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**Family #3 - Marriage
Husband's Responsibility
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Until we understand the relationship that God has with the church, we will be challenged. In the gospels, the statement is made that it is given to us to understand the mystery of the kingdom of God. It is God's plan and purpose for us to understand the relationship that God has to the church.

Eph 5:32 *"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church"* KJV

In a husband and wife relationship, sometimes it is easy to put it into a box, but as Christians not only do we have a relationship as husbands and wives, but as brothers and sisters in the Lord and the responsibility we have one for the other. This is where we learn to walk in love and bestow forgiveness to each other.

Paul taught on the marriage relationship in Timothy, Corinthians and Colossians. Peter taught on it in chapter 3. Many books have been written regarding the relationship of the marriage, however, the Bible teaches the best on how the marriage is to function. Everything is based on faith and it grows and develops. Being married does not mean that we have reached maturity, it means the relationship must be nourished and cherished in order for it to grow.

Col 3:19 *"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."* KJV

Col 3:19 *"Husbands, love your wives [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh or bitter or resentful toward them."* AMP

Col 3:19 *"Husbands, go all out in love for your wives. Don't take advantage of them."*
MESSAGE

Husbands have a great responsibility; they are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. The above scriptures tell husbands how this is to be done. In the natural the response is that "no way can this be done" but these things can be planted as seed and will start to grow in that direction.

Deut 24:5 *"When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken."* KJV

Men were instructed in the Old Testament as to what needed to be done in order to develop the relationship with their wives and what their responsibility to the marriage was to be. The wife usually sets the tone in the home more than the husband.

Eph 5:29 *"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:" KJV*

Husbands are to nourish and cherish his wife.

Nourish means to nurse, promote, to take care of something and cause it to grow. It does not mean to stop development. If the wife is fulfilled and developing the gifts that are in her, the gifts that God placed in her and if they are being developed and growing, she will be happy. This is how God loved the church, wanting to see those gifts that He has placed in each of us developed. We are most fulfilled when doing the will of God. Husbands have a responsibility to encourage and see that this gift is being fulfilled.

Cherish means to be kind, treat with respect and with affection, care for her properly and tenderly.

Eph 5:25-28 *25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*" KJV

Husbands sometimes have problems with loving their wives, especially if they have problems in their own lives. It is hard to open up and let the love of God flow. Their attitudes of selfishness, impatience, arrogance and they want to be served or waited on will stop the love flow. Husbands cannot be the only one that is "hearing from God", because of the brother and sister relationship, God speaks to all alike.

Words spoken by a wife can play an important part in the marriage relationship. They can be spoken in anger, in impatience or in a negative manner which will cause there to be a negative response from the husband. There can also be things said on the job which carries over into the home. Words are very destructive, but can be edifying when spoken properly. Unforgiveness cannot be allowed in either in the marriage relationship or the home.

Couples should have goals or a vision for their future. Communication plays an important role in accomplishing this area of the marriage relationship. Marriage is just hard work. Compliments to the wife frequently are important but diplomacy may be needed.

Col 3:14 *"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."* KJV

Col 3:14 *"And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]."* AMP

Love is the bonding force in everything. Husbands need to be respected because of the insecurities on the inside, "he is only a little boy in a big body." Three things that need to be done by the husband are; nourish, develop the gift within her and care for her

Pro 11:29 *"He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart."* KJV

Pro 11:29 *"Exploit or abuse your family, and end up with a fistful of air;*

common sense tells you it's a stupid way to live. " MESSAGE

Common sense takes care of most problems. Falling back into the old life styles in the outside world are not always acceptable. However, after commitments have been made in the relationship, sometimes the old life styles which are tolerated, in the long run can be very destructive. Paul addresses this in the following scriptures.

Rom 7: 17-25 "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." KJV

Rom 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." KJV

We have entered into grace and mercy. In the marriage relationship things which have happened in the past must be forgiven and forgotten, not being brought up again. God does not do that to us.

1 Tim 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." KJV

Husbands must be good providers, unless there is a physical problem. Wives must be willing to help him with this. Husbands cannot lead from dictatorship but must lead from love, what is best for the family.

1 Tim 3:1-5 "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" KJV

Bishop can also be an elder or deacon. Deacons have more of a serving attitude. Elders are usually taken out of the five-fold ministry. Elders are usually the older men with wisdom, good business knowledge, loving the church and wanting the best for it. Their council is needed.

The husband of "one wife", is not referring to a man who is divorced and remarried, but is referring to polygamy, having more than one wife.

Husbands must learn to be leaders, wanting protection for his loved ones. Husbands must be given the respect due him. Many times at work, they have this respect, but no so much in their own home.

Eph 5:33 *"However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]." AMP*

Jesus could not minister in his own country.

Mark 6:4 *"But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor (deference, reverence) except in his [own] country and among [his] relatives and in his [own] house." AMP*

Priorities and attitudes must be at work in a husband's life. Pleasing God being the first and most important thing.