

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**7. What do you think was the motivation behind Delilah's decisions?**

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## **Section Two: Isaac and Rebekah**

**Read the story and answer the following questions**

### **Study Questions**

**1. What are the main principles which guided the decision making?**

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**2. What did Abraham, as the father, do right?**

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**3. What did his servant do right?**

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**4. What do you notice about the servant's communication? Was his communication effective?**

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**5. What Biblical principles did he follow?**

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**6. How did the servant see God's divine intervention and sovereign will, demonstrated in this story?**

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**7. What character qualities does Rebekah display?**

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**8. What did her family do right?**

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**Section Three: Compare and contrast the story of Samson’s failed relationship with Isaac’s ‘*health relationship*’**

**1. How was the choosing of the spouse different?**

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**2. What was the parental involvement?**

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**3. They both had God-fearing parents and were set aside for God’s service but made choices that had consequences. Discuss**

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**Life Application:**

- 1. What principles can you learn from Genesis 24 that you can apply to your relationship?**

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- 2. 2 Corinthians 6:14 “do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” ....  
(Please consider the context) Do you think this verse is relevant today when looking for a life-long relationship?**

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- 3. Today in our modern western society love is the key to finding a life-long spouse. How important is this to you?**

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- 4. One of the most important purposes of marriage is companionship: sharing common goals and interests. Failure to share a common religious faith is one of the major grounds for conflict in marriage. To what extent do you agree?**

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# Chapter Five

## Guidelines for Good Communication

### Expected Outcomes

1. Couples to apply the essential guidelines for effective communication in their relationships.
2. **Memory Verse: Proverbs 15:1** “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”

### Section One – Laying the foundation

#### Study Questions

1. **Read:** Romans 3:10-12. **In these verses what is the key element that causes conflicts in our relationship with others?**

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2. **Read:** Ephesians 4:25-32.

- a. What command are you going to obey according to v. 25?

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- b. What is the positive thing you should do?

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c. What are some of the negatives you find in these verses related to communication?

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d. What are some ways you might be tempted to deal with your problem instead of “speaking”? e.g. ignore the problem, put it under the carpet etc.....(Please share)

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Why is it so important to speak?

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**Note:** Remember it is not “**what you say**” but “**how you say it**” that makes a difference.

Biblical examples to look at where the principle to ‘speak’ was not followed: Isaac and Rebekah failed to communicate effectively, **Read Genesis 27**. Rachel did not communicate with Jacob and it almost costs her life, **Read Genesis 31:32 and its context. Discuss and share.**

**3. Read:** Ephesians 4:15 – **What attitude should motivate you in your communication?**

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Can you think of any personal example when you did not speak the truth in love? Share.

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What is the difference between just “speaking the truth” and “speaking the truth in love?”

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**Case Study 1:** Your wife makes a special effort to cook a nice meal for you. It doesn’t taste good. What should you do?

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**Case Study 2:** Your husband has been steadily gaining weight since marriage. Now you are eating out together with friends after church. Your husband orders the least healthy item on the menu. What should you do?

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**4. Read:** Colossians 4:6 – **What should the goal of your communication with each other be?**

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When should you practice this principle to communicate with grace and sensitivity?

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## Section Two: Strategies for Effective Communication

### *I. Honesty and Integrity*

- a. Read:** Ephesians 4:26-27 – **Is anger an acceptable emotion in your relationship? Why or why not?**

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When is anger acceptable?

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- b. What “rule of communication” is seen in the second half of verse 26?**

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- c. Why is it important in a marriage to not let your anger or hurt feelings carry over to the next day?**

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- d. How would a failure to solve each day’s problems that day affect your future relationship?**

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What are some reasons why couples may not deal with problems quickly?

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e. **Read:** 1 Peter 4:8, Matthew 18:22 – **What can we learn from these verses about the key to dealing with problems or arguments in your relationship?**

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***Activity:** For each of the following verses write down a question you should ask yourselves before discussing a problem/disagreement together.*

**Proverbs 18:13**

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Example: Do I have the facts right?

**Proverbs 15:23, Ecclesiastes 3:1,8**

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Example: Is this the right time?

**Proverbs 3:5**

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Example: Have I prayed for God's help?

**Matthew 7:3-5**

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Example: Have I confessed my own sin?

**Proverbs 11:2**

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Example: Am I being humble?

**II. *Solve problems quickly and graciously***

- a. Read:** Ephesians 4:29-30 – **What principle of communication can you learn from these verses?**

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How can you relate this verse to solving problems in marriage?

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What should be the goal of your communication?

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What does edify mean? \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:11 – **What does it mean to build up others?**

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How can you do this?

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Write down 5 areas you should make an effort to build one another up.

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**c. Read:** James 3:5-12 – **What are the dangers of the tongue?**

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Write down any cases where your words hurt someone. (friend, wife, husband, sister, etc.) on Facebook or other forms of media.

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What should you do about those issues? (Confess)

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What practical ways can you control your tongue the next time?

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**d. Read: Proverbs 12:18, 15:1, 16:27 – How can you avoid a conflict before it starts?**

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What are some unhealthy methods of communication which can make a conflict worse?

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**e. Read: Matthew 5:9, 24 – What can we learn from these verses about solving problems?**

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How can you be a peacemaker?

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**III. Deal with the Problem, Don't attack the Person**

**a. Read: Ephesians 4:31-32 – Make a list of all the actions that must be.....**

**PUT OFF**

**PUT ON**


What does each one mean?

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Which one is the biggest struggle/temptation for you?

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How can you overcome this?

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Write down three ways you can show kindness and tender-heartedness toward your spouse/friend in communication.

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Is it important that you communicate forgiveness toward your spouse/friend or just forgive them from your heart? Why or why not?

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**b. Read: James 1:19 – What is your natural reaction when your spouse/friend points out a problem or sin in your life?**

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Can you think of any time in your relationship when you did not respond well to this?

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What principles in this verse should guide you the next time you are corrected?

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#### ***IV. Conflict Resolution- Action rather than Reaction!***

**Read: Genesis 27. Write out what marriage problems Isaac and Rebekah had and how they could have used effective communication to better their marriage and strengthen their family.**



**Conflicts/Problems:**

**Effective Communication:**


Include Bible verses in your “counsel” for Isaac and Rebekah which you have considered above and previous lessons.

**Life Application:** (Leader please encourage everyone to share)

- 1. How has this study helped you in your communication with your spouse/friend/family?**

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- 2. What is your 'love language'? What is your spouse/friend's love language?**

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- 3. Reflect upon the 'Fruit of the Spirit' which you have learned in Galatians 5:22,23 and how you can apply this in your relationships with others.**

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- 4. Teachers who have knowledge of the truth have a stricter and heavy judgement during the judgement seat of Christ. Do you think we need to practice what we teach?**

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# CHAPTER SIX

## Love is the Greatest

### Expected Outcome

1. To have a better understanding of what love is and apply it in our relationship with others
2. To discovery our weak areas and find ways we can improve, for a healthier relationship
3. **Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13** “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.”

### **Note: This is an introduction:**

The subject of this chapter is love, real love, *agape* love, and Drummond saw this as the *summum bonum*, the highest good; the greatest value; the worthiest goal of life. As Drummond said, “To love abundantly is to live abundantly, and to love for ever is to live for ever.” He saw the various graces mentioned here as merely the light spectrum of love, as seen in patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness and sincerity. He said, “Where Love is, God is. He that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God. God is love.”<sup>3</sup> Clearly, Paul was not writing about a subject but a person. Meyer says of him: “His radiant spirit had caught a glimpse of the living Saviour. Jesus sits for his portrait in these glowing sentences, and of him every clause is true.”

1. ***Separately fill out the sheet by giving both you and your partner a score from 1-10 in each area. Please take into consideration the environmental factors (such as just having had an argument or disagreement with your spouse/friend). Another consideration is your frame of mind at the time, being tired, stress or other pressures. Also take into consideration any personality background which have been clinically diagnosed. (all of us need acceptance, love and understanding)***
2. **Please give reasons why you scored yourself this way?**

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3. **Please give reasons why you scored your partner this way?**

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	<b>1 Corinthians 13: 4- 8</b>	<b>AMPLIFICATION</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>Him/Her</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>LOVE IS PATIENT</b> It is slow to lose patience	Doesn't demonstrate irritations, or reflect anger or have a quick temper. Has fully accepted the character of the one being loved		
<b>2</b>	<b>IT IS KIND</b> It looks for a way of being constructive.	It is able to recognize needs. It discovers successful methods of improving or contributing to the other's life.		
<b>3</b>	<b>IT DOES NOT ENVY</b> It is not possessive	It does not hold exclusive control. It is secure and not "clingy".		
<b>4</b>	<b>IT DOES NOT BOAST</b>	Doesn't seek to make an impression or create an image for personal gain		
<b>5</b>	<b>IT IS NOT PROUD</b> It does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance	It is not self—centred. It has the ability to change and to accept change. It is flexible. It doesn't allow or expect 1 to revolve around itself		
<b>6</b>	<b>IT IS NOT RUDE</b> It has good manners	Has respect for others which results in set of Christ—centred standards. Has discretion. Knows what is proper and when		
<b>7</b>	<b>IT IS NOT SELF—SEEKING</b> It does not pursue selfish advantage	Does not have primary concern for personal appetites or social status but concern for the needs of the one and the families involved		
<b>8</b>	<b>IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED</b> It is not touchy	Is not hypersensitive or easily hurt. Does not take things too personally. Is not emotionally involved with personal opinions so as to reject ideas is to reject the one giving them		
<b>9</b>	<b>IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS</b> It does not keep account of evil	Doesn't review wrongs that have been forgiven. Doesn't dwell on past evil. Destroys evidence of past mistakes when possible		
<b>10</b>	<b>IT DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL</b> It doesn't gloat over the	Doesn't compare self with others for self—justification. Doesn't use other's evil to excuse personal weakness		

	wickedness of other people	Doesn't say. "Everyone is doing it".		
<b>11</b>	<b>IT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH</b> It is glad with all godly men when truth prevails.	Is in active fellowship with dedicated Christians. Is occupied with spiritual objectives		
<b>12</b>	<b>IT ALWAYS PROTECTS</b> It cares for the weak	Has the ability to live with the inconsistencies of others. Has empathy for the problems of others.		
<b>13</b>	<b>IT ALWAYS TRUSTS</b> It knows no end to its trust	It believes in the person and the person's worth without question. It has no reason to doubt the person's integrity		
<b>14</b>	<b>IT ALWAYS HOPES</b> It knows no fading of its hopes	It is not fickle. It has perfect peace and confidence that God is primarily responsible for the right time.		
<b>15</b>	<b>IT ALWAYS PERSEVERES</b> It has unlimited endurance.	It is able to outlast anything. It is able to endure all obstacles and even love in the face of unreturned love.		

**Life Application:** (Leaders please encourage everyone to share)

1. What areas would you like to work on individually in the coming weeks?

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2. What areas would you like to work on corporately in the coming weeks?

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3. Proverbs 27:5 says "Open rebuke is better than secret love." How do you respond when you are rebuked by someone who cares?

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# Chapter Seven

## God's Essential Truths About Marriage

### Expected Outcomes:

1. To know God's truth about marriage.
2. **Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:4.** "Marriage *is* honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

### Study Questions:

1. **Read Genesis 2:18—25.**
  - a. Why did God choose to make woman?

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- b. What does this tell you about the reason/purpose for marriage?

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- c. What are some worldly reasons for a couple to get married? What is the problem with these reasons?

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- d. How did Adam respond to God's plan for his marriage? How about Eve?

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e. What does this passage tell you about the status of a woman?

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- 2. Read Genesis 2:24. Speaks of ‘leaving and cleaving’**  
**a. What does it mean to “leave” your father and mother?**

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Consider some of these scenarios in the context of leaving and cleaving:

- Parents’ expectations after marriage
- Will they live with you or you with them
- Financial support – will you rely on them or they on you
- Raising of the children – anticipate any problems raising kids
- Your relationship with your parents-in-law and how you can improve this

- 3. Read: Mark 7:11-12, 1 Timothy 5:8, and Ephesians 6:2. What responsibility do you have toward your parents after marriage?**

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- 4. Read: Genesis 1:31. What was God’s conclusion about all of His creation including marriage?**

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Are all marriages today “very good?” \_\_\_\_\_

What is the secret to having a “very good” marriage?

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**READ: MARK 10:1—12**

5. What does it mean to become “one flesh?”(vs 9)

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a. In what aspects should a married couple be “one?”

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b. Is the process of becoming “one flesh” reversible? (vs 10-12)

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c. Do you think divorce is an option for believers?

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d. How can you create common goals? See Amos 3:3

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e. How healthy is a marriage in which the couple live separate lives with different interests, but live in the same home?

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- f. How can you prevent this from happening? To what extent can you weave your interests and pursuits together?

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**6. Read: Proverbs 20:6-7.**

- a. What principles can you learn from this verse?

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- b. Is it easy for both sides to always be faithful? How can you practice unfailing love?

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- c. What challenge does this verse have for a father?

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- d. Why is a healthy marriage important for raising godly children?

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- e. As a father, what is the best thing you can do for your children? (Ask your pastor secretly)

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**7. Read: Deuteronomy 24:5**

a. What important principle about marriage can you find in this verse?

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b. What can you do and what habits can you set in the first year to strengthen your marriage's foundation?

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**8. Read: Proverbs 15:17, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 3:9, Proverbs 6:6-8**

a. What principles can we learn from these verses about money?

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b. Why is money such a common cause in marriage problems?

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c. How will you prevent money from becoming a problem in your marriage?

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d. Will you have a financial plan?

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e. Who should make all the financial arrangements?

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f. Who is good with budgeting and handling of money in your home?

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g. Who cannot manage money well? And 'do either of you spend without thinking?

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h. How important is dressing well to you?

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i. Are you a saver or a spender? Will you give up extras to save money?

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j. Would you ever take out a big loan for anything?

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**Life Application:** (Leader please encourage everyone to share)

1. To what extent do you give support to your parents and in-laws now that you are married?

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2. Here in Australia everyone seems to have a mortgage and a credit card. To what extent does paying off your mortgage and loan impact your relationship with your spouse and family? (The wise man built his house upon the rock; the foolish man built his house upon the sand.)

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3. When you send gifts here and overseas to someone in need do you talk about it together as husband and wife before sending the money? Has this affected your relationship?

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# Chapter Eight

## Husband's Role

### Expected Outcome:

1. To be aware that adjusting and learning about your spouse is a task of a life-time.
2. **Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:7** “Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

### Study Questions

**1. Read: 1 Peter 3:7 – A Husband Should Learn (know) His Wife**

- a. What principle can you learn from this verse?

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- b. How is a husband supposed to treat his wife?

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- c. List out several ways you can honour your wife.

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- d. In what ways is a wife weaker physically than her husband? Knowing this, what should the husband do?

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e. What is her position in Christ?

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f. As women and men are different, how committed are you in understanding your partner better? How do you do this?

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g. According to Psalm 66:18 and 1 Peter 3:7, what is the consequence of having a bad relationship with your spouse?

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h. What are five (5) practical ways in which husbands can demonstrate their willingness to understand their wives better? (e.g. know their love language, special occasions, spend time with them, etc.)

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**2. Read: Ephesians 5:25-33 – A Husband Should Love His Wife**

a. What is the husband's responsibility?

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b. What is love? Explain it

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c. With what kind of love?

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d. How did Christ love the church?

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e. How is this different than the world's standard?

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f. What kind of love do most worldly husbands have?

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g. What are some major responsibilities the husbands have to their wives e.g. (helping to edify/cleanse their wives)? Read the text in context.

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h. To what degree are we to love our wives?

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i. Why does it say “he who loves his own wife, loves himself”?

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j. When must a husband love the wife?

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k. What if she is being unsubmitive?

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l. What if she is doing wrong?

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m. How can a husband nourish and cherish his wife?

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n. How successful do you think a marriage following this pattern would be?

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**3. Case Studies (Discuss as many as you have time for.)**

1. You find out that your wife has not been reading the Bible regularly. She is discouraged in her walk with the Lord and is not being diligent. What is the loving thing to do?
2. Your company offers you a promotion. It will mean more money for your family. But it will also mean you are required to do more overtime and will have less time to spend with your family. What is the loving thing to do?
3. You have been working OT and are tired. Your baby wakes up repeatedly in the middle of the night and cries so it is hard for you and your wife to sleep. What is the loving thing to do?
4. You have just returned from a tiring day at the office. You want to just relax and browse your phone or watch TV for a while. Your wife starts telling you many details about an event that seems insignificant to you. What is the loving thing to do?
5. You have a big financial commitment. Both you and your wife are working. You come home tired. The household chores have to be done. You are stressed out. How do you juggle or balance your family life, time for each other and other activities?
6. Your wife has a bad habit of speaking before she thinks. You notice that she is saying some insensitive words to a sister at church. What is the loving thing to do?

4. **What can a husband learn about love from each of the following verses?**

- 1 John 4:19

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- 1 John 3:18

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- Romans 5:8

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- Colossians 3:19

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5. **Read: Matthew 20:20-28 – A Husband Should Lead (also seen in Ephesians 5) his Wife**

- a. How do the Gentiles/unbeliever's lead?

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- b. What is a wrong form of leadership? .

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c. What is biblical leadership?

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d. What should the husband as head do if he and his wife disagree on a decision that needs to be made (for example: house to buy or rent, which city to live in, which church to go to, what school to send children to, whose parents to visit for a holiday)?

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**Life Application:** (Leaders encourage everyone to share)

1. As husbands, is there anything the Holy Spirit has convicted you of; and how will you go about putting it into practice?

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2. In your life's journey do you flashback, once in a while, to your marriage vows?

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# Chapter Nine

## Wife's Role

### Expected Outcome:

1. To be aware that adjusting and learning about your spouse is a task of a life-time.
2. Memory Verse: Titus 2:4,5 “that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

### Study Questions:

#### 1. Read: Ephesians 5:22-24

- a. What principle can wives learn from these verses?

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- b. Why does this passage say that the wife needs to submit?

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- c. In what areas should the wife submit?

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- d. What may be the consequences if a wife submits partially (outwardly but struggling within her heart)?

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e. What should the wife do if she disagrees with her husband's decision?

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f. Some say that the husband is the head, but the wife is the neck who turns the head. Do you think this approach is right?

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**2. Read: Isaiah 14:13 (read in context) – What is the first case of rebellion?**

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**3. Read: Isaiah 53:6a – Who struggles with not submitting?**

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**4. Read: Philippians 2:5-9, 1 Peter 2:21-25 –**

a. What can we learn from Jesus' example in this area of submission?

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b. To whom was He submitting? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What challenges or temptations did He face which made submission difficult?

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d. How can you follow Jesus' example in this area of submission?

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**5. Case Studies for discussion.**

- a. Your husband feels that certain clothes in your wardrobe are immodest. He doesn't say anything, but you can tell he doesn't like them. You don't feel the same way. What should a loving wife do?
- b. You found a good deal on a new piece of furniture for your home. But you are a little worried that your husband will not agree to buy it. You have enough money with you and don't want to miss the sale. What should a loving wife do?
- c. You find yourself 'stuck at home' with the kids and it is having a huge impact upon your emotional and mental health. What's your decision to have a well-balanced family life?
- d. Your children come to you about going on an overnight school camp. You're okay with it because it is a part of their education, but your husband disagrees. What should a loving wife do?

**6. Read Genesis 2:18 –**

- a. What can you learn from this passage about why God created a woman?
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- b. In what ways can a wife help her husband?
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- c. How can you help your present/future husband in ministry? In work? In spiritual life?  
Write down **three specific ways for each area.**

Ministry

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Work

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Spiritual Life

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**7. Read: Ephesians 5:33 –**

- a. How should a wife treat her husband based on this passage?

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- b. What does it mean to respect your husband?

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c. How can you let your husband know you respect him?

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d. How can you show respect to your husband when he is not present?

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e. How can you show respect to your husband when he is present?

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f. What are some non-verbal ways that wives may demonstrate disrespect or lack of submission towards their husband?

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g. Write out two things you respect about your present/future husband

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**8. Read: 1 Peter 3:1-6 –**

a. What principles can you learn from these verses which you can apply in marriage?

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b. How should you treat your husband if he is disobeying God?

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c. What unique insight can you get about what submission is like from verse 1?

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d. What does this passage teach about dress?

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e. How can you apply verse 4?

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**9. Read: Titus 2:4-5 –**

a. What principles can you learn from this verse about the role of a wife/mother?

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Will you feel fulfilled by doing these things or do you need outside work so that you can have a sense of achievement?

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What does this passage say about women and the home?

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What are the problems with a woman having a career outside the home?

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b. What challenges and temptations will a woman and the whole family face if a wife/mother pursues a career outside the home?

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c. How would you explain the phrase “workers at home?” How might this contrast with the worldly idea of a housewife?

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d. What should you do if one salary is not enough?

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**Life Application:** (Leaders please encourage everyone to share)

1. Are you a fulfilled woman as a wife and as a mother? Share.
2. What is your perspective of the Lordship of Christ in your womanhood?
3. As husband and wife what are the things you need to work on together to have a healthy family life?
4. Are you content to grow older, gracefully, with your husband?

# Chapter Ten

## Singleness and devotion to Christ

**Note:** We have added a chapter on being single as this is also a part of God’s plan in our relationships and needs to be addressed in the church. *Singles should pursue a course that leads to the greatest devotion to Christ and His cause.* This advice applies to every Christian, single or married, of course. But it is Paul’s word specially to singles.

### Expected Outcomes:

1. As a body of Christ we need to have a greater understanding of what it means to be single and be more accepting of this in our fellowship
2. **Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 7:32** “But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord.”

### Study Questions:

**1.Read:** 1 Corinthians 7 **What was the background setting of this chapter?** (Leader needs to do some research about the background of the Corinthian church particularly related to this chapter)

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**2.Read:** 1 Corinthians 7:1. **What is Paul referring to when using the word “touch”?**

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How is this reinforced in 7:7-9

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**3.How is being single referred to in 7:7**

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**Case Study:**

Many Christians put pressure on singles, especially those getting along in years, to get married. Sometimes we communicate an unbiblical attitude: “I wonder what’s wrong with him (or her) that he’s/she’s never married? He seems like a nice person.” Have you heard this comment from someone or said this comment to someone? Discuss and reflect its impact and reaction. (After discussion, what is the best way you will **now** act?)

**4.Read: 1 Tim. 4:3; Heb. 13:4. What can you learn from these verses?**

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**5.Read: 1 Corinthians 7:26 What is one of the advantages of remaining single?**

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**6.Read: 1 Corinthians 7:28 Paul mentions that the married people will have troubles (perhaps during persecution of Christians). How much more trouble will you have if you have a family?**

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**Case Study:** What are some of the advantages and disadvantages when going to the mission field as a single person rather than married with a family?

**7.Read:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. **What is the second advantage for being single?**

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**Note:** If a single person gives himself/herself fully to the Lord and His service, he will be more devoted since he does not have the family obligations that the married person has. Perhaps you're thinking, "If staying single has all these advantages, then why shouldn't we all stay single? Why get married?"

8. The main reason Paul gives is that being celibate is a gift from God, and while he wishes that everyone had that gift, he recognizes that this is not for everyone (7:7-9). You may ask, "How can I know if I have the gift of being celibate?" How can I serve God and glorify Him the best?

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**9.Read:** 1 Corinthians 7:9. **What do we learn from this verse if you are single and find that fighting sexual temptation is a daily battle?**

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**10.Read:** 1 Corinthians 10:13. **What comfort and encouragement do you get from this verse?**

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Do you think it is fair to ask this personal question: Can you control your sexual desires? (If not, just be quiet! But remember, silence means yes!) Ha! Ha! Ha! Make a holy laughter.

**11.Read: Genesis 2:18.** What was the reason God created Eve for Adam?

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Are you constantly lonely in spite of a close relationship with the Lord and other believers?

**12.Read Matt. 6:33; 16:25** To what ministry has God called you? How would you see the advantages of being single in that ministry?

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**Note:** C.T. Studd and David Livingstone (missionary greats) were married men with families. While God accomplished much good through these dedicated men, their families suffered great harm. Their witness was harmed by neglecting their families.

13. If you are contemplating or dreaming of marriage,

a.What are some of the things you should **not do** while waiting for your godly mate?

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b.What are some of the things you **can do** while waiting for your godly mate?

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**14. Read 1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14-18** What do we learn from these passages?

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**15. Read 1 Corinthians 6:16-20.** What do we learn about purity here in relationship to being single or married?

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**16. Read Proverbs 31:30.** What qualities do you look for in a godly mate? How important should physical attraction be in deciding a marriage partner?

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17. Marriage is a gracious, good gift from God. Will marriage be the final solution to your problems or longings? Why or Why not?

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**18. Read 1 Corinthians 7:29-31.** What are we reminded of in these verses?

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19. Why do **some** Christians put emphasis on marriage as a key to fulfillment and happiness?

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**Case Study:** Peter is a strong believer and loves serving the Lord in ministry. However, his wife Julie, who claims to be a Christian, does not get involved in church activities or support her husband in ministry. How can we avoid allowing a good thing (marriage) to take the place of the best thing (devotion to Christ)? Are there similar stories that you know in relation to this. Please share and discuss.

**Life Application:**

1. How has this study impacted your thinking and attitude towards a person who may be single, divorced or widowed?
2. How can we minister affectively to the singles in our church?

## Sources:

<https://studyandobey.com/inductive-bible-study/christian-based-marriage>

Growing a Godly Marriage and Raising Godly Children by David E. Pratte

***\*\*Note: Not to be sold, only for small group study\*\****



### **Why Study the Bible:**

- **To understand Cultural literacy**
- **To learn firsthand information**
- **Inspired writing**
- **To know God and have Eternal Life**
- **To grow personally in the Body of Christ**
- **To encourage others**
- **To know the claims of Christ**
- **To avoid error**
- **To be loyal for His cause**