

The Godly Woman as a Wife

Introduction to Studies on Marriage & the Family

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.”

God has indeed given us a sure and ***firm foundation*** for marriage in His excellent Word. But although the blueprint is clear, it is amazing how many Christians have no concept of the basis for marriage.

It is very probable you will have someone in your class to whom these will be all new thoughts - they have not been aware of God's plan for marriage. Pray earnestly, teacher, that as they study and discuss this lesson they will “see things from God's point of view” (Colossians 1:9,10 Phillips).

Some, perhaps, are in the midst of very difficult marital situations. Pray they will be encouraged to walk with God and fulfill their role in marriage. Assure them, if they are being and doing what God wants them to be and do, they can claim Romans 8:28 and know that “God is the blessed Controller of all things.” (I Timothy 6:15, Phillips)

Perhaps you have some who are widowed or divorced. Encourage them to go ahead and do these next chapters on marriage and the home. God will not waste this information but allow them to use some of the principles personally and share some with others.

A. Object Of The Lesson

To teach the Biblical basis for marriage so as to help each woman fill his God-given role in the family.

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did God establish marriage? (Genesis 2:18) Does this mean God meant it more for man's benefit than woman's? Or that man benefits more than woman? (No - each receives equal benefit as they fulfill their God-given role.)
2. What are some ways a husband is incomplete without a wife?
3. What scriptural principles did you find in answer to question 4 and question 5?
4. What is the meaning of the word “helpmate”? (Teacher, check the Amplified Bible and various other translations for help in answering this)
5. Can you explain the term “two become one”?
6. What parallels do you see in the marriage relationship and our walk with God? (Teacher, this is covered very thoroughly in “The Christian Home,” by Shirley Rice.)
7. As you anticipated marriage which of the reasons you listed were especially important to you? Which of these reasons do you feel were of prime importance to your mate? How can you more fully meet those needs of hers?

8. In your opinion, what essentials go into a solid foundation for a marriage? (Christ is the solid foundation. Then we must build love, trust, commitment, loyalty, etc.)
9. What are things that erode the foundation of marriage? (Christ not being the center, lack of love, lack of loyalty, lack of trust, etc.)
10. Why do you think Ephesians 4:26 is an important principle for a marriage? (a couple should never go to bed angry. Don't give the devil this sort of a foothold. Keep short accounts with one another. If conflicts aren't resolved quickly, they grow all out of proportion, and this promotes a communication breakdown.)
11. If you work at keeping short accounts in your marriage, what plans do you have for carrying out this principle? (Teacher, if no one mentions it, you might suggest that praying together just before they go to sleep - preferably in each other's arms would be a good plan. It's very hard to put your arms around your mate and pray if angry).
12. Of what importance is your daily walk with Christ in striving for a Godly marriage? (It is essential!) Look up Psalm 62:5. How does this apply in a marriage? (Your expectations must be from God - not your wife).
13. All of us find self-centeredness (the opposite of the principle of Philippians 2:3-4) cropping up in our marriage and our family life. How does self-centeredness manifest itself in your life?
14. Discuss answers to question 6.
15. Discuss answers to question 10. Specifically the areas in which a husband is to lead. How is the wife involved in this?
16. God made women and women with different basic strengths and needs so that we can compliment, encourage, and strengthen each other, as we fulfill our roles as a family. Name some of the husband's strengths and the need this meets in his wife. What are some womanly strengths that meet needs in a husband?
17. Ask for answers to question 11. What if the problem is he doesn't know how? What can a wife do? How can he be helped?
18. What do you feel are the husbands' responsibilities to his wife and family? What are the wife's responsibilities?
19. What if a husband isn't fulfilling God's role for him? What can a wife do? (Pray! and keep her mouth shut! Keep on fulfilling his God-given role!)

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

1. If you have not already had the ladies share their answers to questions 7 and 16, do so now.
2. Ask the ladies to write down all their expectations regarding their wives. (What do they expect from him? What "rights" do they think they have?) Now have a time of silent prayer and encourage them to give the Lord each of these expectations. Then whatever He sees fit to give them through their husbands, they can receive back gratefully as privileges.

3. Ask: What one thing, or one area, would you most like to see changed in your marriage? How do you think *you* (not your husbands) could help bring this about? Write down “I purpose to cooperate with God to bring this to pass in our marriage by... “

4. Share with the women the following:

“Ten Commandments for Wives”

1. Honor your own womanhood that your days may be long in the house which your husband provides for you.

2. Expect not your husband to give you as many luxuries as your father has given you after many years of hard labor and economics.

3. Forget not the virtue of good humor, for verily all that a man has will he give for a woman’s smile.

4. You shall not nag.

5. You shall coddle your husband, for truly every man loves to be fussed over.

6. Remember that the frank approval of your husband is worth more to you than the sidelong glances of many strangers.

7. Forget not the grace of cleanliness and good dressing.

8. Permit no one to assure you that you are having a hard time of it: neither your mother, nor your sister, nor your maiden aunt, nor any other relatives, for the judge will not hold her guiltless who permits another to disparage her husband.

9. Keep your home with all diligence, for out of it comes the joys of your old age.

10. Commit your ways unto the Lord your God and your children shall rise up and call you blessed.

- Author unknown

D. Additional Scriptures

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Proverbs 19:14; I Peter 3:1-5; Psalm 39:1-7 (LB) Proverbs 25:24; Proverbs 21:19; Amos 3:3; Titus 1:6; II Tim: 3:12; Genesis 3:16; Proverbs 31:10-31.

E. Possible Projects

1. Evaluate your role as a helpmate and list ways you could be a better helper to your husband.

2. Evaluate and discuss with your husband ways you think your relationship has a unique intimacy.

3. Tell your family members every day this week that you love them.

4. Set aside a time this week to do something that you know your husband likes to do.

F. Extra Helps

I Married You by Walter Trobisch

Design for Christian Marriage by Dwight Small

Intimate Marriage by Howard and Charlotte Clineball

The Marriage Affair by J. A. Peterson

1+1=1 by Kay Arvin

The Christian Home by Shirley Rice

How to Succeed in Family Living by Clyde Narramore

Are You Fun to Live With? by Lionel Whiston

Audio 1805 - "Husband/Wife Relationship I"

Audio 1806 - "Husband/Wife Relationship II"

Bible Studies:

Two Become One by Elven and Joyce Smith

Gracious Woman by Mrs. W. D. Stuart

A Man After My Own Heart by Dr. W. David Stuart

***Teacher, please note: I would like to highly recommend that you obtain a copy of *Physical Unity in Marriage* by Shirley Rice for each one in your class for the section in one of the later chapters about sex. I am mentioning it ahead of time in case you cannot obtain it locally at a Christian bookstore near you. You may need to order it from:

The Tabernacle Church
7120 Granby
Norfolk, VA