



## God's Plan from the Beginning: Two Lives Joined Together as One

### Hebrews 13:4a

**Let marriage be held in honor (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things"**

### Genesis 2:18

Now the Lord God said, It is **not good (sufficient, satisfactory)** that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (**suitable, adapted, complementary**) for him.

### Genesis 2:21-25

And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Then Adam said, This [creature] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of a man.

**Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

### Malachi 2:14-15

Yet you ask, Why does He reject it? Because **the Lord was witness [to the covenant made at your marriage] between you and the wife of your youth**, against whom you have dealt treacherously and to whom you were faithless. **Yet she is your companion and the wife of your covenant [made by your marriage vows]. And did not God make [you and your wife] one [flesh]? Did not One make you and preserve your spirit alive? And why did God make you two one?** Because He sought a godly offspring [from your union]. Therefore take heed to yourselves, and let no one deal treacherously and be faithless to the wife of his youth.

### Matthew 19:5-6

And said, For this reason a man **shall leave his father and mother and shall be united firmly (joined inseparably) to his wife**, and the **two shall become one** flesh?<sup>(A)</sup>

So they are **no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder (separate).**

### Mark 10:8

And the two shall become one flesh, so that **they are no longer two, but one flesh.**

## Keys to Success for Husbands & Wives

### Colossians 3:18-19

**Wives, be subject to your husbands** [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right and fitting and your proper duty in the Lord.

**Husbands, love your wives** [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh or bitter or resentful toward them.

### Ephesians 5:21-25,28-31,33

<sup>21</sup> **Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ** (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

<sup>22</sup> **Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord.**

<sup>23</sup> **For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body.**

<sup>24</sup> **As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.**

<sup>25</sup> **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,**

<sup>28</sup> **Even so husbands should love their wives as [being in a sense] their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.**

<sup>29</sup> **For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and carefully protects and cherishes it, as Christ does the church,**

<sup>30</sup> **Because we are members (parts) of His body.**

<sup>31</sup> **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.**<sup>[D]</sup>

<sup>33</sup> **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 [<sup>[f]</sup>that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and <sup>[g]</sup>that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly].**

### 1 Peter 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> **IN LIKE manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them],** so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives,

<sup>2</sup> **When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your <sup>[a]</sup> reverence [for your husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer to, revere him--to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize, and, in the human sense, to adore him, that is, to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband].**

<sup>3</sup> **Let not yours be the [merely] external adorning with [elaborate] <sup>[b]</sup> interweaving and knotting of the hair, the wearing of jewelry, or changes of clothes;**

<sup>4</sup> **But let it be the inward adorning and beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which [is not anxious or wrought up, but] is very precious in the sight of God.**

<sup>5</sup> **For it was thus that the pious women of old who hoped in God were [accustomed] to beautify themselves and were submissive to their husbands [adapting themselves to them as themselves secondary and dependent upon them].**

<sup>6</sup> **It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham [following his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by] calling him lord (master, leader, authority). And you are now her true daughters if you do right and let nothing terrify you [not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you].**

<sup>7</sup> **In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an <sup>[c]</sup> intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]**

### Titus 2:2-6

2 Urge the older men to be temperate, venerable (serious), sensible, self-controlled, and sound in the faith, in the love, and in the steadfastness and patience [of Christ].

3 Bid the older women similarly to be reverent and devout in their deportment as becomes those engaged in sacred service, not slanderers or slaves to drink. They are to give good counsel and be teachers of what is right and noble,

4 So that they will wisely train the young women to be <sup>[a]</sup>sane and sober of mind (temperate, disciplined) and to love their husbands and their children,

5 To be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers, good-natured (kindhearted), adapting and subordinating themselves to their husbands, that the word of God may not be exposed to reproach (blasphemed or discredited).

6 In a similar way, urge the younger men to be self-restrained and to behave prudently [taking life seriously].

### 1 Corinthians 7:28- "Trouble" in Marriage is a Result of People yielding to the Flesh

But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.

### Galatians 5:13-26

13 For you, brethren, were [indeed] called to freedom; only [do not let your] freedom be an incentive to your flesh and an opportunity or excuse [for selfishness], but through love you should serve one another.

14 For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied with in the one precept, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

15 But if you bite and devour one another [in partisan strife], be careful that you [and your whole fellowship] are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).

17 For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.

18 But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law.

19 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),

21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness,

23 gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [<sup>[f]</sup>that can bring a charge].

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires.

25 If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit <sup>[g]</sup>we have our life in God, let us go forward <sup>[h]</sup>walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]

26 Let us not become vainglorious and self-conceited, competitive and challenging and provoking and irritating to one another, envying and being jealous of one another.

## A True Wife is a Blessing from God

### Proverbs 18:22

<sup>22</sup>He who finds a [true] wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.<sup>(A)</sup>

### Proverbs 19:14

<sup>14</sup>House and riches are the inheritance from fathers, but a wise, understanding, and prudent wife is from the Lord.<sup>(A)</sup>

### Proverbs 31:10-31

**10A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman--who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls.**

**11The heart of her husband trusts in her confidently and relies on and believes in her securely,** so that he has no lack of [honest] gain or need of [dishonest] spoil.

**12She comforts, encourages, and does him only good as long as there is life within her.**

**13She seeks out wool and flax and works with willing hands [to develop it].**

**14She is like the merchant ships loaded with foodstuffs; she brings her household's food from a far [country].**

**15She rises while it is yet night and gets [spiritual] food for her household and assigns her maids their tasks.<sup>(B)</sup>**

**16She considers a [new] field before she buys or accepts it [expanding prudently and not courting neglect of her present duties by assuming other duties]; with her savings [of time and strength] she plants fruitful vines in her vineyard. [S. of Sol. 8:12.]**

**17She girds herself with strength [spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for her God-given task] and makes her arms strong and firm.**

**18She tastes and sees that her gain from work [with and for God] is good; her lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually through the night [of trouble, privation, or sorrow, warning away fear, doubt, and distrust].**

**19She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.**

**20She opens her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her filled hands to the needy [whether in body, mind, or spirit].**

**21She fears not the snow for her family, for all her household are doubly clothed in scarlet.<sup>(C)</sup>**

**22She makes for herself coverlets, cushions, and rugs of tapestry. Her clothing is of linen, pure and fine, and of purple [such as that of which the clothing of the priests and the hallowed cloths of the temple were made].<sup>(D)</sup>**

**23Her husband is known in the [city's] gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.<sup>(E)</sup>**

**24She makes fine linen garments and leads others to buy them; she delivers to the merchants girdles [or sashes that free one up for service].**

**25Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure; she rejoices over the future [the latter day or time to come, knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]!**

**26She opens her mouth in skillful and godly Wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness [giving counsel and instruction].**

**27She looks well to how things go in her household, and the bread of idleness (gossip, discontent, and self-pity) she will not eat.<sup>(E)</sup>**

**28Her children rise up and call her blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied); and her husband boasts of and praises her, [saying],**

**29<sup>(B)</sup> Many daughters have done virtuously, nobly, and well [with the strength of character that is steadfast in goodness], but you excel them all.**

**30Charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain [because it is not lasting], but a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised!**

**31Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates [of the city]!**

### **Luke 10:38-42**

38Now while they were on their way, it occurred that Jesus entered a certain village, and a woman named Martha received and welcomed Him into her house.

39And she had a sister named **Mary, who seated herself at the Lord's feet and was listening to His teaching.**

40But **Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving;** and she came up to Him and said, Lord, is it nothing to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me [to lend a hand and do her part along with me]!

41But the Lord replied to her by saying, Martha, **Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things;**

42There is need of only one or but <sup>[a]</sup>a few things. **Mary has chosen the good portion [<sup>[b]</sup>that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her.**

## Honoring and Protecting Your Marriage

### **Hebrews 13:4**

**Let marriage be held in honor (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things. And thus let the marriage bed be undefiled (kept undishonored);** for God will judge and punish the unchaste [all guilty of sexual vice] and adulterous.

### **Proverbs 5:15-23**

**Drink waters out of your own cistern [of a pure marriage relationship], and fresh running waters out of your own well.**

Should your offspring be dispersed abroad as water brooks in the streets?

**[Confine yourself to your own wife]** let your children be for you alone, and not the children of strangers with you.

**Let your fountain [of human life] be blessed [with the rewards of fidelity], and rejoice in the wife of your youth.**

**Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant doe [tender, gentle, attractive]--let her bosom satisfy you at all times, and always be transported with delight in her love.**

**Why should you, my son, be infatuated with a loose woman, embrace the bosom of an outsider, and go astray?**

For the ways of man are directly before the eyes of the Lord, and He [Who would have us live soberly, chastely, and godly] carefully weighs all man's goings.

His own iniquities shall ensnare the wicked man, and **he shall be held with the cords of his sin.**

**He will die for lack of discipline and instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray and be lost.**

### **Proverbs 6:32**

**Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks heart and understanding (moral principle and prudence); He who does it is destroying his own life.**