

A Godly Marriage

It was said of Matthew Henry's home that "the Matthew Henry household was like the 'gates of heaven' where the parents governed all family life by the Word of God." Matthew Henry argued that our homes should be "little churches" where God is worshiped daily, where Jesus Christ reigns as Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit is further sanctifying those saved and working in those yet to be saved.

The idea of a godly marriage is a marriage built upon God in Christ, one or preferably both husband and woman saved by grace, with a view to living out the marriage to the glory of God by obeying God's Word.

As we consider the subject of a godly marriage, it is always best to begin by going to the original Source, to look at where marriage comes from and what was its original design.

ORIGIN/DESIGN

Marriage is the design and gift from God - Genesis 1:27

Divine origin - Not from society

Speaks of great value

Both the man and the woman are image-bearers of God – Genesis 1:27

Equality before God

Different roles – man as the head, woman as the help-meet

"Headship is not a ticket to privilege but a charge to responsibility. It is not tyranny, but leadership based on love." Erroll Hulse

HUSBAND as Prophet, Priest and King

Teaching God's Word in the family

Praying for the family, standing in the gap

Leading the family and ruling with love and grace

Both husband and wife in communion with God

Display glory of God in: fruitful, fill, subdue – 1:28

PURPOSE

Companionship and mutual assistance – Genesis 2:18

"Just like Adam, you must individually receive your mate as God's provision for your need for companionship. Receiving your mate demonstrates your faith in God's integrity. Adam's focus was on God's flawless character, not Eve's performance. He knew God and knew that God could

be trusted. Adam enthusiastically received Eve because he knew she was from God. Adam's faith in God enabled him to receive Eve as God's perfect provision for him.” Dennis Rainey

Procreation – be fruitful and multiply – Genesis 1:28

Restraint of sin – faithfulness and fidelity to one another – Genesis 2:18; I Corinthians 7:2,9

A GODLY MARRIAGE IS FOUNDED ON THE WORD OF GOD

“It is better to be without bread in your houses that without Bibles, for the words of God’s mouth are and should be to you more than your necessary food. But what will it avail you to have Bibles in your houses if you do not use them? To have the great things of God’s law and gospel written to you, if you count them as a strange thing?” Matthew Henry

Matthew 4:4 –

Matthew 7:24,25 –

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 -

A GODLY MARRIAGE IS ONE OF PERMANENCE

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives and Christ loves the church and gave Himself up for her.

Romans 8:35 - Who can separate us from the love of Christ? NOTHING!

Staying married, therefore, is not mainly about staying in love. It is about keeping covenant. “Till death do us part” or “As long as we both shall live” is a sacred covenant promise – the same kind Jesus made with His bride when He died for her.” John Piper

A GODLY MARRIAGE IS BUILT ON BIBLICAL PRIORITIES

GOD’S WORD – Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 3:16

PRAYER – Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:6,7

“Join together in frequent and fervent prayer. Prayer forces the mind into sobriety, and moves the heart with the presence and majesty of God. Pray also for each other when you are in secret, that God may do that work which you most desire, upon each other's hearts.” Richard Baxter

FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AND OTHERS

“Take every opportunity which your nearness provides to be speaking seriously to each other about the matters of God, and your salvation. Discussing those things of this world no more than required. And then talk together of the state and duty of your souls towards God, and of your hopes of heaven, as those that take these for their greatest business. And don't speak lightly, or irreverently, or in a rude and disputing manner; but with gravity and sobriety, as those that are discussing the most important things in the whole world.” Richard Baxter

COMMUNICATION

“Wherever you find marital failure, you will find a breakdown in real communication. Wherever you find marital success, you will find a good communication system.” Wayne Mack

CHURCH LIFE

MINISTRY TO OTHERS

A GODLY MARRIAGE APPLIES THE “ONE ANOTHER” VERSES

Forgive – Ephesians 4:32

Love – John 13:34,35; I Peter 1:22; 4:8

Be kind – Ephesians 4:32

Serve – Galatians 5:13

Devoted – Romans 12:10

Bear one another's burdens – Galatians 6:2

Encourage one another – I Thessalonians 5:11

Do not complain against one another – James 5:9

Honesty – Colossians 3:9

Humility – I Peter 5:5