

MARRIAGE

1. Definition.

- a. Marriage is the exclusive, lifelong covenant commitment between one man and one woman, made before God and the community, to live together in total unity as husband and wife, enjoying a monogamous sexual relationship and raising a family together.

2. Reality.

- a. Marriage is on the decline in New Zealand. In 1971, 45.49 couples per 1000 people got married. In 2018, it was 10.76 couples per 1000 people.

3. Divine Institution.

- a. The four divine institutions applicable to the entire human race are: personal responsibility, marriage, family, and the state. All are types of government. They are in decreasing order of importance.
- b. This makes marriage the second most important divine institution. Successful marriages are foundational to successful families, which are foundational to successful states. Next to personal responsibility, marriage is the most important institution on the planet.
- c. When a marriage succeeds, the entire community is impacted positively. When it fails, the entire community is impacted negatively. Marriages are a matter of significant public concern, as the historical record of every civilisation demonstrates. When marriages crumble, civilisations crumble. It's only a matter of time.
- d. Marriage is a divine institution, not a human institution. It was established by God, not man. In Scripture, the designer of marriage, God, provides operating instructions for us to follow in our marriages. God designed marriage, so he knows best how it is to operate. God's design for marriage really works!
(1) **Ge 2:24-25** 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
- e. The divine institution of marriage is to be held in honour by Christians.
(1) **Heb 13:4** 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
- f. Neither man nor the state has the authority to change or modify the definition of marriage. Every time man attempts to modify marriage, great and unintended harm results. Great harm is occurring in many lives today because of the very successful push of some to change the definition of marriage. In future generations, we will see reverberating harm caused by the insistence of the Baby Boom generation to change the definition of marriage.
- g. While marriage is to be the norm for most men and women, it is not God's plan for everyone. In Christianity, singleness has an honoured place. See *Singleness*.

4. Purposes.

- a. Three purposes of marriage apply to the entire human race:
(1) Close companionship.

- (a) Ge 2:18 18 Yahweh God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him.
 - (b) **Ge 24:67** 67 Isaac brought [Rebekah] into his mother Sarah's tent, he took Rebekah, she became his wife, and he loved her. Thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.
 - (c) **Dt 24:5** 5 When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.
- (2) Satisfy the need for sex.
- (a) **1 Co 7:1-9** 1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman. 2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ...9 If they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.
- (3) Procreate and raise children.
- (a) **Ge 1:28** 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
 - (b) **Ex 20:12** 12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you
 - (c) Marriage unites a man and a woman as husband and wife so that children will have both a mother and a father. Men and woman are distinct and complementary, and human reproduction requires one man and one woman. The optimal environment for every child is with his or her biological father and mother.
- b. Three additional purposes apply specifically to Christian marriages:
- (1) Portray the oneness of the three persons of the Trinity.
 - (a) **Ge 2:23-24** 23 The man said: This is now *bone of my bones* and *flesh of my flesh*. She will be called woman because she was taken out of man. 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be *joined to his wife*, and they will *become one flesh*.
 - (b) Angels, by the way, do not marry and cannot portray the oneness of the Trinity.
 - 1) **Mt 22:30** 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.
 - (2) Portray the oneness of Jesus and the church.
 - (a) **Eph 5:22-32** 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Messiah is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Messiah, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own

bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Messiah does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Messiah and the church.

- 1) Christian marriage is one of our greatest evangelistic tools.
- 2) Cf., *Before the Wrath*.
- (3) Sanctification.
 - (a) Marriage is a sanctifying institution, the greatest training ground for our development into Christlikeness. Marriage takes us from being rough rocks to smooth stones. It indicates where we really are in our progress to spiritual maturity.
 - (b) “If you don’t treat your wife well, I don’t want to hang out with you.”¹

5. Basic Requirements.²

- a. **Ge 2:24-25 (KJV)** 24 Therefore shall a man *leave* his father and his mother, and shall *cleave* unto his wife: and they shall *be one flesh*. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.
 - (1) **Mt 19:4-5** 4 [Jesus] answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female 5 and said, Therefore a man shall *leave* his father and his mother and *hold fast* to his wife, and the two shall *become one flesh*?
 - (2) **Eph 5:28-31** 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 Therefore a man shall *leave* his father and mother and *hold fast* to his wife, and the two shall *become one flesh*.
 - (3) All three components—leave, cleave, be one flesh—are essential for marriage.
 - (4) The order is vitally important. Young men, don’t “cleave” until you “leave.” Certainly don’t “be one flesh” with a woman until you “leave” and “cleave.” Being one flesh with a woman must wait until the proper time.
- b. Leave.
 - (1) “Leaving” has to do with the couples’ maturity and capacity for marriage *as individuals*.
 - (2) Personal preparation.
 - (a) Conviction.
 - 1) Our relationship with God should be strong. When we find our completeness in God, we then are able to bring a fulfilled person to our marriage.³
 - a) **Ge 24:63** 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening.

¹ Dr. Nathan Holsteen, Dallas Theological Seminary.

² See the marriage triangle in Walter Trobisch, *I Married You* (1971).

³ Jerry Cook, *Love, Acceptance, and Forgiveness*, 90.

- 2) We should know our mission. It's unwise for a young man to pursue a wife before he has some clarity on his mission. He is to chase excellence, not women. A woman wants a man on a mission who is going somewhere. No woman wants the burden and stress of being the centre of a man's life.
 - 3) "Marrying me means joining my mission. If you won't join, then this won't work."⁴
- (b) Character.
- 1) Young men should be aiming for the qualities listed in 2 Ti 3:1-13. See *Manhood*.
 - a) This includes freedom from addictions like alcohol, drugs, pornography, gaming, and internet.
 - 2) Young women should be aiming for the qualities describes in Pr 31:10-31. See *Womanhood*.
- (c) Competence.
- 1) To work and provide financially.
 - a) **Ge 24:35-36** 35 Yahweh has greatly blessed my master [Abraham], and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son [Isaac] to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has.
 - 2) To lead the home spiritually.
- (d) Chemistry.
- (3) Family preparation.
- (a) There must be a degree of separation between the new couple and their parents. The new couple is to be free to make their own decisions as a new organism. The husband especially needs space and time to establish his position of leader of the new family. Parents are to refrain from interfering intrusively in the life of the new couple. The new couple must be free to make mistakes or to do things differently than their parents (e.g., decisions concerning parenting, children's education, career, local church).
- c. Cleave.
- (1) דָּבַק: to stick to, cling, cleave to, like clods of dirt after a rain or the scales of a crocodile (*HALOT*, 209).
 - (2) Marriage is covenant commitment for life. "Till death do us part." Married couples should agree, at the outset, never to use the "d" word.
 - (a) **Mt 19:6** 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.
 - (b) **Ge 25:10** 10 There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife [e.g., my mom's decision to be buried at the cemetery in Fremont, Kansas].
 - (3) The couple's covenant commitment is as much for the the community as it is for themselves. It is a *public* commitment, not just a *private* commitment. This is why there does need to be an official public marriage ceremony. Western nations have

⁴ Michael Foster. See his website at <https://itsgoodtobeaman.com/author/michael/>.

become very cavalier about weddings (e.g., “Let’s go to Vegas!”). Non-Western nations tend to be much more serious about the wedding ceremony (e.g., the Jewish marriage ceremony).

- (4) The new couple is be considered by the community as one, new living organism. One must never seek to divide husband and wife on any issue. The leadership of the husband is to respected. The husband is to be acknowledged as the spokesman for the family.
- d. Be one flesh.
 - (1) The new couple is no longer two living organisms but one living organism.
 - (a) “The Christian idea of marriage is based on Christ’s words that a man and wife are to be regarded as a single organism—for that is what the words ‘one flesh’ would be in modern English.”⁵
 - (b) **Eph 5:28-31** 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
 - (2) Marriage involves both physical and spiritual union with one’s spouse. Sex is an important aspect of this unity, though not the only aspect.
 - (a) **1 Co 6:16** 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh.
 - (3) Sex consummates the marriage.
 - (a) Consummate: finish, complete, make (marital union) complete by sexual intercourse.⁶
- e. Biblical examples.
 - (1) **Ge 24:67** 67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

6. Marriage Choice.

- a. Believers are not to marry unbelievers.
 - (1) **Ge 24:37-38** 37 My master [Abraham] made me swear saying, You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, 38 but you shall go to my father’s house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.
 - (2) **Ge 28:1** 1 Then Isaac called Jacob, blessed him, and directed him, You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women.
- b. We are to let God lead and write our love story. We are to trust God to prosper our way in our marriage choice.
 - (1) **Ge 24:7** 7 Yahweh, the God of heaven, who took me [Abraham] from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, To your seed I will give this land, he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

⁵ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 104.

⁶ [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

- (2) **Ge 24:40** 40 Yahweh, before whom I [Abraham] have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house.
- (3) **Ge 24:66** 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
- c. We are not to coerce, force, or manipulate another to marry us. The decision to marry is to be a free will, voluntary decision.
 - (1) **Ge 24:5** 5 The servant said to him, Perhaps the woman may not be *willing* to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?
 - (2) **Ge 24:8** 8 But if the woman is not *willing* to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine. Only you must not take my son back there.
 - (3) **Ge 24:57-58** 57 They said, Let us call the young woman and ask her. 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, Will you go with this man? She said, I will go.
- d. We are to look for a man or woman of character.
 - (1) **Ge 24:14** 14 Let the young woman to whom I shall say, Please let down your jar that I may drink, and who shall say, Drink, and I will water your camels—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown loyal love to my master.
 - (2) **Ge 24:19-20** 19 When [Rebekah] had finished giving him a drink, she said, I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking. 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels.
 - (3) **Ge 24:24-25** 24 [Rebekah] said to him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor. 25 She added, We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.
- e. Physical attractiveness is important, too!
 - (1) **Ge 24:16** 16 The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.
- f. The man is to take initiative in proposing to the woman, proving his sincerity.
 - (1) **Ge 24:47** 47 Then I asked her, Whose daughter are you? She said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him. So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms.
- g. We are to worship and praise God when he leads us by the right way.
 - (1) **Ge 24:48** 48 Then I bowed my head and worshiped Yahweh and blessed Yahweh, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.
 - (2) **Ge 24:52** 52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before Yahweh.
- h. If the marriage comes from God, the families should support it wholeheartedly.
 - (1) **Ge 24:50-51** 50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing has come from Yahweh. We cannot speak to you bad or good. 51 Behold, Rebekah is before you. Take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as Yahweh has spoken.
- i. The man should provide gifts to the bride and her family.

- (1) **Ge 24:53** 53 And the servant brought out jewellery of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments.
- j. The woman is to “cover herself” until the couple’s wedding night.
- (1) **Ge 24:63-65** 63 And [Isaac] lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel 65 and said to the servant, Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us? The servant said, It is my master. So she took her veil and covered herself.

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- k. **1 Co 7:25-35** 25 Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. 26 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. 29 This is what I mean, brothers and sisters: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none.... 32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. 35 I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.
- l. **Pr 12:4** 4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.
- m. **Pr 19:14** 14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from Yahweh.
- n. **Pr 31:10-30** 10 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. ...28 Her children rise up and bless her. Her husband also, and he praises her: 29 Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all. 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain. A woman who fears Yahweh, she will be praised.
- o. Key discussions couples need to have are:
- (1) As a couple, develop a life goal.
 - (2) Embrace the same goal as a couple. Agree on a single set of blueprints. Don’t assume your blueprints are the same
 - (3) What do you want to teach your children?

7. Responsibility of the Husband.

- a. A woman's primal need is love.
 - (1) **Genesis 29:31-35** 31 When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. 32 And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." 33 She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. 34 Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. 35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.
- b. The husband's primary responsibility is to *love* his wife.
 - (1) **Eph 5:25-33** 25 Husbands, *love* your wives, as Messiah *loved* the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should *love* their wives as their own bodies. He who *loves* his wife *loves* himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Messiah does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. ...33 However, let each one of you *love* his wife as himself....
 - (2) Send SHMILY messages to your wife (See How Much I Love You).
- c. The husband may love his wife by following C-O-U-P-L-E:⁷
 - (1) C - Closeness: being close to her.
 - (a) **Ec 9:9** 9 Enjoy life *with* the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.
 - (b) If you are married, you can't live as if you're single. It's that simple.
 - (c) This involves kiss her on the way out the door each day.
 - (2) O - Openness: opening up to her.
 - (a) **Song 2:10** 10 My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away...
 - (b) **Pr 31:11** 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her....
 - (c) **Mal 2:15** 15 So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.
 - (d) This involves sharing your feelings, telling her about your day, asking for her opinion, showing you want to talk, taking her for a walk, praying with her, and giving her your full attention.
 - (3) U - Understanding: listening to her instead of trying to "fix" her.
 - (a) **1 Pe 3:7** 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honour to the woman as the weaker vessel, because they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

⁷ Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 117-82.

- (b) **Jas 1:19** 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak....
- (c) Crawl into your wife's world and look at meeting her needs through her eyes.⁸
- (d) This involves listening so you can repeat back what she said, not dismissing her feelings, retraining from interrupting her, praying for her.
- (4) P - Peacemaking: saying "I'm sorry" to her.
 - (a) **Is 54:5-8** 5 For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. 6 For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. 7 For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. 8 In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer.
 - (b) **1 Pe 3:8** 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
 - (c) This involves letting her vent her frustrations without closing her off, admitting wrong and apologising, meeting her halfway, praying with her after a hurtful time.
- (5) L - Loyalty: proving to her that you're committed.
 - (a) **Ge 29:20** 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
 - (b) **Pr 5:15** 15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.
 - (c) **Song 2:10** 10 My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away....
 - (d) **Tt 1:6** 6 ...The husband of one wife....
 - (e) **Mal 2:15-16** 15 Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. 16 For I hate divorce, says Yahweh the God of Israel, and him who covers his garment with wrong, says Yahweh of hosts. So take heed to your spirit that you do not deal treacherously.
 - (f) **Heb 13:4** 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
 - (g) This involves speaking highly of her in front of others, being involved in things important to her, not correcting her in front of the children, not looking lustfully at other women, including her in social gatherings, telling the kids, "Don't speak to your mother that way!", speaking positively of her at all times, never using the "d" word, installing a porn filter on your internet devices, keeping in close contact when on a business trip.
- (6) E - Esteem: honouring and cherishing her.
 - (a) **Song 8:6** 6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm....
 - (b) **Pr 5:18** 18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth....

⁸ Eric and Leslie Ludy, *When God Write Your Love Story*, 207.

- (c) **Pr 31:28-29** 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.
 - (d) This involves speaking highly of her in front of others, opening the door for her, giving her encouragement or praise, noticing something different about her hair or clothes, being physically affectionally with her in public, making her feel first in importance, being proud of her and all she does.
 - (e) “Of one woman he said that ‘to have loved her was a liberal education’— which Thackeray considered ‘the finest compliment to a woman that perhaps ever was offered.’ [Richard] Steele described with emotion the joys of family life, the pleasant patter of children’s feet, the gratitude of a husband to his aging wife: ‘She gives me every day pleasure beyond what I ever knew in the possession of her beauty when I was in the vigour of youth. Every moment of her life brings me fresh instances of her complacency to my inclinations, and her prudence in regard to my fortune. Her face is to me much more beautiful than when I first saw it....’”⁹
- d. For elders and pastors.
- (1) A great marriage does not happen automatically if we are “living for God.”
 - (2) So goes the pastor’s marriage, so goes the church.
 - (3) Our marriage is a visible signpost. Our marriages are the loudest sermon we preach.
 - (4) “Investing times, energy, and money into your marriage is one of the greatest gifts you can give your church plant.”¹⁰
 - (5) So goes the family, so goes the church. The family is your most important ministry.
 - (6) Does your spouse have space to share with the leadership of your church how things truly are at home?
 - (7) As Christian married leaders, the goal of a good marriage is not about maintaining a basis for ministry.
 - (8) “If you lose your marriage, you lose your ministry.”

8. Responsibility of the Wife.

a. Overview.

- (1) A man’s primal need is *respect*. Men are starving for respect.¹¹
 - (a) “[T]he key to motivating another person is meeting his or her deepest need.”¹²
 - (b) “Truly respecting others is the bedrock of motivation.”¹³
- (2) The wife’s primary responsibility is to *respect* her husband unconditionally. There is tremendous power in a wife give her husband unconditional respect, but it is a difficult concept to practice.

⁹ Description of Richard Steele, in Will Durant, *The Age of Louis XIV*, 340.

¹⁰ J. Scazzero, “The Emotionally Healthy Church Planter,” 42.

¹¹ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 189.

¹² Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 187.

¹³ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 192.

- (a) **Eph 5:33** 33 ...And let the wife see that she *respects* her husband.
- (b) **1 Pe 3:1-2** 1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your *respectful* and pure conduct.
- (3) *Loving* one's husband more won't help. But *respecting* him will. Husbands value respect and honour more than love.¹⁴
 - (a) It is easier for men to respect their wives than to love them. It is easier for wives to love their husbands than to respect them.¹⁵
 - (b) A man spells love R-E-S-P-E-C-T.¹⁶
- (4) Most wives believe their husband should *earn* their respect, not be given respect unconditionally.
- (5) Try the respect test: "I was thinking about you today and several things about you that I respect, and I just want you to know that I respect you."
- (6) In courtship, a woman glows with respect for her man. After marriage, however, things often change.
 - (a) "How do you want your future daughter-in-law to treat your son?"¹⁷
- (7) Wives, look at your husband's desires, not his performance. Focus on the positive.¹⁸
- (8) Husbands view themselves as the one who should "chair" the relationship.¹⁹ In terms of self-image, he needs to be the chairman. He needs to be first among equals because this is how God has made him.²⁰
- b. The wife may respect her husband by following acronym C-H-A-I-R-S.²¹
 - (1) C - Conquest: appreciate his desire to work and achieve.
 - (a) Men have a natural, inborn desire to go out and conquer the challenges of this world—to work and achieve. They feel a deep need to be involved in adventure and conquest. This is a deep-seated trait.²² A man feels a call to the field; a woman feels a call to the family.²³ No amount of social engineering can turn fathers into mothers.²⁴
 - (b) Biblical support.
 - 1) **Ge 2:15** 15 Yahweh God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

¹⁴ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 193.

¹⁵ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 191.

¹⁶ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 194.

¹⁷ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 196.

¹⁸ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 188.

¹⁹ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 190.

²⁰ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 190-91.

²¹ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 183-258.

²² Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 196.

²³ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 200.

²⁴ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 200.

- a) A man's first question is always, "What do you do?"
 - 2) **Ge 29:10** 10 Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.
 - 3) **Ge 29:17-18** 17 Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. 18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.
- (c) Application.
- 1) Say, "Honey, thank you for getting out there and working."
 - 2) Believe in your husband, no matter what, even if you are the last person who does. Be his number one cheerleader.
 - a) When you fell in love, he felt you believed in him, and he appreciated that, probably far more than you realised.²⁵
 - b) **Pr 12:4** 4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband....
 - 3) Express faith in him related to his chosen field.
 - 4) Listen to his work stories closely.
 - 5) View yourself as your husband's helpmate.
 - 6) Allow him to dream as you did when you were courting.
- (2) H - Hierarchy: appreciate his desire to protect and provide.
- (a) Principles.
- 1) God has built in a desire into the man to protect and provide for his wife and family and, if necessary, to die for them. God has given husbands a tremendous responsibility.
 - 2) Husbands have a duty to protect, and wives have a duty to place themselves under their husband's protection.
 - 3) Men see themselves as "over" their families. This is why husbands are over-sensitive and vulnerable to criticism in conflicts related to headship issues.²⁶
 - 4) Many women are afraid of their husband's headship.
 - 5) Abuse is possible, but this does not mean wives are free to reject the principle of hierarchy. If a husband is evil-willed, the abuse will happen regardless.
 - 6) Abuse cuts against man's desire to protect and provide.
- (b) Biblical support.
- 1) **Ge 2:**[] emphasises unity between Adam and Eve, not equality.
 - a) "Though they are equal in nature, that man names woman (cf. 3:20) indicates that she is expected to be subordinate to him, an important presupposition of the ensuing narrative (3:17)."²⁷
 - 2) **Ge 30:30** 30 For you [Laban] had little before I [Jacob] came, and it has increased abundantly, and Yahweh has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?

²⁵ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 201.

²⁶ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 211.

²⁷ Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1-15*, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 70.

- 3) **Ne 4:14** 14 And I [Nehemiah] looked and arose and said to the nobles, to the officials, and to the rest of the people, Do not be afraid of them. Remember Yahweh, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.
 - 4) **1 Ti 2:13** 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.
 - 5) **1 Ti 5:8** 8 But if anyone (masc.) does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- (c) Application.
- 1) Don't argue or fight against hierarchy.
 - 2) Guard against slowly "taking over."
 - 3) Verbalise your admiration of your husband for protecting you.
 - 4) Never put down your husband's job or how much he makes.
 - 5) Treat your husband like the king.
 - 6) Respectfully voice concerns about finances and try to offer solutions.
 - 7) Men, enable your wife to leave the workforce if she so desires.
- (3) A - Authority: appreciate his desire to serve and to lead.
- (a) Principles.
- 1) Because God has made husbands responsible, they need the authority to carry out that responsibility.²⁸
 - 2) Someone has to be in charge.
- (b) **Eph 5:22-24** 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Messiah is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Messiah, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- (c) **1 Ti 2:12** 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man. Rather, she is to remain quiet.
- (d) **1 Ti 3:4** 4 He must manage (προϊστημι) his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive....
- 1) προϊστημι: "to exercise a position of leadership, *rule, direct, be at the head (of).*"²⁹
- (e) **Tt 2:5** 5 ...To be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.
- (f) **1 Pe 3:1-6** 1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewellery, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,

²⁸ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 221.

²⁹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 870.

6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

- (4) Application.
- (a) “Go on record with your husband that you see him as having 51 percent of the responsibility and, therefore, 51 percent of the authority.”³⁰
 - (b) Allow your husband to “make the call.”
 - (c) Support your husband’s self-image as a leader.
 - (d) Praise his good decisions.
 - (e) Disagree only in private and honour his authority in front of the kids.
 - (f) Give your reasons for disagreeing quietly and reasonably, but never attack his right to lead.
- (5) I - Insight: appreciate his desire to analyse and counsel.
- (a) Principles.
 - (b) Biblical support.
 - 1) Ge 3.14-19; Job 2.10; 2 Co 11.3; 1 Ti 2.14
 - (c) Application.
 - 1) Thank him for his advice.
 - 2) Recognise problem-solving is his male brand of empathy.
 - 3) Admit you can sin, and thank him for his perception and godly counsel.
- (6) R - Relationship: appreciate his desire for a shoulder-to-shoulder friendship.
- (a) Principles.
 - 1)
 - (b) Biblical support.
 - 1) Ge 2.18; Pr 2.17
 - 2) **1 Co 11:8-9** 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
 - (c) Application.
 - 1) Tell him you like him and show it.
 - 2) Engage in recreational activities with him.
 - 3) Enable him to open up and talk to you as you do things shoulder-to-shoulder.
 - 4) Don’t denounce his shoulder-to-shoulder activities with his male friends.
 - 5) When your husband goes through a big struggle and is the target of criticism and rumour, choose to stand next to him. Show respect and commitment in the face of the criticism and rumours.³¹
- (7) S - Sexuality: appreciate his desire for sexual intimacy.
- (a) Principles.
 - 1) Sex is spiritual warfare. Kick the devil out of your bed!³²
 - (b) Biblical support.
 - 1) 2 Sa 11.2; Pr 5.19, 7.21; 1 Co 7.3-5; Song 4.5
 - 2) **Song 6:3** 3 I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine. He grazes among the lilies.

³⁰ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 221.

³¹ Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 198.

³² Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*, 250.

- 3) **1 Co 7:2-5** 2 ...Because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer. But then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

(c) Application.

- 1) Respond to him sexually more often and imitate sex periodically.
 - 2) Understand his need for release, just as you need emotional release.
 - 3) Let him acknowledge his temptations without fearing he'll be unfaithful and without shaming him. "Thou who holdest in Thy hands the hearts of kings, open that of the King that I may set therein the good that Thou desirest; enable me to please, console, encourage, and even, if it be necessary to Thy glory, to sadden him. Let me hide none of the things he might learn from me which others have not the courage to tell him. Let me save myself together with him; [let me] love him in Thee and for Thee; and let him love me in the same way. Grant that we may walk together in Thy paths without reproach until the day of Thy coming."³³
- c. "Words of respect transform men into superheroes."³⁴
- d. When you act impressed over something a man works hard at, it makes him feel like a champion.³⁵
- e. "Through words that belittle, even the strongest man in the world can be made a wimp. But through words that build up, even the biggest wimp can be transformed into a world leader."³⁶

9. Married Life.

- a. "In marriage, put the Lord first, each other second, and self last."³⁷
- b. "As a couple, your gifts, strengths, experiences, priorities, and goals must be viewed as part of God's sovereign plan of your future together."³⁸
- c. "Happily ever after is not a fairy tale. It's a daily choice."³⁹
- d. "But, of course, ceasing to be 'in love' need not mean ceasing to love. Love in this second sense—love as distinct from 'being in love'—is not merely a feeling. It is a

³³ Françoise d'Aubigné, Marquise de Maintenon, wife of Louis XIV, quoted in Will Durant, *The Age of Louis XIV*, 686.

³⁴ Eric and Leslie Ludy, *When God Write Your Love Story*, 208.

³⁵ Eric and Leslie Ludy, *When God Write Your Love Story*, 206.

³⁶ Eric and Leslie Ludy, *When God Write Your Love Story*, 211.

³⁷ Howard Taylor, quoted in Edith Schaeffer, *The Tapestry*, 170.

³⁸ Dallas Theological Seminary, Spiritual Formation curriculum.

³⁹ Carlos Rodriguez, "Men that Kiss Their Wives" (2019).

deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be 'in love' with someone else. 'Being in love' first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it."⁴⁰

- e. Plan your calendar together. Sit down regularly with your diaries in hand.
- f. Quality time.
 - (1) **Dt 24:5** 5 "When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.
- g. Responsibility. Blame-shifting is the number one cause of broken marriages.
 - (1) **Ge 3:11-13** 11 [Yahweh God] said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat? 12 The man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate. 13 Then Yahweh God said to the woman, What is this that you have done? The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.
- h. One's bond with one's spouse takes priority over one's bond with one's children.
- i. Resolving conflict.
 - (1) If we cannot practice "clean fighting" in our marriages, then conflicts will not be handled well in the church families we lead.
- j. In most troubled marriages, both partners are trying to accomplish too many things.

10. Prohibitions.

- a. Marrying an unbeliever.
 - (1) **Jos 23:11-13** 11 Be very careful, therefore, to love Yahweh your God. 12 For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, 13 know for certain that Yahweh your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that Yahweh your God has given you.
 - (2) **1 Ki 11:1-8** 1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which Yahweh had said to the people of Israel, You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods. Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to Yahweh his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh and did not wholly follow Yahweh, as

⁴⁰ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 109.

David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

- (3) **Ne 13:23-27** 23 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24 As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah but the language of his own people. 25 So I contended with them, cursed them, struck some of them, pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God: You will not give your daughters to their sons nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin. 27 Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?

b. Polygamy.

- (1) **Ge 4:19** 19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.
(2) **2 Sa 5:13** 13 David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron. And more sons and daughters were born to David.

c. Adultery or polyamory.

- (1) **Ex 20:14** 14 You shall not commit adultery.
(2) **Pr 5:15-19** 15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. 16 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight. Be intoxicated always in her love.

d. Divorce.

- (1) Divorce is really bad for us. When one goes through a divorce, one experiences the breaking up of the most intimate human relationship there is, more intimate than even a mother and child.
(2) **Mal 2:15-16** 15 Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. 16 For I hate divorce, says Yahweh the God of Israel, and him who covers his garment with wrong, says Yahweh of hosts.
(3) **Mt 5:31-32** 31 It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce. 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
(4) **Mt 19:3-9** 3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause? 4 He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. 7 They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her

away? 8 He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.

11. Blessing.

- a. **Pr 18:22** 22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from Yahweh.
- b. Our marriages do leave a deep, lasting impact not only on our own lives, but also the lives of others.

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