

The Godly Woman as a Wife

Introduction to Studies on Marriage & the Family



“The Lord said ... I will make him a suitable helper, completing him.”
Genesis 2:18 (Berkeley)

In the world of the 21st Century, with its uncertainty, its crumbling value systems and its many social problems and pressures, thinking people are concerned about the home. They are seeking guidelines for effective and fulfilling marriage relationships.

These studies are designed to help improve our understanding of Christian marriage with its challenges, joys, and satisfactions ... and to produce a distinctively Christian home where Christ lives—not merely a home where Christians live.

The studies leave much unsaid, but this is inevitable within the limits of a single book. We would highly recommend that you read *Heaven Help the Home* by Howard Hendricks, Victor Press and *How to Be Happy Though Married*, by Dr. Tim LaHaye, Tyndale House, as companion study books for these chapters on marriage, children and the home. These books are on the art and joy of successful family living and cover much of what's been left unsaid in these brief studies. Other helpful tapes and books are listed at the end of each chapter.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.” Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

The Basis of Marriage

1. How did God create man? Genesis 1:26-27

2. Why did God establish the marriage relationship? Genesis 2:18



3. Men and women desire to be married for various reasons. What are some of these motivations?

4. In the Bible, God uses marriage to describe the relationship of Christ to the individual believer. What are some of the parallels you see between these two relationships?

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5. God has given us certain biblical principles which provide the basis for a truly godly marriage. From the following scriptures, state as many of these principles as you can find.

- Genesis 2:18, 24
Ephesians 5:21-33
Colossians 3:18, 19
I Corinthians 7:3-5
I Corinthians 11:3
Genesis 18:19
Genesis 1:26-28



6. The following are some general principles God has given to Christians. State the principle and how it also contributes to a Godly marriage.

- Ephesians 5:18
 - I Thessalonians 5:18
 - Ephesians 4:26
 - Colossians 3:23
 - Ephesians 4:31, 32
 - I Peter 4:9, Romans 12:13
 - Colossians 2:6-7 (Living)
 - Philippians 4:6-7
 - Philippians 2:3-4

Romans 13:8

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II Corinthians 6:14

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7. Which of these principles for a Godly marriage is most lacking in your marriage? What can you do this week to begin to change this?

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In order to have a godly marriage, there must be godly partners. The basis of a godly marriage begins with the individual.

8. From the following Scriptures, what are some basic truths that must be evident for God to express His likeness in us?

- a. John
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- b. II Corinthians 3:18
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- c. John 3:30
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- d. II Peter 1:4 15:5
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9. What characteristics relating to godliness do you see in these Scriptures?

- a. Genesis 6:9
- b. Hebrews 11:8
- c. Numbers 14:6-8
- d. I Kings 4:29
- e. Numbers 32:12

10. In Genesis 18:19 and Ephesians 5:22-24, we found that the husband is to lead the family. In what areas is he to lead ?.....

Is this true in your family?

11. How can a husband who desires to lead his family be kept from it?

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12. Briefly describe the influence of the men and women in the following verses.

I Peter 3:7

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Matthew 27:19-26

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I Samuel 25:14-35

I Kings 11:1-4
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I Kings 21:4-16
.....
II Kings 4:8-10

This reveals how greatly men can influence women, and women can influence men; for good, or for evil.

13. Who is answerable to God for setting the direction of the home?

- a. I Timothy 3:4, 5
 - b. I Corinthians 11:3
 - c. Colossians 3:18-21

14. List the responsibilities of the husband and the wife in the family and home as you understand them.

15. What if a husband or wife is not fulfilling his/her God given role? What can the other partner do about it? (I John 3:21, 22; Matthew 21:22; Colossians 3:23)

16. In which of these responsibilities do you feel least adequate?

What will you do this week to allow God to help you in this area?

Suggestions For Further Study

Scriptural Home Seminar, George Sanchez

Tape 1059 - Survey of Our Need and God's Provision, Shirley Rice

Tape 1059 - Survey of Our Need and God's Provision,
Tape 1057 - Husband-Wife Relationship. Leila Sparks

Building A Christian Home, by Brandt and Dowdy, Victor Books

The Christian Family. by Larry Christenson. Bethany Fellowship.

The Christian Family, by Early Christensen, Beth
Ms. Means Myself, by Gladys Hunt, Zondervan.