

WHAT I WANT FOR MY DAUGHTERS (AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW) IN RESPECT TO A GOOD HUSBAND

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One should first refer to my paper written on the Biblical Reasons for Marriage as found here: <http://historicbaptist.org/pastorsdocs/10%20BIBLICAL%20REASONS%20FOR%20MARRIAGE.pdf>

In this paper I show the ten reasons that God purposed for marriage. This is not a paper to encourage people to marry, but rather, if a person is considering marriage, he or she should know what God says are the reasons for marriage. If a person does not intend to fulfill these reasons, he or she should seriously consider not marrying.

I also know that God says marriage is honorable in all (Hebrews 13:4). God will judge adulterers and whoremongers. Fornication is still a sin. And if a couple is fornicating, such sinful behavior should stop until they marry. I have seen in my experience couples with children who have never married. But they intend to stay together. They may be lost. But regardless of the condition of their soul, in such cases they should marry. They will likely have trouble in the flesh (1 Corinthians 7:28). The New Testament says that in order to avoid fornication, that couple should marry (1 Corinthians 7:2).

Additionally, the New Testament teaches a believer should never marry an unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:7). At the same time, if a believer is *already* married to an unbeliever, they should remain married (1 Corinthians 7:10-17), for there is hope the lost partner will be saved.

Considering the ten biblical reasons for marriage are fulfilled, here are a few important things I would expect of my sons and sons-in law in respect to their relationship with their wives (my daughters and daughters-in-law):

1 *That the husband has a true and unfeigned love for his wife.* This is commanded in Ephesians 5:25-28. God gives the standard for love: “as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

This is an unselfish, self-sacrificing, holy and pure love. This love is not based on the performance of the wife or the self gratification of the husband. It is a purposed love. This is a love in action with the intent that the husband is figuratively fulfilling the place of Christ in the marriage.

This love endures for the entire earthly relationship. We know in the resurrection we are not married (Matthew 22:30). However, in this life, the husband is bound to the wife *for life* through the covenant of marriage. Furthermore, this relationship should be the example of true godly love, for God will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

Colossians 3:19 says, “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.” Being bitter has the idea of being angry, indignant, irritated, or grieved. The husband has to lead in love and be the spiritual leader in that which is right. He does not have the right to be petty, self-serving, or the victim.

As a side note, and as the father of the woman, I will not take kindly to any form of abuse, whether it is physical, emotional, or spiritual. I cannot say what I will do, *but I will intervene* if a

man mistreats a daughter of mine and a sister of the Lord Jesus Christ. That wife is a child of the most high King, and she should be treated as such. Which brings be to the next point.

- 2 ***That the husband cherish his wife*** (Ephesians 5:29). This is a particularly good word. To cherish means, “to protect and care for lovingly, to hold dear.” Also used in 1 Thessalonians 2:7: “even as a nurse cherisheth her children.” The Greek word means, “to keep warm.” The husband is to appreciate his wife as an object of affection.

The wife is not the object of the man’s frustration, anger, resentment, or any other form of attack. She is not the enemy. The husband and wife are one flesh (Matthew 19:6). She is to be cherished, held dear, and cared for lovingly.

- 3 ***That the husband honor his wife as the weaker vessel*** (1 Peter 3:7). The husband is to dwell with his wife according to knowledge. He is to know her desires, weaknesses, fears, strengths, etc.; and with such knowledge honor his wife.

This Bible “honour” means to appreciate the true value of his wife – for her price is far above rubies (Proverbs 31:10). What was the price paid for the man’s wife? As a child of God she was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18, 19). She is God’s property, and as such the husband has a duty to treat her honorably and carefully. We all are weak, but the woman is weaker than the man. She must be handled carefully so as not to damage her in any way.

It is a shame that some men care for their car or boat better that they do for their wife. This is not right. The most valuable thing a man has in his home is his wife. He must learn to appreciate her. He should speak to her courteously, kindly, lovingly, gently, patiently, and praisingly (Proverbs 30:28); for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh (Matthew 12:34)

- 4 ***That the husband is the leader in the house*** (Ephesians 5:23). He must take the spiritual leadership by his thoughts, words, and actions. It is his duty to keep the family in church. It is his duty to care for the finances so that God is honored in tithes and offerings. It is his duty that he pray and read the Bible to his family, making this the priority if he is to have a godly home. He should have the attitude of Joshua when he said, “... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 2:15).

The husband, as the image of Christ in the home, is to lead the family as the Savior desires. He cannot shift or neglect this responsibility. It is his primary responsibility. And if he fails in this; his marriage, children, and home will fail.

As the leader, the husband makes the critical decisions for his house. He will give an account for his own behavior and choices. But he will also give an account for the behavior of his wife and for what he allows in the home. He will give an account for how he allows his wife to dress.

As the leader in the home, he should take on the responsibility to study the word of God, for if his wife has a question, she should be able to ask her husband at home (1 Corinthians 14:35) and get

the godly answer. The husband is expected to rule his house (1 Timothy 3:5), using the word of God to make it better and more godly (Ephesians 5:26).

If the wife is to be happy to submit (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18), if she is to reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:33), if she is to subject herself to her husband (Ephesians 5:24), if she is to truly love her husband (Titus 2:4); then the husband should be of such quality that he is worthy of this leadership. He must prove himself worthy of what he expects.

- 5 ***That the husband allow his wife to be a keeper at home*** (Titus 2:5). He must be the provider of the home, “for if any provide not for his own, he is worse than an infidel” (1 Timothy 5:8).

I have seen too many times marriages broken over this one thing: a man relying on his wife for income or financial benefits. Not only is it a poor testimony to the man’s faith and diligence, but he exposes his working wife to all sorts of wrong responsibilities and worldly ills, for many of which she is not strong enough emotionally. Additionally, the home and children will suffer, and eventually the wife will conclude she does not need a free-loader and that she can take care of herself.

My experience and understanding of the word of God is that if a man takes this responsibility seriously, God will open doors so that he can provide sufficiently. I have seen it many a time. What God commands us to do, he will also enable us to do – for he would not require of us something impossible.

There is no excuse – if a man thinks he is ready for marriage, he must be ready in all areas of his life. He is to be mature in faith, in work ethic, in responsibility, and emotionally.

- 6 ***That the husband allow his wife to be his glory*** (1 Corinthians 11:7). A man’s glory is not his car, his clothes, or his own image. A man’s glory is determined by his wife. He can be seen alone as a humble, inglorious creature; but when people see his wife, she will be that which truly defines who he is.

Men should take this to heart. No one respects a man who wears the finest clothes, drives a fine car, and spends much on his own appearance – if his wife looks like a beggar. The world – and the Lord – will judge him according to how he cares and provides for his wife. If she looks nice, if she has fine clothes; if her hair and nails are maintained, if her house is well provided for; then it really does not matter what the man does or has – for he will be thought of highly by the condition of his wife.

The idea of a “trophy wife” is scriptural. That is why men go to many lengths to find their “glory.” The wife is the glory of the man, and how he cares for her shows the man he truly is.

I have a saying, that we should not judge a man until we see his wife. Now, please allow me to explain further. I know we should not judge as such, for the Lord said “judge not.” But I am using a weak form of the word “judge,” meaning to form an opinion.

In this sense I would not hire a man, yoke with a man, or consider man for a position unless I first met his wife. For how he cares for her is how he cares for the important things in life. A bishop

will rule a church as he rules his house. A man's wife is the most precious possession he has (outside of Christ), and how he cares for her shows his character as a man.

7 ***That a husband allow his wife to be a help*** (Genesis 2:18). This is God's first intent for the wife – that she should labor beside him for God. Oh, the benefit of a helpful, loving wife! She is his help all areas of life. Next to Jesus Christ, she is his best friend, his closest companion, his dearest confidant. His heart safely trusts in her (Proverbs 31:11). She does him good all the days of her life.

Accordingly, the good husband involves his wife in every aspect of his life. She travels with him, she is by his side, and they serve the Lord together. Two are better than one, and the good husband knows this (Ecclesiastes 4:9). The wife is the husband's companion and the wife of his covenant (Malachi 2:14). She is his help, and the Lord knows we men need help. She should never be neglected, shut up, cast aside, ignored, or separated doing other things. His priorities are her priorities. His desires are her desires. His purpose is her purpose. Together they travel through this short life, growing closer together not further apart. As they love God more, they learn to love each other more. Their marriage is not one of convenience, but one of a covenant before God. God is their helper, God is their guide. God is their God.

This is a brief essay on what I expect from my sons. This is what I expect for the husbands of my daughters. If one is unable to do these things, please do not marry. Do yourself and others a favor and wait. May God bless your work as you labor for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The End.