

**“Marriages may be made in heaven, but man is responsible for the maintenance**

## The Marriage Institution

Excerpts from *Bible Reading for the Home, 1943*

☞ After creating man, what did God say?

“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” Gen. 2:18

☞ What did God say He would make? A help meet for him (Gen. 2:18).

☞ Could such a help be found among the creatures which God had already made? No.

“... but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.”

Gen. 2:20



☞ What did God do to remedy Adam’s need? God made Adam a mate.

“... And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.” Gen. 2:21-22

☞ What did Adam say as he received his wife from God?

“And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Gen. 2:23

☞ What great truth was then stated?

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Gen. 2:24

☞ What did Jesus say about marriage?

“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Mat. 19:6

**“If you never date an unsaved person, you will never marry one!”**

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**The Bible View**




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## A Biblical Marriage

Bill Brinkworth



Ephesians 5 discusses a subject which bristles the hair on the back of many necks. It takes a position that has been hated and rebelled against for generations.

Unfortunately, the refusal to follow God’s commandments in this area has resulted in a current divorce rate higher than 50%. Paul discusses, in verses 21-33, submissiveness between a married man and woman. Submitting, according to Noah Webster, is the yielding or surrendering to an authority.

The first surrendering to authority discussed here is for both husband and wife to surrender to each other (vs. 21), because they have respect for God’s commandments! They are to submit to each other because God tells them to, and they should know God’s way

works. God ordained the union between man and woman, so He certainly knows how it will work. No other way will be successful!

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## The Differences Between Men and Women

Author Unknown

In the current world, many are trying to make both sexes the same and to even confuse their roles. God has created men and women and has made them different; with strengths and weaknesses. When married, God can use the strengths of a man to complement the weaknesses of a woman, and take the strengths of a wife to make up for the weaknesses in a husband. The two different halves can produce a strong whole.

This article from an unknown author (before 1871) points out some of the differences between men and women and shows the strengths they can bring to a marriage:

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## A Biblical Marriage

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A wife is to also submit to her husband (vs. 22). When she is humbling herself to do so, she is doing it “unto the Lord”. What a step of faith it takes to be a wife, to trust the Lord in this way. I’m sure most women shudder at this point, thinking all kinds of situations: “What happens if I submit to him, and my husband treats me badly?”; “What happens if I let him be the authority and decision-maker, and he makes wrong decisions?”; “What happens if he doesn’t make any decisions?”; “What happens if I don’t get my say?”, and countless other scenarios.

Those situations could come true, if the husband does not hold up his commitments. That is why it is so important that a marriage be between believers (II Cor. 6:14). However, there are no retractions for bad decisions in marriage partners in God’s Word. No matter the spiritual status, one is still committed to hold up his part of the marriage as the Lord commands.

There are many marriage failures, because couples do not adhere to God’s way; but rather try to cohabit the way “everyone else is doing it”. When failures in a marriage do occur, it is usually because someone is not holding up his end of God’s commandments for that person.

Submission in a marriage is not just between the wife and her husband. The husband also has a part to make a marriage work. His part is not just surrendering to his wife, but he is to love his wife as Christ loves His church (vs. 25) and as much as he loves his own body (vs. 28, 33). One should not want to do wrong to his own body; so also, he must only want to do what is right and best for his wife.

As a husband and wife submit themselves to Christ, they should also submit themselves to each other. God’s way works.

## The Differences ...

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- ❖ Man is strong; woman is beautiful.
- ❖ Man is daring and confident; woman is diffident and unassuming.
- ❖ Man is great in action; woman is long-suffering.
- ❖ Man shines abroad; woman at home.
- ❖ Man talks to convince; woman to persuade.
- ❖ Man has a rugged heart; woman, a soft and tender one.
- ❖ Man prevents misery; woman relieves it.
- ❖ Man has science; woman taste.
- ❖ Man has judgment; woman

sensibility.

- ❖ Man is a being of justice; woman mercy.

Each possesses peculiar gifts and a wide sphere of usefulness, and, by the wise use of these respective gifts, society is benefited, a marriage is strengthened, and God is honored.

## Marriage Is Not a Mission Field

*Author Unknown*

Mark Twain, the well-known American humorist, fell in love with Miss Olivia Langdon. “Livy,” as he called her, grew up in a Christian home and held firm religious convictions. Mark Twain made no profession of faith, although he appeared to have been touched by Livy’s life.

Mark Twain and Olivia Langdon were married. Early in their marriage, Mark regularly asked a blessing at mealtime and joined in family worship, but this did not last.

One day Twain announced, “Livy, I don’t believe in the Bible.” Bit by bit, Mark Twain’s lack of faith worked like a cancer on his wife’s spiritual life.

Later, during a period of pressing sorrow, he tried to strengthen Livy by saying, “Livy, if it comforts you to lean on the Christian faith, do so.”

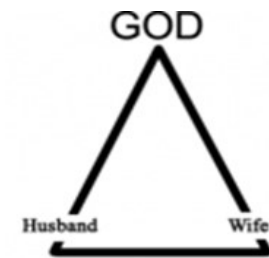
His wife sadly replied, “Mark, I can’t. I haven’t any!”

Marriage is not a mission field. God never called you into

marriage to convert your partner. Marriage strains under the burden of an unshared faith. Not only will you harm the person with whom you join your life, but you will harm yourself if your partner is not a Christian. Too much is at stake to ignore God’s command.

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” II Cor. 6:14*

**“As a husband and wife grow closer to God, they also grow closer to each other!”**



*When further from God, the distance between husband and wife is also great.*



*As man and wife get closer to God, they also get closer to each other.*

**“If a child of God marries a child of the devil, the child of God will surely have trouble with his father-in-law.”**