

LIFE IN MARRIAGE

The Foundational Faith

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LIFE IN MARRIAGE

Dear Reader, this text is placed in your generous hands to clarify how the Great God loves us all without differentiation, and how He enumerates His commands for us for them to be a good guide and news for those who testify, and how the Holy God commanded us in His many commands so we walk in the effects of them by the Holy Spirit so that we have no argument nor excuse on the day God takes us up to Himself and calls us to account for what we ourselves have earned in which God judges and does not cheat anyone and from these commands, the commands of marriage, and of which include our marriage relationship, the relationship between the husband and his wife and the relationship between the wife and her husband, and how we are to be different from others. Truly, God is light which we walk in and life which we live and faith which we live by and love which by it we are convinced.

Then come with us to know the commands of God in the area.

What are the commands which come from the Noble New Testament about marriage? Let us discover most of them in this study. So, what does God say about marriage?

MARRIAGE ESTABLISHED

God established marriage from the beginning and Adam was given Eve to be a helper for him in life. ***“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who is his counterpart.’ The Lord God formed out of the ground every living animal of the field and every bird of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but for Adam no companion who corresponded to him was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man's side and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken out of man.’ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become one body.”***

(Genesis 2:18-24) (scripture translation from Al-Injil Al-Sharif, an equivalent reading for the Word of God)

Then God’s will for marriage was one man to be united with one woman. But how is the relationship between them?

ABOUT ADULTERY AND DIVORSE

The wisdom of God on marriage is that one man is united with one woman. And it is known that adultery is a sin. So, Jesus said to His followers, ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not***

commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28)

Jesus continues saying, *“It was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”* (Matthew 5:31-32)

And also, *“Then some Pharisees came to him in order to test him. They asked, ‘Is it lawful to divorce a wife for any cause?’ He answered, ‘Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh”? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’ They said to him, ‘Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because of your hard hearts, but from the beginning it was not this way. Now I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another commits adultery.”* (Matthew 19:3-9) (see also Mark 10:6-9)

And the Apostle Paul by inspiration from God, said, *“‘All things are lawful for me’ — but not everything is beneficial. ‘All things are lawful for me’ — but I will not be controlled by anything. ‘Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both.’ The body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. Now God indeed raised the Lord and he will raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that anyone who is united with a prostitute is one body with her? For it is said, ‘The two will become one.’ But the one united with the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee sexual immorality! ‘Every sin a person commits is outside of the body’ — but the immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.”* (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

And after that Paul answered questions about sex and marriage as personal suggestion and not as a command from the Holy Spirit. And Paul differentiates between the commands of the Holy Spirit and his personal suggestions in order to clarify the subject. Maybe we can say and present our personal suggestions, but we do not do them except according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. *“because of immoralities, each man should have relations with his own wife and each woman with her own husband. A husband should give to his wife her sexual rights, and likewise a wife to her husband. It is not the wife who has the rights to her own body, but the husband. In the same way, it is not the husband who has the rights to his own body, but the wife. Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement for a specified time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then resume your relationship, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command.”* (1 Corinthians 7:2-6)

And Paul finishes his words by commands of the Lord and also his personal suggestions. ***“To the married I give this command — not I, but the Lord — a wife should not divorce a husband (but if she does, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband), and a husband should not divorce his wife. To the rest I say — I, not the Lord — if a brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is happy to live with him, he should not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is happy to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified because of the wife, and the unbelieving wife because of her husband. Otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever wants a divorce, let it take place. In these circumstances the brother or sister is not bound. God has called you in peace. For how do you know, wife, whether you will bring your husband to salvation? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will bring your wife to salvation?”*** (1 Corinthians 7:10-16)

And finally, ***“All of you should honor marriage and marriage relations pure, because God will pour out His judgment on the licentious and adulterers.”*** (Hebrews 13:4)

Dear Beloved Sister, God has commanded you to give your husband all the rights of marriage. And likewise, Dear Beloved Brother, God has commanded you to give your wife all the rights of marriage. This is because by marriage you two have become like one body. Therefore it is a sin to commit adultery or to think about it.

But, is this possible to not think about adultery? Yes, truly. How? When you walk with the Lord moment by moment. He is with us in every moment. And, there is no excuse or reason that would make you sin because Christ is your new life, because you have died and been raised with Him by faith to live with Him by a new pure life. And when we walk according to His direction it is not possible to sin. Now Christ lives in us because we died with Him by faith and the dead do not sin and likewise Christ does not sin.

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Paul explained that our obedience to each other is from our obedience to Christ. And, he explains the details of marriage, saying, ***“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as also Christ is the head of the church — he himself being the savior of the body. But as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, so that he may present the church to himself as glorious — not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless. In the same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one has ever hated his own body but he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ also does the church, for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is great — but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each one of you must also love his own wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”*** (Ephesians 5:22-33)

How great this illustration is, this parallel in which we understand that the husband is like Christ who gave Himself generously by His own will because of His love for the believers. And we believers submit to the Lord and honor Him. And, likewise, the husband loves his wife and the wife submits to her husband and honors him.

“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.” (Colossians 3:18-19)

And about working hard for the family, ***“But if someone does not provide for his own, especially his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*** (1 Timothy 5:8) The relationship of the husband and wife is to care for their relatives especially their close family. As for one who does not care for their relatives they have denied their faith and behave worse than a heathen, as the verse says.

As God is kind, like that the believing woman is to be. Also, God says that we should guide younger people and be examples for them of doing good and speaking in all truthfulness and peacefulness in order that the ambushers would not find any thing to say against us. ***“Teach older men to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. Teach older women likewise to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not slandering, not slaves to excessive drinking, but teaching what is good. In this way they will train the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, pure, fulfilling their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited. Encourage younger men likewise to be self-controlled, showing yourself to be an example of good works in every way. In your teaching show integrity, dignity, and a sound message that cannot be criticized, so that any opponent will be at a loss, because he has nothing evil to say about us.”*** (Titus 2:2-8)

And lastly God says to us, ***“In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands. Then, even if some are disobedient to the word, they will be won over without a word by the way you live, when they see your pure and reverent conduct. Let your beauty not be external — the braiding of hair and wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes — but the inner person of the heart, the lasting beauty of a gentle and tranquil spirit, which is precious in God's sight. For in the same way the holy women who hoped in God long ago adorned themselves by being subject to their husbands, like Sarah who obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You become her children when you do what is good and have no fear in doing so. Husbands, in the same way, treat your wives with consideration as the weaker partners and show them honor as fellow heirs of the grace of life. In this way nothing will hinder your prayers.”*** (1 Peter 3:1-7)

Dear Beloved Husband, you know what are the commands of marriage. So, does that mean that you put pressure on your wife? Of course not. Dear Beloved Wife, you now know the commands of marriage. Does that mean you take advantage and pressure your husband? Of course not.

Dear Beloved Husband, on you is to love your wife in the Lord's care. Dear Beloved Wife, on you is to honor your husband in the Lord's care.

Amen.