

## Book Portions

These are portions from my new Christian marriage book: *Get Married and Save the World*. It was released in April of 2019. If you'd like to support the self-publishing, you can do so at our funding page below:

<https://gogetfunding.com/get-married-and-save-the-world/>

*Note: These portions may not all be from the final edit of the book.*

To buy *Get Married and Save the World*, you can find it here at Xulon Press, or on Amazon or Barnes and Noble:

[https://www.xulonpress.com/bookstore/bookdetail.php?PB\\_ISBN=9781545659052&HC\\_ISBN=](https://www.xulonpress.com/bookstore/bookdetail.php?PB_ISBN=9781545659052&HC_ISBN=)

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## Intro

I am writing this book so the Christian today can have a simple presentation of what marriage is according to the Word of God, as well as what the family must be. Normally, it would seem redundant to write such a book, but when I think that the simple Christian will be taught by liberals, apostates and often unbelievers, that they will absorb much of their value system from them, I believe it is urgent to give a simple presentation of the main aspects of Christian marriage. I want the truth to be out there.

The spark of inspiration for this book, really the fire that got me started, was a young man I knew who made a girl with child outside of marriage. I encouraged this young man to marry her, and take care of the mother and child for life. Yet I know he can be subject to many failings as a human being, and is subject to hearing very ungodly advice from both young and old around him. So I suppose I imagine myself speaking to this young man as I write this book. He may have started the union of man and woman in the sinful way, but there is nothing stopping him from continuing instead in righteousness, and that's what we all need – righteous men. We need more righteous men. In my heart I write this book for him.

While I intend to present the central aspects of marriage, and its central purposes, I will also expound on them along the way. I will do some apologetics and some preaching. It is not primarily a detailed study on marriage, but since I will be both presenting the truth as well as answering some objections from opponents of Christian marriage, I will at times get into a defense of the faith. I will also explain areas of doctrine which marriage clearly connects with, as well as a few that it briefly touches upon. These are doctrines such as the Trinity, the Salvation of man, Original Sin and others. Yet I will not go over them in great detail, as they are only connected points to marriage. I will share some personal experiences along the way too; how things worked out for me and my wife, how our faith leads us in our marriage arrangement, some of the hardships we have been through. Yet those stories are only to help out. I simply want to present God's core truths about marriage, and time tested common sense advice.

This book is not comprehensive. I am only trying to go over the main points, then give methods of applying them. If I wanted to be comprehensive, it might be three times longer. The largest section is about the man's headship, and this is because I go into some detail in leading the home itself and manifesting the faith in regular, daily or weekly habits. I sometimes speak directly to the man or to the woman in this book, but I speak directly to the man more often. That's in part because he is the head of the home, and in part because I am a man so I simply have more ideas for him. But I address the woman as well, both with biblical instruction and personal advice. If a woman wants personal help in how to be godly and submissive in marriage, I can put you in contact with my wife, and when she has time she can help you. I have also included a Gospel presentation toward the end. It's not that technical, but I think it presents the main truths in a personal way and I feel the book would be incomplete without it. You will find some extra information in the appendices, tools that are helpful to me and I want them to be helpful to you as a reader.

I titled this book *Get Married and Save the World*, a title I believe the Lord gave me, although obviously the title is only half serious. The Lord Jesus saves the world; the best we hope for in our marriages is to lead souls to Him and to bless our society with the life-giving benefits which flow from the family. It is a serious title though, in the urgency there is with marriage, the importance those benefits have, and our need for a strong witness at this time of collapse. I also thought a nice title would be *Shut Up and Do Your Job* but the Lord didn't lead me that way. It is relevant though, since we really need to think of being a father, mother, husband and wife as our job, and like we might do at work, need to quit complaining and just do our job. It's very simple. The Church would be immensely better off if we had this attitude. However, this book is already very blunt, so it doesn't necessarily need a blunt title. If you don't like blunt language by the way, you probably need to close the book right now, throw it away and go do something else. However, the bluntness of truth is interwoven with spiritual poetry, stories, encouragement and many Bible verses. So you don't have to listen to it all the time.

When I got married, I did not go into it with many doubts or fears. Countless men and women today DO enter marriage with doubts and fears, and some never want to get married at all. I am sympathetic to that. I understand why souls tremble at the thought of a lifelong union today. Yet fear is unnecessary. I went into marriage with complete peace. My main immunity against fear was simply that I knew my marriage was up to the Almighty and for the purpose of the Almighty. My wife knew that too. We were united on our marriage being a union for God's glory and not about our pleasure and personal goals. We were united in accepting the Bible's teaching about it. We still know today that we do not have to trust in our own strength, but have the rock of Christ instead to trust in. We don't need to rely upon our personalities or our cleverness or our attraction to each other. We simply have a supernatural union and a common goal. Personalities will never be the foundation for the union of man and woman. The Lamb of God will. Therefore, I was not trepidatious going into marriage. I don't believe my wife was either, at least not much. We just try and do what the Word of God says.

People might ask what my qualifications are to write a book on marriage. That's a fair question. I think my qualifications are strong, but you are free to disagree. I have been a believer in the Lord Yeshua for close to 14 years now. He has taken my heart of stone and replaced it with a beating heart of flesh. I am entirely reliant on His supernatural grace. I am entirely undeserving of that life. This book comes from a brother in the Lord. I also take the study of the Word of God seriously, and have studied much of Scripture in detail. I have spent much time defending the faith as well, both against unbelievers as well as Christians who deny important doctrines. I have many hundreds of pages of that material. I hold Scripture to be holy, completely truthful and authoritative in our life above any other authority. Not that it takes a theologian to figure out or explain the main facets of marriage in the Bible, as I intend to do, but I believe a good knowledge – broad and deep -- helps us understand it more solidly and apply it more consistently with Christian truth. But you don't have to be a theology junkie to basically understand these truths.

I also would hold up as a qualification that I have not compromised my principles. I am not trying to please any constituency and I am not afraid of whom I might offend with my teaching. In fact, I have stood up for my faith countless times against those who prefer that Christians are silent. I have spoken truths from the Word of God in environments where they are hated – both Christian and secular. It didn't feel good. But I did it anyway. I have stood for my faith many times when my job was on the line, have been threatened many times to keep quiet, and I have lost jobs for my faith. I don't mean to brag here. However, if you wonder what my qualifications are, this is who I am and I am not going to lie to you about what the truth is, as many pastors and ministers will, just to please someone. I WILL speak the truth, even when my job is on the line. Therefore you can count on me to be as honest as possible with you. The average Christian today has a sense of how compromised churches are, and how compromised other believers are. Some have detailed knowledge of how compromised pastors are. That's why I think it is better, often at least, to hear teaching from an ordinary brother like me, and not a pastor, seminary graduate or theology student. I'm not saying it has to be me. But an ordinary brother like me. Often more truth is told outside of a church than in it.

Perhaps my first qualification on my resume here should have been that I am happily married. Sadly, this is not true of many among the brethren. The young put off marriage. The older break them up. I believe having been happily married for about 9 years now, with four children (one who has passed away as a baby) is as good a qualification as any. Not only that, but I believe the marriage I share with my wife, and our home life, is modeled according to God's revealed will in the Bible. It is a Christian marriage, not a mere societal one. It's not flawlessly perfect. However, we have peace, happiness, forgiveness and we both seek to serve God and serve the brethren in our lives. That's what our marriage is about. In fact, the Lord has been so good to us, in more ways than I can count, than even in a year from now I'd be able to tell you new details of the Lord's blessing on us. God's way works. And when I say blessing, by the way, I mean primarily in the spiritual sense, with physical ones being secondary. God's blessing does not always mean

being comfortable, wealthy or without troubles. It is rather His provision along the way, and the peace in heart He gives you. We are abundantly blessed that way in a happy Christian home.

I think you'll find, even though this book has a personal tone, and contains a number of personal insights, that it's little more than a presentation of divine truths about marriage from the Word of God, and common sense traditions tested in history by the saints. Or in other words, what your Bible believing grandparents could have told you about men and women will likely line up 80% or more with what I write here. I am not presenting novelty. I am not being inventive. I'm telling you what your Bible, and your grandparents could tell you, and I'm doing it because the world so loudly disagrees. Base your marriage on divine truth. There are millions who will call you simplistic and archaic for doing so, but that's okay. What the Modern calls simplistic and archaic is actually what's good and beautiful for our lives. It is simple and eternal. God's truths are not complicated. They are written in the Scriptures and are in harmony with the natures He gave us. Let's listen to God here, and not man.

This book will also challenge your worldview, if your worldview is more American than Christian. It will challenge you if your life is based on man-made liberties. I present marriage and the Christian life in the home from a perspective of divine revelation, and secondarily reason. I do not presume a basis of rights or of personal wish-fulfillment in our lives. Christians are addicted to these things. Our life is not about our freedoms or our wish fulfillment, but about bringing glory to God. We have obligations. We have responsibilities. These things take precedence over the hopes and dreams we idolize. Our dream, as a Christian, should be for the Kingdom. That is our dream. While much of the Church seems to worship a western concept of freedom, I think you'll find this book is dismissive of that worldview, when it is not openly critical of it. Our worldview must be based on God's truth. Not supposed freedoms.

It is impossible not to notice, every day, as I write this book, that we live in a time when the simple truths of marriage are made a mockery of. This civilization has rejected them. Christians, who are marching right in line with the current society too, have rejected them. The children of God have made a mockery of the union between the woman and the man. They have made a mockery of male and female. They blend gender almost as much as the Humanist world. Yet they always stand ready to criticize the nonbeliever, who goes a little further than they do. Christians must realize what they have lost and what they are rejecting. The family is something as basic as food and drink, as basic as shelter, as basic as civil order and law. It is also one of the brightest witnesses to Christ which we can show to the world. It is through the family that we can be a city on a hill, not as individuals, but as a community which loves, supports and protects each other. This witness would outshine many others.

Our Lord Jesus Christ called the Jewish leaders of His day hypocrites, for they denied the same law of God they claimed to uphold. This scarlet letter H certainly applies to our modern Body of Christ. For they claim to uphold morality, yet they scoff at it and break the law freely, always ready with an excuse. This is the Pharisee of today. This is the Scribe. Before the Christian can

speaking about morality, marriage, family and gender, he must actually respect them first himself. He must actually obey God regarding the family. Otherwise he stands as the Pharisee today, and the axe is already at the root of the tree. You might even say the tree is already felled, yet it just keeps talking. The modern Church needs to repent brothers, and respect all the God teaches in the Holy Bible. It needs to put aside prideful dreams of freedom and humble itself before God and obey. Then -- as you love to hear in your churches -- the Holy One will hear from heaven, will forgive our sin and will heal our land.

Amen

## From Preparation Section

Firstly, let me say what finding a mate is NOT. Finding a mate is not tracking down that one-in-a-million person that exists uniquely to combine with your unique personality. This is a rather romantic notion. Yet it's not true. There are many good partners that can be an excellent husband and wife for the rest of your life. I'm not saying God doesn't have one uniquely prepared for you -- of course God's providence rules over all -- simply that you should not expect there to be a needle in a haystack you have to look for. The needs of a husband or wife are not that hard to meet. Likewise, you should drop the similar idea that there is an "opposite" half to your own half; this imaginary person that will complete the pear, or the apple or the fig that's been sliced in half. No, God can complete you in marriage through many different sincere believers. Just ask Him in prayer. You don't need to expect a "soul mate" type experience, although it's possible you will have one.

Also, do not expect that the man or woman who will become one flesh with you ought to raise your emotions to apex level. They don't have to stimulate you like your favorite meal after a three day fast. They don't have to stimulate you like a hive of bees either. Affection and emotion is ideally something that comes along as a side effect of dwelling on the person's faith and virtue, and thinking of a life together with them. We might feel warm affection when we spend time with them. However, if emotion is a driving force equal or above the others, you're in trouble. You will also be made blind by overwhelming emotion and desire, blind to a person's deficiencies as well as any possible dubious aims. What the culture calls being "in love" is on par with a mental illness and trying to choose a mate this way is like driving drunk. There is naturally stronger emotion among the young, or among the innocent, but you should not expect that the one you will marry provide a tidal wave of it. It's not a 20-foot wall of water that rushes in and floods your home. Rather -- to complete the metaphor using water again -- feelings are more like a beautiful lagoon you wander upon, as you pass through their forest looking for food. They come with the whole package.

It is also common to think that a man and wife need to have excellent compatibility. They need to have these well matched personalities, or many common interests. This is false. The compatibility they need to have is that they both do their jobs, and the common interest they need is God. That's it. Nearly any two partners will have differences in what they like or differences in how they communicate. Those are things that you learn to accommodate over time, with understanding. A good husband cares that his wife has some of her desires in life met. A good wife wants to learn about what her husband likes, even if she hates it. When two people are living as God instructs them in marriage, it is nearly impossible to imagine these differences harming them greatly. Rather, they give us a chance to grow, and to know the other. If anyone could, I could easily claim lack of compatibility with my wife, as her English is not perfect, especially right when we got married, and we have some odd misunderstandings sometimes. If I were looking for fault, or looking for an excuse to complain about marriage, I could, just as anyone could. I can say one thing, and she can literally take it to mean something else. Yet this is not a lack of compatibility on any substantial level. Rather, we are compatible since we have the Holy Spirit, so we learn patience over these things. If we wrote all of our misunderstandings down, we'd have a good book of jokes, and could laugh about it for years.

What you should expect most, and even require in a Christian bride or bridegroom is this: Above all, as I have said strongly, they must be a faithful child of God. They should show virtue, especially the virtues most important for their gender. They should respect what the Bible teaches on marriage, including the main elements I go over in this book. You should find a man who is prepared to support his household, and a woman who is prepared to care for the children and keep the home, especially once the first child comes along. Your partner must understand that marriage is for life and must not expect a flawlessly perfect partner. They must be prepared to forgive. They must be prepared to live with someone that sometimes they just don't like at all. Many women look for a man who will be highly successful, but this is unrealistic, and often unfair. A woman should look for a man who is responsible and hard working. If you want to waste years looking for someone who meets elite criteria, including criteria that aren't high priority for a Christian, then you are bringing worldliness into your life, and will have a much harder time finding your partner. They don't need to be elite. Just godly and responsible.

Moreover, it is important to meet someone who is prepared to marry within a reasonable timeframe. A man or woman who is ambiguous about the future and has no idea when they want to marry, is probably not a good choice to spend your time with and consider the future with. Marriage ought to be in their plans within a year or two. Otherwise, you might just be dreaming. You'll end up with a fantasy relationship that goes nowhere. Before I met my wife, I was seeing a woman whom I always knew had plans for travel. It was my own fault, and probably loneliness that made me think of her as a serious possibility. In less than a year, she broke it off, so she could leave and see the world. Now God still used that timing to find me the right mate, but from my perspective, it was a poor choice and totally unrealistic. That's also a lesson in not being moved by emotion more than anything else. If your life is full of the Lord, it's not as hard to be

single as our emotions tell us. If you have to wait, fill up your life with prayer, service, and intellectual pursuits. They lessen the power of desires.

There is a lot you can learn about your possible mate in the seeing process, in regards to whether they are godly and prepared to marry. When I was seeing my wife before we married, we also had an informal practice of our roles in headship and submission. A man and woman seeing each other don't have those roles on an official level, but they do model them to a certain extent. We modeled our relationship, not just in sharing love and kindness to one another, but in communicating our unique position. I could see through testing her that she had a meek heart, and willingly submitted to my lead. She did not rebel against it. She followed my lead and never directly contradicted me. I expressed to her before marriage that I expected her dress to be modest, and her speech to be respectful. For some woman that would provoke a fight. Yet my wife had a godly spirit, as well as a good upbringing from her parents. She showed that character to me long before we married. I would not recommend marrying anyone who cannot take on the role that God gives them, either in this area or any other. Model some of those things before you get married.

## From Chapter 1 – Salvation Vessel

Man's role toward his wife, is according to Holy Scripture, akin to Christ's role toward the Church. He seeks to wash her clean in the Word. He loves and sacrifices for her. He never departs from her. He leads and teaches her like Christ, the head of the Church, leads and teaches His special people. Through that unity, the man's leadership and the wife's purity and submission, the world gets a glimpse of God's work in salvation. While Christians have a betrothal now through being one with Christ, the final wedding for the Church is in the future, and this is fully what the wedding of a man and wife in Christ represents; not just the individual being united and washed clean by Christ, but His special chosen people uniting in heaven. It may be a present picture of man saved in Christ. It is also a prophetic picture of Christ's future return, to take His Bride.

We see this prophesied many times, including by the prophet Isaiah, who wrote to the chosen within Israel: *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.* (Isaiah 61:10) Here the restoration of Israel in righteousness is compared to the joy and adornment of a wedding. He speaks of the garments not merely as clothes, but as righteousness itself. What more beautiful adornment could we ask for? The future kingdom of God is like a great wedding, and the salvation like precious jewels. The prophet comforts Israel again near the end of his book, writing of the great wedding for Israel: *You shall no longer be termed Forsaken,*



*Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; **And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.*** (Isaiah 62:4-5) The prophet speaks of a time that ends the nation's sufferings and scourging, a time compared to a great wedding of the sons marry the land of promise. God will rejoice and delight in her, comparing God to the man who is taking a wife and is full of joy at his wedding. This is the promise of new hope. The resoration of the land. The wedding of the land. God and the people like a bridegroom and bride.

We see this event captured in a few crisp words in the New Testament, in Revelation: *Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*** (Revelation 21:1-2) *"Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."* *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.* (Revelation 21:9,10,11) Then the apostle goes on to describe the many precious stones surrounding it, like jasper and sapphire and emerald. God's people, he chosen in Christ, will be united with Him forever in an eternal kingdom. This is what man taking a wife speaks of. Not just the individual salvation, but the salvation of an entire people. This is what becoming one flesh speaks of. Marriage is a chance for holiness, for life and a chance to communicate eternal, divine truth.

Knowing this, who wouldn't want to get married? Knowing this who wouldn't want to show such a witness to the world? That God has chosen a special people to Himself to love and wash clean forever. Marriage is not about personal fulfillment. It is a job to do, and labor for Christ. When we realize how set apart marriage is, we can never treat it as anything but a mission to complete. When we long to hear in heaven the words of the Lord – well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:23) – we should know it applies to our married life as well. Can our Lord say these words to us? Did we please Him in our holy union? Were we responsible with the treasure He gave us? We should hunger and thirst even to have the chance. It should be our longing.

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A willingness to sacrifice your life for another, such as sacrificing your life as a husband for your wife, is truly sacramental of Jesus. It pictures in this earthly world His great atonement for us. It imitates Christ. Presents His reality powerfully to souls around us. While you may be familiar with the seven sacraments of historical Catholic theology, everyone recognizes that a sacrament can be understood in a broad sense also. The Catholic encyclopedia says of sacraments: Taking the word "sacrament" in its broadest sense, as the sign of something sacred and hidden (the Greek word is "mystery"), we can say that the whole world is a vast sacramental system, in that material things are

unto men the signs of things spiritual and sacred, even of the Divinity. Therefore, we can view the husband giving himself for his wife as a revealing of Christ's sacrifice for His Church, and even God's eternal desire to reveal Himself in the cross. The husband is a sign of our Savior, "*crowned with glory and honor...that He might taste death for everyone.*" (Hebrews 2:9) Much honor is due to the husband for this alone.

Jesus taught His followers: "*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*" (John 15:13) This represents the heart of His mission on earth, to go to death for the purpose of releasing mankind from bondage. He spoke of His coming death throughout His ministry, but His disciples did not understand until after He died and rose, and came to them. Despite all the teaching and the miracles, His purpose was one: to give His life.

The apostle John explains: *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* (1 John 3:16) Thus, Christ's mission becomes the greatest expression of God's character – of love. When we imitate Christ we imitate His laying down of His life. This is explicit in the New Testament regarding ALL believers, and it is explicit for husbands as a central part of their role. We sacrifice and pour out our life, even if we never need to take a bullet for our wife. Just as Christ "*poured out His life unto death,*" so do we. (Isaiah 53:12) The bridegroom gives his life for the life of his bride.

While sacrifice is exemplary of love, and Christ-like, so is rule. This is the other expression of God's love in marriage – the husband's rule. It is true rule expresses other qualities too, but love is expressed in rule in that the king governs out of love of God and for the good of his subjects. He seeks to better and protect his subjects. Rule is another common sacrament, making visible the invisible, and putting in our hands an eternal spiritual truth.

The rule of King Messiah is prophesied throughout the Hebrew Scriptures in abundance. The prophet Zechariah speaks of Messiah's kingly rule, telling Israel:

*And in that day it shall be  
That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem...  
And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.  
In that day it shall be—  
"The LORD is one,"  
And His name one.*

(Zechariah 14:9-10)

Isaiah 53, the greatest of passages about the suffering servant, also prophesies His rule over the earth: *Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,  
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,* (Isaiah 53:12)

Psalms speak in its entirety of God's rule through the Son, including rule over nations:

*“Yet I have set My King  
On My holy hill of Zion.”*

*“I will declare the decree:  
The LORD has said to Me,  
‘You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.*

*Ask of Me, and I will give You  
The nations for Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

*You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”*  
(Psalm 2:6-9)

Jesus our Lord, whom the husband represents, even during His earthly mission of suffering and death spoke about His own authority. This is clear both in His authoritative teachings on the Torah (law), but also in teachings about his disciples need to obey. Jesus taught: If you love me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15). *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.* (John 14:21) This is explicitly repeated, summarized and expounded on multiple times in the first Epistle of John. Love for the head of the Church is matched with obedience to Him, just as love of the head of the home is matched with the same. Hebrews even shows the link between obedience and salvation, teaching *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,* (Hebrews 5:9) That is not to say we are saved merely through an act of obedience, but that we who are saved by Him are also those who obey Him. Those who follow His commandments.

Christ’s headship over the Church is also spoken of in language quite similar to that of His rule upon His return.

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### A Sample Household Liturgy

*This is similar, but not the same as mine.*

Sunday: Bible reading with children

Monday: Psalms

Tuesday: Practice or Sing Hymns

Wednesday: Book study with wife

Thursday: Confession

Friday: Home worship, praise, prayer, Bible reading

Saturday: Memorize Scripture

This list is not trying to include everything. It does not include brief prayers said in the morning and evening, nor blessings at meals. My wife also does short readings and prayers with the children every night.

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## The husband protects his wife and family.

*Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel (1 Peter 3:7)*

When we speak of protection, one of the first things we think about is physical protection, placing a barrier between our loved one, in this case our beloved wife, and physical harm. We think of incidents like the shooting I wrote about earlier, or a dangerous home invader. These are legitimate areas in which the man must protect His wife, who is the image of the Church. However, I want to speak more of the spiritual and emotional protection that He offers. In fact, much of what I've already laid out, in terms of leading the home in worship amounts to a kind of protection itself, as it feeds, and builds up the woman and the children in spiritual nourishment. Yet it is equally important to keep dangerous spiritual and occult influences out of the home, and keep our wife pure of them.

The spiritually impure and occult can be especially dangerous to the woman. When Scripture speaks of a husband honoring his beloved as the weaker vessel, it does not only mean she is physically weaker. She is also emotionally weaker than the man. She is more easily spiritually led astray. We see this in Genesis, as it is the woman, not the man who is deceived by Satan. We really don't know why Adam eats of the fruit and more willfully disobeys than she does, but we know that Eve fell for deception, as Apostle Paul, in explaining woman's submission in the Church, points out Eve being deceived as one of the reasons. We could also speak of woman's propensity for witchcraft, and similar occult practices, which attract more women than men. This is likely why the Torah, in its various prohibitions of witchcraft, sometimes doesn't even bother to mention the male witch, but only speaks of the female one. She is simply much more common. Therefore, when a man honors his wife as the weaker vessel, when he lovingly protects her from harm, it means all of these things, not just protection from the armed intruder; he protects her from emotional imbalance and malaise, and he protects her from spiritual deception. The Christ king of the home must put barriers against them.

In regards to home liturgy, simply keeping out false teaching and occult coming from professed Christians is essential. This is one reason why the man should be mature, strong and studied in his faith. If he is weak in faith, he will be weak in discerning false teaching and he will lack much will to protect his wife and home from it. Some of the more obvious false teachings in the modern Church include anti-Trinitarianism, easy-believism, and the Judaizer claim that Gentiles must live like Jews. Yet there are others. Some deceptions do not come with a clear dogma attached, but seem to bubble up in various forms and expression. Other clear ones include the prosperity gospel and the Word Faith movement, both of which have heavy traction in the Charismatic movement, really up to the point of dominating it. Much of Word Faith, along with so-called Catholic mysticism, amounts to occult practice and sorcery. A man needs to be leading his wife in prayer, not in mouthing the same syllables thousands of times until you go into an altered state of consciousness. The Bible shows us what prayer is. Most of what mysticism calls prayer is anything but prayer. It is ancient pagan methods of allegedly elevating the consciousness. You will not find it in the Bible. It flatly goes against what the Bible teaches about prayer and can't be found in the literally hundreds of examples of prayer in Scripture. Do not let impure spirits take hold of your wife. Keep her clean of these things.

To tell you a little story, a former employer of mine had been recently divorced. He gave me many details of his sad marriage situation even though I did not ask for them. Apparently it was his wife who had demanded, and then legally forced the divorce to occur. I do not think that he ever wanted one. I believe him when he says he tried to stop it and failed. However, when he told me about the kind of things his wife had been involved with during their marriage, things he apparently permitted, they included her connection to New Age teachers and Catholic "mysticism." He may not have desired the divorce, but he helped put himself in that position by not protecting his wife from these elements. That is one reason why the Bible demands that an elder or deacon manage their home well and be the husband of one wife; not that there aren't ever situations beyond their control, but if they have been managing their home well from the start, much less beyond their control will happen. We as husbands need to manage well. We do not let our wives get involved with false teachers, and the occult. It is a form of self-worship and a deception of the Serpent. It will bring evil on our home.

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There are many today who like to pit love against authority. They do this to attack the man's authority, and they sometimes do it to attack God's authority. To them, authority means a lack of love. But this is not so. As a husband, the same strength with which you lead your wife, including setting limits for her and correcting her, is rooted in the love with which you rejoice in her, praise her and honor her. It all comes from the same place. In fact, if it were not for that love, you would not be in that position of authority with which to lead her. If not for that leading, the love would be a mere warmth, and not edify her in any real way. The two go together. Never let

it be said in marriage or elsewhere that your clear authority is in conflict with your love. The Bible says that God is King and also teaches that God is love. In imitating God the same is true of us. You have the strength of a king, and are warm as a dove.

Let me tell you, for all of the blessing and sheer happiness I receive from my wife, I would be insane not to honor her all the time. I want her to know how she has grown in grace. I want the world to know what a godly woman that she is. Through that, I want the world to know the goodness and light of Christ. I want the world to see the image of the Savior and His Beloved. It is in striking contrast from what I used to know was an unbeliever, and what I have seen in others who lived as I did. When I was what the Spirit calls a child of wrath “by nature” (Ephesians 2:3) I actually wanted the world to see how sensual my lady friends were. I wanted the world to see their flesh. Believe it or not, I had women who wanted me to treat them like harlots in public, and even use them for others to see. I don’t share that image to shock you, but only to point out how upside down the satanic order is. Then I want you to see how God’s order sets it right. My desire is for the world to see my wife sanctified. Holy. Pure. Our desire for ANY public attention is that God gets attention through it. Any chance she and I have to be together is an opportunity to witness to Messiah together. This is why the Bible teaches that mankind’s way is at war with God. (Romans 8:7) And in contrast when we are a friend of God, we put to death the flesh. (Colossians 3:15) Mankind’s way with his partner is sensuality, public criticism or apathy. God’s way is exalting her spiritually. Honoring her virtue. Washing the woman clean in the Word.

*that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27)*

One important thing to add is about criticism of a wife. It may be true that there are some instances where you may have to immediately correct something she is doing. However, as a matter of honoring your wife, it is better that real criticism is done in private, if it is necessary. Husbands AND wives should avoid complaining about the other or openly criticizing the other. In fact, when you see husbands or wives doing this regularly, there usually are serious problems in the home. A husband does in fact have some need to set her right about things, and at times it’s unavoidable to do in public. However, even that needs to be measured and with self-control. No boss wants the world to think of their employees as a bunch of idiots. So he should not talk to them as fools. The spirit of husband toward wife should be one of honoring, protecting, rejoicing and he must lead her with a calm confidence. Just as you publically praise her, do not publically put her to shame.

*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. (Ephesians 5:29)*

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## **There is a reason to protect.**

There is a reason to wash her in the Word. There are natural results for the woman being second in creation, and there are real consequences in the woman's deception in the garden. They are results that require the man's headship, which is why we see it written into the natural order and taught explicitly in the Bible. Virtually every culture and civilization has recognized it. It's not just for Bible Christians. For in nature, without the man's protection, the woman is victim. She is used like a harlot. Through history when the army conquered new territory, one of its first choices was to round up all of the women and rape them. This was compulsory for some armies. For other armies it was only the practice if a town had greatly resisted capture. Either way, mass rape by armies or bandits has been common enough to almost call normal. Groups like the Huns or Mongols would slaughter the men and rape the women. The various empires that conquered Israel were known to slice open the pregnant women, rip the babies out of their wombs, and parade around with slaughtered babies pierced on the end of their spears. Many of the Indian tribes in North America, when doing a raid and capturing females, would let the tribe take turns raping them until she was finally given to one of the males as a partner. Even in modern centuries with international law prohibiting these things, various militaries and terror groups have made rape, torture and murder of women their norm. It is in the fiber of fallen nature, these things. Jesus said of Satan – *he was a murderer from the beginning* (John 8:44) – and even though his crime in the garden was deception, the effects have placed violence in the human psyche, especially in the male. From the first generation after Adam murder was known. (Genesis 4:8) When it is not armies or bandits turning women into whores or brutalizing them, young women are often taken advantage of in the home, molested by elders or friends of the family, sometimes to the point this too becomes normal. Women in poverty often turn to prostitution as a source of income and some are forced into it, including as small children. She is a ready victim. Ready to be made impure. Ready to be used for the basest purposes for short term thrill. Ready to be humiliated at the feet of her rapist. She is little more than a beer in the fridge for anyone who wants to use her. These terrible facts are why righteousness is essential. Righteousness. Not merely the family which God has ordained, for despite the good of the family, this evil has been done within its members, so what we need righteousness. The law of God and righteous men do not do this evil. They do not permit it. Righteous men establish justice, and punish evil. Can any man, Christian or otherwise, not see how a righteous husband is there to protect the woman? To honor her as the weaker vessel? To present her to the whole world as pure?

The other side of the coin when we speak of man's protecting the woman is what happens when women rebel against their submissive role and against their position in the home. When women reject this, they become the source of evil, as wicked as any rapist I have mentioned above. One of the commonest and first forms of rebellion is witchcraft, which is a terrible sin, and which connects the woman to impure forces. Witchcraft is part of the overall rebellion against man, and the God who put man over her. When Genesis 3:16 says "*your desire shall be for your husband,*"

it is more accurately translated your desire shall be “against” your husband. That is why the very next verse says, “*and he shall rule over you.*” It is a contrast to the effects of the Fall on the woman, which is a desire to turn the creation order upside down, and rule over her husband. The rebellion which we see in women is rooted in the Fall. A woman must be protected from it.

Along with rebellion against the man, and along with witchcraft, we can see many other damages done. One quick picture can be gained by looking at the results of the feminist movement over more than a century into the past. Its direct results have been a destruction of the family, gross gender bending, much higher divorce rates, children separated from their parents, exponentially greater violence by women, demands for liberal abortion, the growth of the nanny state and more, including women parading nearly naked in public. Removing the woman from her protected and pure place given by God has also resulted in turning her into a harlot of another kind. Not the rape victim kind. The willful kind. It has resulted in the contracepted, ever-ready for intercourse female of the modern West, the normalizing of whoredom through what some have called “liberation.” It has made the average western (often Christian) woman into an unpaid prostitute, who gives it up to many men, but doesn’t earn a dime. If you doubt what I am saying, never forget this: the blessed sacrament of the feminist movement is killing babies. It is abortion. This is almost mandatory to be considered a “liberated” woman: the open support of killing children. In this era you see the fruit of complete female autonomy, which includes not just mass murder, but the heartless ability to BRAG about the number of abortions they have with a smile on their face.<sup>1</sup> They know very well the child is human. Yet they kill him anyway and smile.

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## **The Command**

Although it should not be necessary to say, I want to speak about how a husband uses authority. More precisely, how he instructs his wife what to do. How to use authority is not a great secret in society, however, when you have professed ministers telling husbands that they are the “head” but they are not the “boss” you will create immense confusion and pretty much rob headship of its headship. I have mentioned this before. I’ll mention it again. If you are the head of something, you are the boss. That’s pretty much by definition. So husbands, you’re the boss.

I think we can see three main ways in which any authority, including husbands, leads those under them. The first is by simple command. This is often necessary, especially with immediate tasks that have to be done, or with setting out the parameters for a project. You speak with authority and you give the commands which need to be followed. No organization would work without this ability. A command can be blunt if it needs to be. In fact, if it’s too softly spoken, someone might not even know it’s a command, and think it was a mere suggestion or offer. So there are times when it is good that a husband speaks bluntly and strongly about what he needs to be done.



The second kind of leading is through encouragement and discouragement. A husband may use this kind of leading in areas that don't seem as immediately important as others, or in areas he'd rather not regulate for good reasons. It may be an area where you'd simply like to give good advice. I have encouraged my wife this way in telling her how it would help her throughout the day if she recited Scripture in her heart, or sang songs. I don't demand she do this, though I do have regular times for both of us to memorize Scripture. I simply encourage her to do it while she works, since it would help her stay close to God. I also recommend good places to take the children during the day, but I rarely demand she go there. It just functions as advice.

I suppose the middle ground would be encouragement, but in an area that we WILL use our authority eventually if we have to. The domain might be one in which we give commands, but we'd rather see a subordinate do it through encouragement. One such area for me has been in encouraging my wife toward wearing the headcovering in worship, knowing that she would be nervous and wanting to wait until she really felt ready. It's an area where I would use authority if I need to, especially since it is instructed in Scripture. However, I chose to wait and do it through teaching, and she came to be comfortable wearing it.

As a husband, just like any authority on earth, you have all three forms of leading at your disposal. Naturally, the first is for those things that most require regulation, and for those things most urgently important. Use it. You cannot really be the "head" of a home or anything else in the world if you don't have that kind of leading. Exactly which form you choose and when is sometimes subjective, but you do your best to consider what is necessary and what is most productive. Encouragement and advice is more likely to take longer to get through, although sometimes it is received immediately. They usually apply to those areas of gradual shaping and guiding your wife, when there is time to let her grow and less danger from taking the wrong course. The responsibility ultimately lies with you.

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### **Do You Worship Autonomy?**

Providing for his family is an act men are bound to. It is a sacrifice that is also an obligation. Just as women are bound to some acts, so are men. We live in an era when being free of bonds is thought of as being good, especially for a woman. Woman is often wrongly portrayed as a victim, because throughout history she needed to be in the home or with the children, or because she did not have every last societal option open to her. Yet it is a GOOD thing to be bound. It is a good thing to be bound to Christ and to God's law. Imagine if man were not bound to what he needs to do. If man never felt the need to provide for his family. If he never felt restrained by ethics. Even a feminist society like the one we currently live in wants a man to be "bound" to pay child support. They'd be awfully angry if he didn't. They don't want him to have a choice. They want his options limited.

You see, a man SHOULD be bound to good things. A woman should be bound to good things. There is no question of being absolutely free, as absolute freedom does not exist, and freedom completely in the abstract is not in itself a good. The Bible teaches we are either a slave to sin or we are a slave to God. (Romans 6:22) One of the two. If we desire to serve God, then we obey His commands too. (Romans 6:18) That means a man provides. It means a woman cares for the children and the home. It does NOT mean we have every societal option open to us, especially women, whose role is closer to home. Western Christians of this era need desperately to stop worshipping freedom. They have adopted an Americanist religion rather than a biblical one. They worship their autonomy, not their God. If we truly worship God, we are servants of God and do not need every option open to our personal desire. We obey God if we are men. We obey God if we are women. The man therefore has been bound throughout history just as the woman has been bound through history -- to do good. One of the great acts of righteousness man is bound to, is the sacrifice of work for his family.

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*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

(1 John 2:15-16)

One of the most important things you can do as a husband – what I have called the head of a sacred community – is to lead your family as set apart people. That includes that you lead them in a lifestyle that is separate from worldliness. You do not lead them in imitating the world and following its entertainments. A lot of people want to affect the future of the world, both for good reasons and vain reasons, and this is among the best ways to affect the future. Not by being extremely successful at work. Not by having some incredible talent that people admire. Not by starting a political movement. Not by doing something that will get your face in the papers. Rather by leading your home in a set-apart way. You must lead your home in holiness.

There is much to be said about why and how to be separate, but I will just try and cover the basics. Separation is a biblical doctrine. The Bible teaches that the Christian no longer lives for the flesh, but for the spirit. (Romans 8:9) It teaches we are called to be a unique people. (1 Peter 2:9) It teaches that to be a friend of the world is to be an enemy of God. (James 4:4, Romans 8:7) We are also called to stay away from Christians who are false teachers or who live in a sinful lifestyle. (Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11) We do not seek the sensuality, the vulgarity, the drunken parties of the world. (1 Peter 4:3) We have a holy, modest lifestyle, characterized by

self-restraint, seriousness and prayer. (Titus 2:11-12, Ephesians 5:4) We do not seek after great gain in this world, but are content with what the Lord provides. (Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:8) The set apart lifestyle does not seek the vain things in this life. (1 John 2:15-16)

I'll try to be concise: you won't be able to do those things if you are connected to most secular entertainment. You won't be able to do those things if you follow the fashions of the world. You won't be able to do them if you make its goals your goals too. I'm not saying to go out of your way to be a weirdo, but if you lead your life entirely for the Lord, you will be very different from the world, and you will have very little room for its entertainments. In following the Lord's path, you will see clearly how it is a different path. Others will see that you are different too. Do not let secular entertainment or literature be the norm in your home. It will damage your life in Christ. It will damage your wife and your children as well.

Secular entertainment, besides being a soul-sucking waste of time, alters a person's form of thought and indoctrinates people. It teaches attitudes, it teaches language (something itself which affects our understanding), it teaches what we look up to, it teaches what we look down on, it teaches what and whom we admire, it teaches political ideology, it teaches metaphysical religious beliefs. On top of that, it pumps heightened emotion, regular vulgarity, and lewd sexualized images into the human soul. It does these things over and over again. Claiming that the entertainment does not affect our beliefs or actions doesn't hold water. Not only can we see they affect human beings with our own eyes, but studies have shown that television and music DOES affect the human mind.<sup>ii</sup> In fact, if imbibing the secular culture really has no ill results for the Church, then how come Christians just keep following what the world does, only a step or two behind in its depravity? How come what the world teaches as true, a few years later, Christians come to accept? How come we see the same worldly dress, vulgar language and philosophical beliefs from Christians as are popular in the pagan world? If you let secular entertainment into your home, you are inviting a false teacher to teach you, your wife, and your children.

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Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

(1 Timothy 6:6-8)

It seems that even parents who are serious about raising their children ethically, often find a way to live for the world by living for gain. This too is unholy. It keeps us living in the flesh. As a husband and father, you should not live for acquiring wealth, education or accomplishments. The goal in leading your family and raising children is being faithful to God and being righteous. Anything else is merely a means to an end.

Four years, eight years, twenty years of education are not necessarily good for the kingdom of God. If they specifically help in a goal you are called to achieve, then perhaps. However, in and of themselves, they cannot be a goal for you or for your children. High salary and prestigious job position, although admired by Christians for literally thousands of years must not be in your sights. Serving God must be in your sights. If salary can sincerely help in serving God, then so be it, but often more money takes people away from the Lord, not the other way around. It's not a blessing – even if many Christians call it a blessing – but a curse of the devil and a hindrance. Money corrupts. It corrupts individuals. It corrupts institutions. It corrupts governments. It corrupts churches. 1 Timothy 6:10 teaches: For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Surely, money's ability to consume people's attention and corrupt them from the truth is one reason the Lord gives us this teaching. We should have contentment on our hearts. Not a strong desire to be rich.

If we were consumed with a desire for higher education, salary and prestige, cars, vacations and retirement, how would we be different from the world? We would be remarkably the same. So this is a holiness issue too. Yet how does one have this peace on the heart? How do we avoid being lured in by the artificial veneer of materialistic success or the vanity of self-importance? I believe the key is the word given in Scripture – contentment. We have contentment. That comes from the knowledge we have eternal peace with our Creator. We are not under condemnation. It also comes with a knowledge that God is in complete control, and we don't need to imagine that we need to prove ourselves worthy to anyone else. God has already declared us worthy in His Son. The Scripture says: *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5) The knowledge that God rules our lives and that we will inherit eternal peace is a great source of contentment, and gives us the ability to serve God without idolizing riches or accomplishments. We know that all we could possibly do in our life is to uplift the name of Christ. Therefore, anything else could only possibly be a tool. Anything that takes us from that goal is wrong.

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## Chapter 2 – A Suitable Helper

There is no shame, but honor in imitating the Son in relation to the Father. One of the most amazing passages about the Son's submission, in fact his Incarnation, is in Philippians 2. It reads:

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,  
who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,  
but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the  
likeness of men.  
And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the  
point of death, even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every  
name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth,  
and of those under the earth,  
and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*  
(vss. 5-11)

While this humility is to be imitated by all, it is especially relevant to point out here; for the Son was obedient to the Father, and in like manner the wife is obedient to her own husband. Christ did not reject submission. He embraced it and lived it. So must we corporately as a Church. So must the wife toward her husband.

Jesus expresses his obedience to the Father many times, especially in the gospel of John. He says, *"I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."* (John 8:28)

Jesus even sums up his mission with these words in John 6:38: *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*

As noted in the previous chapter Jesus explains his relation to the Father and His relation to the Church, pointing out that we keep His commandments as He has kept his Father's commandments. (John 15:10)

The book of Hebrews, in revealing Christ's superiority and the New Covenant's superiority, points to Christ's obedience. It is a reason for his exaltation and a reason for our salvation:

*though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.  
And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*  
(Hebrews 5:8-9)

Just in case we wonder if the Son's secondary status to the Father is merely as he walks on this earth, we are given these startling words in 1 Corinthians 15: *Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.* (vs. 28)

It seems even in the final kingdom, the Son is submissive to the Father, perhaps even in deeper ways than we are aware of now.

You see, despite the amazing truth and beauty of the wife's role, we live in an era when most will tell you to be ashamed to submit to your husband. They will say it is degrading, it's not "equal" or it's horrible for some other reason. We've entered such a gender-bent time that people think nothing of comparing your submission to being raped and your husband to a Nazi. How twisted is that?

Yet tell me what is shameful about the Church desiring to help our Lord and serve Him. Tell me what is shameful about the Christian's desire to obey God, who is our King. What is wrong about the Son's being "subject to" the Father, or with the Son's obedience, obedience by the way which won us salvation. Is the Son akin to a victim because he willingly did the Father's will and is the Father akin to a Nazi because He sent His Son into creation? Is there something inherently unjust about the Father being primary and the Son being secondary? If we thought like a modernist or a rebel we would hate the idea of being put under someone. Yet if we embrace God, who both teaches and lives submission, we also embrace being put under. It is a GOOD thing.

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## Modesty is Beautiful

*in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.* (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

It is amazing how consistent God's truths are. Just as the previous passage we looked at calls the woman to be modest, and does so in the context of submission, 1 Timothy 2 also calls her to be modest, and follows this immediately with a passage about her silence and submission in the Church. There is surely a deep connection between submission and a woman's true beauty, which comes from the heart, and not from adornment. This passage also parallels Peter's teaching in that it calls a woman's spiritual virtue adornment. Peter calls it beauty. There is an understanding that trying to show off the body or cover oneself with ornaments will only cover up a woman's true beauty, not reveal it. A woman's true beauty is revealed by the Holy Spirit. As she walks in faith. Here it comes from "*propriety and moderation*" (vs. 9) and reflects "*godliness*" in a woman. (vs. 10)

This is essential for women to know. This is especially essential in a culture where women believe they need to cover up their face with a mask, hang shiny jewelry from their ears, dye their hair, get plastic injected into their body parts and shave their body hair to look like a plastic doll or an infant.<sup>iii</sup> None of this can ever make a woman look beautiful. None of it. If anything, it

tends to cover up inner spiritual beauty. Not that it's impossible to have inner beauty if you are a slave to these things, but they kind of act like static on the TV screen; they disturb and mutilate the image. They also tend to lean the heart away from the Lord, as they are often motivated by insecurity or vanity. They take time, attention, study, money and more, and often simply feed the ego or calm irrational fears a woman has. A woman is not beautiful for any of those things. She is beautiful in her heart, and in her meek submission.

Few women today will hear clear instructions on modesty from their fathers, pastors or husbands. When they hear teaching about it, usually the teaching will involve a very subjective idea of modesty, and simply say: do what feels right for you. This leaves women (and to a lesser extent men) with no clear idea of how to express the virtue of modesty. We need clear instructions. As I mention in the previous chapter in helping men set these standards for their home, a woman's modesty is reflected in covering up the flesh. The world does not need to see your legs, your butt, your boobs, your crotch. It doesn't need to see every curve of your figure through tight clothing. Modesty conceals those things, and leaves them for the husband to see. Modesty also avoids adornment, and trying to call attention to yourself. Scripture gives a few examples, but our leaders need to set some clear rules on this as well. When they don't we see the results – nearly anything goes. I don't know why a daughter of God, a daughter of Sarah, would think that the Holy Spirit needs any help in expressing beauty through her. The Holy Spirit does not need your flesh drawing attraction to you. It does not need you to plaster a mask on your face every morning. It does not need shiny things on your body or an ever changing hair style. When you are reliant on God and pursuing holiness, you will see precisely what I am talking about. And I think you know, if you already are the kind of woman who needs to use these beauty products, that you are in bondage to them.

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## Submission in Practice

One way that I would explain submission, is that it stems from a heart attitude of saying “yes.” It is the desire to do the will of the one we are subject to. Our heart attitude is yes and our word should be yes. This is true to the point it is good to avoid the word no, at least as much as possible. If a “no” literally is necessary, you will find there are other, less direct and very respectful ways to communicate the same thing. Focus on yes, and on your deep desire to help. In Japanese culture, this is almost standard, not just for women, but in the culture in general. Saying “no” is rigorously avoided, and the truth is you will rarely hear it there. They understand the conflict it can cause. They also see the superiority of the other way. This should epitomize the woman's way of speaking to her husband, and is a part of the nature of femininity.

The Son always seeks to do the will of the Father, as we saw before. Spiritually, this is in part where the woman's yes comes from. The woman manifests the Son's coming to do the Father's will. She manifests His denial of His own will that He puts aside to do the Father's will. (Luke 22:42) She manifests His divine submission. You might say it is the uniting of one's own will together with the will of the other. Similarly, the Church always seeks to do the will of Christ. Believers put aside their personal desires for the path of the Lord which is the way, the truth and the life. The wife's yes to her husband is the Church's yes to the Savior, in whom we believe and obey, and seek to honor forever. Her yes in accepting marriage is our yes in receiving the Savior. Her yes in obeying him is our yes as we obey the Lord, being conformed to His image, His character and will.

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### **Answers to False Charges**

One of the many often repeated fallacies against this biblical and natural order is that a woman practicing her submission is simply going to be abused. Her submission will make her a victim. To begin with, in this day and age, "abuse" means almost nothing, as people use this term for the occasional harsh word and condescending speech. But if we assume this word to mean that a husband will sadistically torment and punch his wife around, then this charge is simply not true. There may be cruel husbands out there, as there are cruel wives, but that in no way negates the husband's rightful authority.

The easiest way to show the falsehood in the feminist logic is simply to see if it applies to other authority structures. Test that reasoning broadly. Does the fact that some parents inhumanly treat their children mean that children should not obey their parents? Of course not. Does the fact that governments ALL behave with some injustice, and a few have been genocidal, mean that we don't need to obey the law of the land? No! That would be a laughable idea. We all accept that we need to obey the law. Does the fact that some employers unfairly treat their employees mean that I don't need to do what my boss tells me at work? Of course it doesn't. No one would accept that logic. Therefore, if we reject this line of reasoning for other authority structures, we need to reject it for husbands and wives as well. A potential for injustice by a superior does not mean we reject our submissive role.

I haven't done any studies, but I will tell you I believe the opposite is true. Not only does submission not turn an authority into a cruel sadistic tyrant, but rather it makes it LESS likely that the authority will lose their temper or lash out. In fact, 1 Peter 3, which is the perfect Word of God, says that a woman's silence will HELP the man to know the truth, not hinder him. Likewise, a woman who admires her man, speaks gently to him and does her best to help him,



will be met with a man who is more humane toward her. Even when it comes to men who lean toward losing their temper, they are less likely to lose it when you behave like a Christian wife around them. This truth has been taught since the mother of Augustine, Monica taught it to the wives in her area, and they saw their husbands were more peaceable. You don't provoke an angry bull. You treat it gently, and with love. Do you do that with your husbands? Do you quietly support and encourage them and do their will? Or do you provoke them? Yell at them? Try to be better?

Men who lose their temper, or even those who behave very cruelly, don't do it because they read the Bible and interpreted it that way. They do it because of their own wrong urges, and sinful choices. Provoking them won't change a thing. Moreover, when the secularist attacks Christian marriage and says this will lead to sadistic husbands, all they are saying is that they love the law of God and they want husbands to obey the law of God. They're saying cruelty is wrong. That's great. We ALL should want to uphold God's law. But we don't just pick and choose what we want of the law of God. We accept all of God's way for us. We accept that the husband should love his wife and treat her with understanding. We also accept that the wife submits to her husband as to the Lord. We can't have one without the other.<sup>iv</sup> We can't accept – you shall not steal –and then reject – you shall not murder. The person who wants a husband to be just and kind should realize they are standing up for God's law, and then ask themselves this: why don't I accept God Himself, and everything else that He teaches too? Imagine that. For righteousness comes from God. It does not come from man. All of His law is a wellspring of life.

In fact not only does a godly woman submitting not create violence, the opposite is true. Taking the woman out of her natural place of submission and in the home creates much more violence. Encouraging the woman toward imitating the male does this. Number one, since this has been going on in the West there has been an exponential incredible increase in female violence.<sup>v</sup> This increase even includes an increase in murder by women.<sup>vi</sup> There has been an incredible increase in violence BY women TOWARD men.<sup>vii</sup> On top of that, shoveling the women toward independence has ended countless marriages and left many children without a stable home or a father, something in itself which increases violence in society in general.<sup>viii</sup> It has left untrained, unstable and angry thugs on the street in abundance. It's left other men confused, lost, drug-addled and suicidal. These are young men who needed the leading of a father, and the nurturing of a mother. Instead, they got no father, an independent unnurturing mother and a promise that marriage doesn't really matter. It's been worse than a dirty bomb on society. Demeaning the virtue of a woman's submission has not brought the woman, or anyone else, more peace. It has split the atom, as it were, and burnt things to the ground. It has taken things out of their natural order. Violence is greater, by women, toward women and on the street. That is to say nothing of the increase in abortion that has gone hand in hand with female independence.<sup>ix</sup> There is a reason God gives us His way. It is not arbitrary. The woman's submission in marriage is a healing balm on all society.

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## Defense of Submission

If we understand the Bible consistently, this topic is not a very ambiguous one. The Bible plainly calls the man the head over the wife. It even does so in parallel to the headship of God and the headship of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:3) Therefore, the man has authority over his wife. If you try and claim the man's headship mentioned in this passage is a rare or unique kind of headship that has no authority, then to be fair, you'd also have to say God and Christ's headship is that rare and unique kind that carries no authority. Would that make sense? You see, in order to accept a feminist interpretation, you have to change the meaning of words where you see a man in authority over a woman, but then use the regular meaning of words the rest of the time. This inconsistency shows how bad the feminist interpretation is.

Likewise, the Bible plainly teaches that a woman is to submit to her husband in all things. Most of the time it uses the Greek word *hypotasso*, which is the same Greek word used many times for submission to God, submission to governing authorities and submission to masters (whom today we'd call employers). That word literally means: to put under, or to ordain under. In English it is commonly translated submit, be in submission to or be subject to. Therefore, if your logic is that *hypotasso* does NOT mean submit when it comes to a woman submitting to her man, then to apply that principle broadly, you'd also say that we don't need to submit to God, we don't need to obey the law and you don't need to do what your boss tells you at work. Do we say that? Of course not. If we are consistent with our understanding, the woman submits to her husband just as we submit to any authority.

Moreover, the passage about submitting in 1 Peter 3, which includes the importance of submitting to an ungodly husband, uses both *hypotasso* and also another word *hypakouo*, which most often is literally translated "obey." That is how almost all respected Bible versions translate *hypakouo* here: "even as Sarah obeyed Abraham calling him lord." (1 Peter 3:6)

Where else do we see this Greek word for obey? We see it used for children obeying parents. We see it for man obeying God. We see it for natural forces obeying Jesus in His miracles. Therefore, if we read a text normally, and accept the common use of a word as read in its local context, we understand that ALL these words really mean obey. Just as children obey parents and man obeys God, women obey their husbands. To deny this is to radically change your rules to suit the occasion. Changing our rules out of convenience is not how we understand language. It is not how we come to truth generally. And I think if you really consider it in your heart, you'll know it is not intellectually honest either. It is a deception.

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## Do We Follow Exceptions or Rules?

Since exceptions are the stock in trade of this and other forms of liberalism, it's worth taking the time to point out what a bad idea relying on exceptions is. That's especially true of Old Testament ones. If an exception really makes a rule go away, then just a few verses down the road from Deborah, we have Ja'el who practices deception in killing Sisera. (Judges 4:17-21) Can we use that as an excuse for lying? Can we ignore plain biblical teaching about honesty because of it? What about Phinehas, who practices vigilantism, and spears two sinners without even a trial? God even praises him for it. (Numbers 25:7-13) Can you and I kill sinners without a trial? Can we ignore rules about obeying government law in order to kill sinners ourselves? If we followed feminist logic we could do these things. How about Judah and Tamar, who practice incest, although from Judah's limited perspective it's only fornication? (Genesis 38:14-18) Does this example mean that we can ignore that incest and fornication are wrong? And what about those patriarchs giving their wives away? (Genesis 20:2) I hope no one uses that as a justification for wife swapping. What about Moses and murder?! (Exodus 2:11-12) Yet if we followed the logic that attempts to ignore gender roles in the Bible, we would be forced to accept all these things and more. We would be forced to follow the exception and ignore the rule. Yet that would be irrational and evil. So I must emphasize what I have said from the beginning: if you use consistent methods of understanding the Bible from start to finish, you will HAVE TO accept biblical gender roles and distinctions. If you want to ignore them, you have to invent specialized rules just to suit the occasion. Yet that is not how we understand ANY language, even outside the Bible. It's not how we come to truth.

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## Chapter 3 – Keeper of the Home

To just get started, here is a list of tasks my wife does, including some which are long-term projects. The list might get longer. It might change a little. However, it represents a pretty good amount of what God's role for women can amount to in this day:

- 1: Clean the home
- 2: Cook meals on the weekdays (I usually cook weekends or holidays), provide meals for guests
- 3: Homeschool the children (this is very time-consuming), otherwise look after them, take them to the doctor, park, other activities, help get their stuff together when we all go somewhere

4: Bear and give birth to the children that the Lord our God gives us (this of course requires great stamina and strength and discomfort)

5: Shop for food and housing needs

6: Do most hands-on work for large purchases such as home and car

7: Keep our finances in line, do the taxes

8: Do most hands-on work in having repairmen over

9: Do most hands-on work for any litigation that might occur

10: Bring food to elderly neighbor

11: Take her parents to doctors

12: Do various kinds of research, be it for a trip we'd like to take or something we think we need. When I regularly did travel writing, she helped me immensely with research for most articles because of her Chinese language skills.

13: Teach children at our church, at Awana or homeschool coops, occasionally join me for pro-life work

14: Learn to make stuff (a work in progress) with the sewing machine

15: Help maintain garden

16: Translate for me when I do Bible reading, or other witnessing for Chinese friends and family

17: Spend time with scripture reading and prayers (with some of my guidance of course), witness to personal friends (also with some of my guidance)

18: Sell things occasionally online

19: Keep her husband fantastically happy

I think you can see, it's impossible to characterize this job as sitting around. It is busier than any job I've ever had, but almost all of it takes place in the home. Even that which takes place outside of the home is still rooted in the home and family. As any mother can tell you, taking care of children is a 24-hour job, so a mother always works the night shift. How some people in our society characterize this as "not working" is beyond me. It is a full-time job. It's simply one which resides in the home.

You can also see the multiple major areas the job covers. We can see it nourishes the family with food, makes the environment look lovely, provides education, provides other nurture and teaching to the children, honors the king of the home, makes occasional money though not much, teaches children in the church and community, helps neighbors and assists in many other projects in the household, including some of my own. IT honors the king, it helps the king rule the land and it fills the land with life and peace. So I compare the wife to the people who fill up the king's land. A good Christian people.

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### **Secular Institutions**

The modern western Christian considers it almost a dogma that they must raise up their children within certain institutions and furthermore inculcate them in certain cultural elements. They think they have to be normal, basically. It is clear, however, that not only does being normal mean self-destruction and worldliness, but the opposite is quite possible if we desire it. We do not need to send children to be educated in age-isolated groups in large number. We do not need them to aim for the highest level of education possible (especially if they are a girl). We do not need them to watch the latest movie, play in secular organized sports, have a graduation or a prom. It may seem attractive to some. Yet it's not necessary. In a largely materialistic, and often anti-Christ world, it surely does more harm than good. God gave us the family and the church. He did not give us the school. The basic unit for society is the family, not any institution devised by the state, no matter how self-important, highly honored and established in tradition. Society starts with the family. The man is leader and provider. The woman fills it up with life. She is the heart of the home.

The godly wife can also be an immense help to other family members. In our case, her parents live with us. They are a great help to us, and she also help care for their needs, especially in taking them to doctors and helping when they are sick. As they get older, this will become more of a need. If my own parents require such help, she will do what she is able for them. This life-preserving element of her role would have been considered normal in a past era, unless a family was wealthy enough to have servants. She cares for me when I am sick as well, though obviously my care requirements are less than her parents. Helping the sick or elderly, only epitomizes what it means to be a homemaker. It means to care for life. To nurture it. To preserve it. It is sad in an era when many women think the life-saving role is to be a doctor, and spend tens of thousands of dollars trying to become one, that they are missing out on the TRUE life-saving role there is: to be a mother and a homemaker. That is the true life-saving job.

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## **The Loss**

What do you lose when you think career is a great gain? You lose the full-time mother. You lose the full-time wife. You lose the fulfillment of being with children, which nothing in the world can replace. You lose the chance to provide children with a Christian environment and education and replace it with a secular, or at least very worldly one. You lose having a caregiver present for your family members. You lose at least some of the home cooked meals, lunch and dinner. You lose many of the handmade goods. You lose what could be a small home business as well, one which is morally clean, unlike the secular ones. You lose many opportunities for the wife to care for children in the church and the local community. You lose what could be a local activist, who cleans up the neighborhood businesses. You lose the satisfaction of a man having a wife to come home to every day. You lose a regular host for guests. You lose...

Well, we could go on. The point is people focus in on what they will gain by taking the woman out of the home, but they do not count the immeasurable costs. They don't count all they are throwing away. They artificially elevate the importance of a career. They irrationally devalue the role of the homemaker. That's ALWAYS the trick. There are those who will say this kind of teaching is too offensive, and can make people feel bad about themselves. However, if the disobedience of Christians is an affront to God and it is harming the society, then maybe it is right to feel bad sometimes. There are things in this world WORTH feeling bad about. We just need to feel bad in the right way. We need to feel bad in understanding how wrong this is, and in seeing the harm it causes. Then we need to respond to the bad feeling in repentance, and confession to God. We need to use that bad feeling, which is there for a very good reason, which often comes from the Holy Spirit, and let God do His work on us. Let Him change us. We need to stop doing what we are doing and turn back to God instead.

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## **Commandment or Culture?**

One common more liberal attack on the woman's role is the claim that it is mere ancient culture, and can thus be ignored today. Liberals commonly make arguments like this, in this subject and many others, but it is usually a poor one. Most clearly, the claim that a wife's role is nothing but culture is itself nothing but an assertion. They cannot prove this. The text does not say this. So we have no real reason to believe the claim. Ironically perhaps, the attack that keeping the home is mere culture is itself a cultural assertion, soaking in modernist values and feminist thought. So if the idea is we can ignore something which is mere culture, then we need to ignore this argument as well. Let us pay the liberals no heed then. Their own logic demands we ignore them.

Another problem with this approach is that logically, if you and I can just point at plain instructions and identify them as mere culture, then we could make most of the Bible's teaching

go away like that. This is why liberals ALSO use the culture argument to attack prohibitions on sodomy and the male-female nature of marriage. They think they can point and shoot, and call nearly anything mere culture. They don't have to prove it. And if plain instructions are mere culture, then what about: You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13) Perhaps this command was only given at a time when the earth's population was well under a billion and we didn't have the depletion of resources and pollution we have today. Surely God just gave this command to the Israelite culture at that time. That means we can ignore this ancient teaching, since culture is different today. In a planet with 7 billion people, you SHALL murder. How about that? Ain't the culture argument fun?

Perhaps the strongest and clearest refutation of the culture argument is that the Bible, multiple times, ties in gender roles to things that transcend culture. I am speaking broadly of the various roles taught in the New Testament, not just this one. The woman's call to marry and bear children is tied on to her salvation in 1 Timothy 2:15. Is salvation only culture? This observation also forms part of the explanation for the woman's submission in the church, as previously taught. Her submission in the Church is another gender teaching which is defended in 1 Corinthians 14 as being "commandments of the Lord." (vs. 37) Are commandments of the Lord culture? Moreover, a woman's subjection in marriage is compared to the Church's subjection to Christ. Is the relationship of Church and Christ no more than culture? This women's role is furthermore treated as more than temporal culture by being tied into the patriarchs, from an era and culture almost two thousand years before Paul was writing. (1 Peter 3:5-6) So apparently, it transcends culture there as well, and also confirms it is good to respect past eras. If we let the Bible do the talking, the order in the home and the church are more than temporal cultural traits. Rather, they are guided by transcendent truth.

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### **3-Step Attack**

Many people are concerned about the future of the family. I hope you are too. You know, you can watch the dissolution of the family spread from western countries, and be injected in every nation across the globe. This is in part through the indoctrination of the media. It is also from governments and NGOs which have a preplanned assault on the family. They intend to take over in every nation and culture. To do that, here are three of their biggest ingredients. You might say a 1-2-3 plan of assault:

- 1: get the women out of the home and away from the children
- 2: get the children into state schools, the more secular the better
- 3: wipe out future generations through contraception and abortion

These three steps are being done and have been done in populations of billions across the planet. They are very effective in harming the family, killing babies, and making future generations more dependent on the state. The state has always been powerful but now it is more like a family. It takes the role of family. In some places, contraception and abortion have even been forced upon women.<sup>x</sup> There is evidence of women being sterilized without their knowledge or their husband's knowledge.

I know many Christians would agree that the secular assault on the family is a terrible one. They would agree that abortion is wrong, and some would agree that contraception is wrong, at least most of the time. They don't want to see the family replaced with the state.

But notice Step One of this process. Step one is to get the women out of the home and away from the children. You see, they understand this is necessary to destroy the family and take over. You cannot have their children, if their children are with their mother. You cannot break up the family as easily if the woman is taught to submit and is led and supported by her husband. You have to attack those things before you can take their children.

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## Chapter 4 – One Flesh Until Death

### **An End to the Enmity**

The constancy of Christian marriage is rooted in man and wife being joined by God. The fact that it brings stability to man, wife and children along with stability to society comes from its core nature and purpose. God makes it. Man cannot end it. The lifelong nature of marriage is knowable also through natural law, as many other cultures have recognized that, at least in intention, marriage is a union for life. This is clear in that the union produces children, who require the father and mother and continual care. The father and mother will later rely on help from their children in their old age. It is clear in the powerful emotional bond produced through love and physical intimacy. It is clear in the sustenance provided to society through stable families. You don't have to be a Christian to recognize that marriage is more than a temporary joining between two people. It is a union for life.

We as Christians know it is supernatural. We also know that its permanence is a part of its witness. For just as the love of the husband signifies the love of Messiah for His Bride, just as the submission of the wife signifies the submission of the Church to Christ, the permanence of marriage signifies Christ's constant presence with His Church. Christ will never leave His Church. (Matthew 16:18, Hebrews 13:5) He will be with us until the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)



One of the things you should know going into marriage, is that your spouse will always be with you. If you are married, you can expect to grow old with that person. You will go through marriage, birth of children, raising them, and then barring tragedy or martyrdom, you will grow old together. I say that with confidence because that is how God made marriage. He told us so. This is a central truth that you should be united on before you get married: that you will be united for life and that nothing can ever separate you. I went into marriage with my wife fully agreed on that. Not only did we commit ourselves to our lifelong union, but we committed ourselves to forgiveness. We were very open about the fact that sin occurs in every marriage, and that the solution is to forgive. To continue to live with the person. To continue to do our job as either husband or wife. The response to harm will be to forgive. This is one of many reasons why I went into marriage with no doubts, and why we both have peace together, without worry. Our marriage is lifelong by its nature. Not by our personal willing. But by its nature given by God.

Our bond reflects Christ's covenant with the Church. When you are married, that will be true of your bond as well. Be joyful about that. It shows the world, among other great truths, the unbreakable bond between the Lamb and His Bride. No earthly trouble will ever separate husband and wife. Only death separates us. Yet for us husband to send away his wife shows the world Christ, sending away His Church, perhaps to marry Islam or New Atheism instead. A woman leaving her husband shows the world the Church returning to harlotry and to living under God's wrath. It shows the world redemption offered the world and redemption rejected. It shows the world that the new birth is false. The new creation isn't new. And one is not one but two. God does not make all things new.

Marriage brings peace. That peace is permanent. The world will tell you about a war between the "sexes" in part within the lustful conflict between man and woman. It will tell you about a war between the sexes in woman's desire to do what man has traditionally done, and take over his role in society. When I was an unbeliever, and used women like playthings as most selfish men do, I used to say – the war of the sexes is over, and I won. That's an unspeakably arrogant thing to say, I know, but there was some decent logic behind it too. I reached a point where I knew I could get what I wanted from a woman. She could not get what she wanted, at least if it was the stability that woman has traditionally desired. Moreover, I didn't have to work, as I knew she could make the bulk, if not all of the money. That's quite a victory if you think about it. But the secret of the situation is this: there is no war between man and woman. God made us compatible. If we do things God's way, there is peace. This is true. Do things God's way and you will have peace in marriage. In part that is why marriage is a little form of God's redemption, a miniature of the salvation vessel. There is an end to the enmity. There is a permanent union. The sovereign redeems and protects his people. The husband washes his bride. It is too great and important to be a temporary contract. Rather, it fills up all of life.

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## Divorce Destruction

According to a summary of well-documented facts at The Heritage Foundation:

- Children whose parents have divorced are increasingly the victims of abuse. They exhibit more health, behavioral, and emotional problems, are involved more frequently in and drug abuse, and have higher rates of suicide.
- Children of divorced parents perform more poorly in reading, spelling, and math. They also are more likely to repeat a grade and to have higher drop-out rates and lower rates of college graduation.
- Families with children that were not poor before the divorce see their income drop as much as 50 percent. Almost 50 percent of the parents with children that are going through a divorce move into poverty after the divorce.
- Religious worship, which has been linked to better health, longer marriages, and better family life, drops after the parents divorce.

The divorce of parents, even if it is amicable, tears apart the fundamental unit of American society. Today, according to the Federal Reserve Board's 1995 Survey of Consumer Finance, only 42 percent of children aged 14 to 18 live in a "first marriage" family--an intact two-parent married family. It should be no surprise to find that divorce is having such profound effects on society."

A study entitles *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25 Year Landmark Study* documents the effects of divorce over several decades from the 1970's to 1990's. Included in this report are negative effects at various stages of life from childhood to adulthood. Of adolescence it says:

Overall, there was more acting out among the adolescents in the divorced homes than those in the intact homes. This finding coincides with reports from large-scale studies (McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994). One in five of the girls had her first sexual experience before age 14. Over half were sexually active with multiple partners during high school. The girls told us they often frequented bars where pickups were common. They were driven by the wish to be held by a man and to be sought after. Sex itself was not their goal but rather the price they paid for the attention. Several said that they would have sex only if they were drunk or high on drugs. Precautions were rarely taken. Although we neglected to tally the incidence, several of the high school girls reported having multiple abortions.

Of adult relationship the report further includes this almost predictable result:

One third of the men and women were openly pessimistic about marriage and divorce and sought to avoid both. "If you don't marry, then you don't divorce, "was their mantra." Only a few were outright cynical. The majority were eager, even desperate, for a lasting relationship, and fearful that they would never achieve it. They did not want the lives their parents had. Their message was clear: "My parents' divorce is still incomprehensible to me. They met in college. They fell in love. They were compatible in their tastes and values. So, what is to keep the same fate from happening to me? "Over and over, they told us, "I'd love to get married, but I'm sure that I'd jinx it. "Or, "Any relationship I'm in will dissolve."

This should not shock us. What an astoundingly selfish thing that parents still say -- oh my child will understand that we're getting a divorce. My child won't be harmed by it. My child knows

mommy and daddy are better off apart. -- What selfishness. What self-delusion. We have known for two thousand years that God makes us one in marriage for life. We have known for many years before modern studies that the effects of divorce are harmful. Yet man returns to his own vomit and keeps telling himself the same self-satisfied lie: "My children will understand my children will not be harmed." Well, that is a possibility. But it's also a possibility that if you leave your small child in the middle of the road, that traffic will not kill them. Still, you don't go leaving them in the road under the belief they just might live. That would be insane. Therefore, we do not assume that OUR children are the ones that won't be harmed. Children are harmed by divorce.

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### **Mutiny on the Bounty**

Therefore the conclusion of what I am saying is this: that as a Christian you can have a successful, peaceful and godly marriage if you trust in our Lord. If you are a child of divorce, you can have a successful, peaceful and godly marriage if you trust in our Lord. If everyone you personally know is divorced, you can have a successful, peaceful and godly marriage if you trust in our Lord. Trust in Him and obey. One preacher that I follow talks about marriage in his own family, and how 22 out of 25 close relatives either got divorced or had children out of wedlock. That is 22 out of 25! Yet he is happily married, and raising up many children in the faith. Those failed relationships did not stop him; they only inspire him to do his job more earnestly. The world needs the witness of your marriage, including the witness of your kind forbearance if things start to go wrong in your marriage. Including the witness of your forgiveness when your spouse sins in your marriage. The world needs your children raised up in the Lord. It needs your children raised up in virtue. It needs the image of the perfect eternal God that marriage is. Unless you plan celibacy uniquely for the sake of service to God, the world needs to see your marriage.

If you have ever read about the mutiny on the Bounty (the real life event not the movie) you will hear about what is possible in the way of survival. Much of the crew of the British ship the HMS Bounty mutinied, in part from missing the pleasure of Tahiti and in part from the harshness of the captain, and they set the deposed captain Bligh and the sailors loyal to him off the main boat in a simple 23-foot open vessel. Now, a 23-foot open boat is not how you want to sail on the seas, yet the mutineers had control over the boat, and the rest had to survive on this glorified raft. Captain Bligh, in a ridiculous maritime feat, sailed the small, overloaded boat about 4,000 miles from the south Pacific to southeast Asia. He lost only a handful of men in the incredible journey. In a way, believers are like him. We have seen the mutineers take over marriage. In fact, we have seen the mutineers take over the churches. Yet we have been given enough grace to take our men and protect our men on a long ocean voyage. What we have is little, but with God's supernatural power we arrive at our destination. The countless divorces we see are distressing, but they are not distressing enough to mean we will fail. We have all the tools we need. God gave them to us. He navigates for us. You can trust that God will make you one flesh with your spouse for life.

By the way I want to mention what happened to the mutineers. The mutineers, led by an ironically named Fletcher Christian eventually landed on an island in the middle of the south Pacific. They began fighting amongst each other. They killed most of their own people. The men discovered how to make liquor from the native plants, and things only got worse. The women tried to escape from the hellhole and failed. In the end it was only one man and a handful of women left, plus their children. The rest died. This is what will happen to the destroyers of marriage as well. Those who stay with the captain and ride in his boat, will make it to safe shores. The captain is amazing. The rest will inherit death, but there is still hope for their children.

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### **Falling Away**

A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:39)

Like many Christians today, I used to believe that there were at least two legitimate reasons that one could have a divorce, and then remarry. In fact, I was still under that deception when I got married, although in our personal agreement, my wife and I both understood that we practice forgiveness, and not divorce. The reason why I accepted what so many others do, is that I did a lazy form of exegesis; I made the heart of my understanding come from three words in Greek: *“except for fornication.”* Not only that, but the versions of the Bible I had read had translation such as “except for marital unfaithfulness” or “except for sexual immorality.” So I was not even certain on the exact words. But either way, in looking for an answer to marriage questions in the New Testament. I relied mostly on three words. That is a bad idea. I had also some basic familiarity with the other common exception, and had never given much examination to 1 Corinthians 7, when it says one is “not under bondage” and that there should be “peace.” Although there exists no permission to remarry in that passage, like most I was happy to see it there anyway, or write it in. It just made sense to me personally. I also could have been held sway by some of the other MORE than 2 exceptions that Christians claim, such as physical violence, but I was not wholly convinced. If you had asked me at that time what the Bible teaches, I would have said that divorce and remarriage is sin, except for adultery and the forced divorce by an unbeliever.

I finally came to respect the lifelong nature of the marriage covenant while doing research to write a page about marriage for my Church reform website. In doing research, I was confronted with two realities that changed my mind. Number one, I actually sat down and read all of the New Testament teachings on marriage, divorce and remarriage, and was confronted with multiple passages that state without qualification that marriage is for life and that remarriage is

adultery. The Scripture even states plainly that man and wife are united until death, and once the partner dies, you are then free to remarry. They are not ambiguous scriptures. Therefore, if we are going to approach what three words in Greek mean, we need to do it within the understanding of the main clear scriptures that teach on the same subject. Scripture cannot contradict itself. Number two, I was also faced with the teachings of the very early Church, teachings which commonly take the Bible at face value, and condemn remarriage. Most of the earliest of the Christian Fathers who wrote on this subject did not permit one divorced to remarry. In their writings they are even faced with the situation of an innocent party in adultery who is separated from their spouse, and they instruct that person to remain single. They take it for granted what the New Testament teaches, that if a separation occurs, you either reunite with the spouse if possible, or you remain by single. They knew it was a hard teaching. Yet that is what they taught. They knew the temptations of lust. Yet they taught this simple truth.

In fact, if you look at the history of the Church, it has primarily been one of gradually falling away from a respect for the lifelong nature of marriage. The earliest writings boldly condemn remarriage as a sin although they permit separation in very limited circumstances. Then, close to the end of the early Church era, we see a single teaching by John Chrysostom saying remarriage should be allowed based on "Pauline Privilege." This over time found its way into Catholic Church canon law. Around the time of the split between the Western and Eastern Church, over 1,000 years into Church history, the Eastern Orthodox branch officially allowed remarriage as a doctrine of their church, and today could be described as liberal regarding it. Almost 500 years later with the Protestant revolution, the major early Protestant leaders found some limited allowances for divorce and remarriage, at least one was downright liberal. Protestants on the whole, though most churches permitted remarriage under limited circumstances, stayed married for life. The biblical teaching about marriage, the common sense importance of marriage, and social stigma all kept Protestants mostly united for life. Once liberalism came to the Church, Protestant Christians began divorcing and remarrying like there was no tomorrow, with a complete collapse happening in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. That is almost 2,000 years after Christ. The 20<sup>th</sup> century also saw the Catholic Church become liberal with annulments and the 21<sup>st</sup> century saw them allow Communion for the remarried, this accomplished under a Pope who is clearly not Catholic in his belief system. The Anglican Church did not let down its guard completely until the early 2000's. That is how long it took for Satan to rip Christians as a whole away from Christ's teaching on marriage. He did it step by step over 2,000 years.<sup>xi</sup>

Yet if we respect all the New Testament Scriptures which speak directly on this topic, and if we respect the earliest voices in Church history, then the Church today, like Israel in Malachi's time, is dealing treacherously with the wives of its covenant. It must repent of its sin. The prophets of today, as Malachi of the Second Temple era, must warn the Church of God's judgment. We must call it to repent.

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## **Adultery**

This is a very plain teaching. I think you would have to ignore it entirely to claim that a Christian may end their marriage and then marry another person. According to Jesus, we cannot truly end our marriage, because it's joined by God. We cannot ever take another spouse, because that is adultery. That's God's Word. Adultery is grave immorality, prohibited in the Ten Commandments and condemned throughout the Bible.

Is it an arbitrary claim that a spouse who takes a second spouse commits adultery? Is it just because God said so? Well, it is because God said so but it's not arbitrary in any way to say remarriage is adultery. Rather the reason behind this teaching is clear here and elsewhere: because God has joined us together for life. Since we are joined for life, and since man may not separate this, even if we physically leave a partner we are still married. Even when we have a civil divorce certificate we are still married. If you have a marriage covenant with your partner and you sleep with another partner, you are naturally committing adultery. So this is plain old adultery. The person who remarries is having physical intimacy with someone other than their spouse. That's called adultery.

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There are TWO main ways in which this exception clause has been taken historically, two ways which leave it in harmony with everything else. The first is the understanding of the early Christian fathers, the earliest leaders in Church history after the apostles. Their common understanding was that Matthew 19 allows for an exception for divorce, but not for remarriage. They interpreted *porneia* as meaning adultery, and said that if there was ongoing and unrepentant adultery by one partner, the other could separate and divorce. However, they took the following phrase at face value, that marrying the one sent away is adultery, and they took the other teachings we examined at face value, and did not allow remarriage. They understood the Bible does not contradict the Bible.

The second understanding, which was not present at the time of the early Christian fathers, is to understand it as speaking of fornication, or immoral relations before marriage, not adultery AFTER marriage. I have seen this explanation cited as far back as about 400 years ago. If we understand it this way, it allows for a divorce during the Jewish betrothal period, which was much like a marriage but the partners had not moved in together yet OR the discovery of pre-marital fornication immediately after the wedding. This would be, as is discussed in Deuteronomy 22:13-22, if the man discovered he had been lied to about his wife's virginity. He may have discovered it immediately after they moved in together, but he was allowed to send her

away and remarry. She could also be put to death. In that sense, it would be an early annulment. He had been defrauded into marrying, so it was not a valid marriage.

This explanation has two advantages, although both explanations allow Scripture to be in harmony with itself. The first advantage is that it uses the plain meaning of *porneia*, which is fornication. It doesn't try and insert adultery or sexual immorality in there. In fact there is a unique word for adultery in Greek, and this is *moichao*, the exact word used a few words later which is translated adultery. To use the Greek words, it reads: whoever divorces his wife, except for *porneia*, and marries another, commits *moichao*; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits *moichao*." They are two different acts. *Porneia* and *moichao* also appear multiple times in the New Testament side by side, as two distinct actions<sup>xii</sup>. Secondly, this makes sense of why the exception clause appears only in Matthew (both chapters 5 and 19) but not in the other Gospels or Epistles. Matthew is viewed by most scholars as having been written to a Jewish audience<sup>xiii</sup>. The Jewish audience would have recognized the importance of purity during the betrothal period as well as the reference to fornication in Deuteronomy 22. That is why we see it here and nowhere else. The exception is for pre-marital fornication.

The ending of this passage from Matthew further hammers in that this is a very difficult teaching. The disciples are blown away enough to say that if this teaching is true, then it's better not to marry. The Lord answers by pointing to the necessity of being a "eunuch," meaning remaining single for the sake of the kingdom. The teaching is for those who will marry, not for the celibate. (vss. 10-12) The idea that one could only divorce and remarry for adultery was one commonly accepted teaching in the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish world. It was one of the two major teachings. If all Jesus was saying is – you can't remarry unless there is adultery (and not even using the right word for adultery) – then this reaction and Jesus' subsequent response make no sense. They are actually absurd in the context of Jesus merely repeating a teaching common to that day. Yet this ending fits perfectly well into it being a very heavy teaching, a teaching reflected either in the historical view – that divorce is permitted for adultery but not remarriage – or the fornication view – that only fornication before marriage allows for taking a new spouse, because one has been defrauded. It is about the first thing I thought when reading this teaching too. Who would want to marry? Both the disciples' amazed response and the Lord's answer – to point out the necessity of celibacy – flow logically from a permanence of marriage teaching.

To further show how strong this context is in prohibiting remarriage, you've got to realize that many churches consider pornography and emotional relationships to be adultery, thus permitting divorce and remarriage for those actions as well. Not only do you demolish countless marriages once you allow that to happen, but you make the Lord's words further nonsensical. There is no difficult teaching here if you can remarry because your spouse looked at filthy pictures. There is no need to call people to celibacy if an emotional relationship is all it takes to make a marriage temporary. In fact, Jesus just gave a downright EASY teaching if that's the case. According to one survey I found<sup>xiv</sup> in over one third of marriages, one or both partners committed adultery. Imagine how many others looked at dirty pictures or were emotionally close with someone

besides their spouse. You could EASILY end the strong majority of marriages if that's how you read Jesus' teaching. All the more reason to respect marriage as a lifelong covenant.

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### **Permission to Sin**

There is no permission here to continue in sin. There is the reality that if we are born again, that our old self is put away, being crucified with Christ. The new self lives in Christ, who is righteousness and eternal life. Our new life is HIS life and that life is righteousness. Where is there room for living in adultery there? Where is there room for a second wife, a third husband a fourth spouse? Go reread Romans 6 again. To be a Christian is to repent of sin and live for righteousness. The Church has brought judgment on itself and the whole world through ignoring this. It has brought disaster through its adultery.

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### **Judgment**

I hear many Christians currently saying that judgment is truly on the Church and on our society. Almost all believers I talk to say that. Do you really doubt our destruction of marriage has something to do with it? Or our lack of forgiveness? Or our turning our children over to an uncertain future so we can be supposedly happier? Judgment is truly upon us. How many children of Christians even believe in the faith? Some, but when they do, often it is with disregard of many of the basic doctrines. How many children are raised without a father, or going back and forth between homes? How many are abused by step-parents? How many children see their parents living with another partner and think this excuses their OWN sexual sins, which they commit perpetually? How many children have embraced a sick culture which says every act of immorality is good and God's law is evil. It is impossible to say we care about our future generations and then continue to live in sin. We CURSE future generations when we do that. Is there judgment on the Church? At this moment in time, populations of Christians and the children of Christians are being replaced by populations of Muslims, who openly plan to take control and establish their law. The historical enemies of Christendom flood formerly Christian countries by the million. No judgment? Entire nations are being replaced.

When western society accepts the abomination of same-sex "marriage" there is no doubt that the damage done to marriage by Christians -- the breaking of the marriage covenant in divorce -- is simply going to its logical conclusion. That is to make marriage into any union you want it to be. Christians like to talk about traditional marriage, but they don't know what it is. Traditional marriage is not just one man and one woman. It is one man and one woman for life. Years ago,



when same-sex unions were beginning to get popular, a secular ice cream maker came up with a flavor of ice cream to promote sodomite unions. They called it Hubby Hubby.<sup>xv</sup> Yet this comical name is almost appropriate in describing marriages in the Church too. Hubby is a great term. Because what use do we have of the terms husband and wife? We really don't know if one person is a husband or a partner in adultery. We don't know if another is a wife either, unless we ask. We just know they are partners, and the Church wants everyone to accept them. Sound familiar? Adulterers want their marriage equality. As twisted as it is, "Hubby Hubby" might be good terms to use for Christian partners, as we have no idea what partnership is going on anyway. We could just drop husband and wife entirely.

To tell you a story, years ago I was working in a ministry. One of my colleagues came and asked if I could take a few minutes to pray for his "partner's daughter." She was living a lesbian lifestyle and had recently taken part in a same-sex "marriage" with her girlfriend. This was back when you had to cross state lines to have one. It became clear in talking to my colleague, a sincere believer from what I could tell, that his marriage was not his first, and it was not his partner's first either. I was very honored that he asked me personally to pray for him. However, no matter how uncomfortable it was, I told him that I ALSO wanted to pray for him and his partner, as I trusted in what Jesus said about marriage, that if we take another spouse it is adultery. It is not a real marriage. It is a sin. He accepted my attitude about it, and I prayed both for him and his partner to learn the Bible's teaching about marriage and to repent of their adultery, and also for his step-daughter, who was living in an abomination. I prayed in a heartfelt way for both. Later I gave him the biblical passages and several articles on the subject, and still pray to this day for his repentance, as well as for his partner's daughter. I pray God leads them out of sin. You see, it's hard to tell the difference between those two abominations. Just as I have to put some things in quotes speaking about sodomite unions, I have to put some things in quotes speaking about second and third ones. They are both a MIRAGE. They are not what they claim to be. Furthermore, I have prayed many times, sometimes in tears, for people's children who are lost to the homosexual lifestyle, or who live in homosexual unions, and I can sympathize with the grief these parents must be feeling. It's not an uncommon situation these days. Yet it seems so vain for Christians to beg God to lead their child out of sin when they themselves live in it too. They need to be praying for their own repentance first. They need to be begging God to help them repent and to forgive them. For the judgment is coming down already, and it is a terrible one.

The Church has to end its disobedience and unforgiveness. The hardness of unforgiveness is present even when a divorced person does not remarry. To reject being reconciled when it is reasonably possible to reconcile is also an act of unforgiveness, and hardness of heart. It is continual punishment of the other partner for whatever they have done. A person who has truly forgiven is willing to reconcile. There may indeed be situations in which reuniting is a true impossibility. A dangerously violent person, for example, who threatens your life can make it impossible to reconcile in a practical sense. However, even in those hard situations, don't expect

that being separate needs to be continual. Many are the testimonies of men and women who changed, and ceased being violent. God does His work on the human soul. In Christ, we are new creation, and have the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in our souls. Even the unbeliever can experience change, as God works on them through common grace. Dangerous people, criminal people, often change. So don't rule it out. The teaching of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:10-24) is true in principle of husbands and wives too, and of fathers and mothers. We must never force them to be far off. Forgiveness truly is letting a person's debts go. It also means treating them as normal, as restored, unless there is a true practical impossibility. A forgiving person is willing at heart to reconcile.

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### **Is Remarriage Ongoing Adultery**

Basic intuition would tell us that when someone says their adultery is in the past, while they are still going to bed with a person other than their spouse, someone is bending the meaning of adultery quite a bit. The two parties did not cease going to bed together. They continue to do so. It requires a radical change of thinking of what adultery actually is to claim it has ended in the past while the intimate relations continue. I don't think this argument passes the sniff test.

We can see it fail according to common sense when we try and apply it broadly, and see if it works. How come we never see Christians justifying their affairs that way, saying – sure it was adultery the first time I seduced Wanda in the back of my car, but it isn't adultery anymore? Our affair is sanctified now. Would that be allowed in the Church? Can this man take both his wife and Wanda to the church and expect to be welcomed? What about the “gay Christian” who might say – maybe our first act of sodomy was a sin, but God sanctifies our homosexual union now? Do you think the Church should apply the same logic there as it does to adulterers? Why don't you ever hear fornicators making that argument too? Or criminals who joined a gang? You don't hear it because it's transparently weak. It is an obvious attempt to justify sin.

The claim that the adultery only happens once – such as on the wedding night – also fails according to the grammar. The word for “commit adultery” in the Greek [*moichao*] is in the present indicative. The present indicative in Greek should more literally be translated in the continuous tense in English, to connote ongoing action. This would be more like “is committing adultery.” It's true there are alternate uses of the present indicative in Greek, but ongoing action is the common one, and alternate uses are usually known by context.

By far the clearest way to know that the remarried commit adultery in the ongoing sense is that the New Testament gives us the logic behind remarriage being adultery. This is because the marriage covenant lasts until death. One is bound to one's spouse until death. If you are in a covenant for life then every time you have intercourse with a person not your spouse you are

committing adultery. Do it once, twice, a thousand times and that doesn't change; it's adultery because you're already married. The Almighty does not call taking a second spouse adultery out of some arbitrary whim. Nor does He point His finger at the act and make it become the sin of adultery with no rhyme or reason. Remarriage is adultery because it breaks God's commandment by being unfaithful to your spouse. You see, you're ALREADY MARRIED.

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### **Adultery Really Kills**

A well-respected pro-life leader used to be an elder at a traditional Bible believing church, and was married with children. He headed his own pro-life group which was very successful. Soon he started showing inappropriate attention to women at the church. Then the other elders found out he was committing adultery and had an ongoing adulterous relationship. The church did all that they could biblically to call him to repentance, yet this man's response was to refuse to repent, but rather actually move in with his adultery partner, and leave his wife in the care of the church elders. They spent over a year working with him, but finally kicked him out of the church, getting vilified and threatened with a lawsuit in return. No amount of counsel or rebuke would change this man's hardened heart.

After leaving his wife and children, and getting kicked out of his church, he finally ended up in the Catholic Church. Before becoming a member of course, they had to "take care" of the fact that he was a married man living in adultery, which society called a second marriage. Well, the Catholics waved their magic annulment wand as they do. They told him his first marriage was never binding, and he now had a valid covenant with his partner in adultery, so he could be a full member and receive Communion. They told him he and his "partner" were sanctified. At this point, our pro-life friend must have thought he got away with it. He must have thought – sure I did wrong, I know that, but I've said I'm sorry and God has forgiven me. He probably thought something like that, and kept living as he was in sin.

However, the Avenger came down hard and fast on this brazen adulterer. He found out that his son, his only son, was a sodomite. His son had been lying to him for years, including having his friends over and committing sodomy in secret in their house. His son now proceeded to use the well-known family name to promote sodomy in the United States, something the other homo-sex supporters must have been gleeful about. Now I cannot imagine the pain and sadness to find out that your son wants to live as a sodomite. Any parent in the world ought to ask themselves what went wrong, or what they could have done. But the Lord was not finished with our sinful Christian friend yet. For just a few years after he found out his son was a sodomite, he also found out that his son had been killed, cut down in a car accident like many thousands each year. He would never see him on this earth again. Did he ever ask himself if this was justice for his evil? Did he wonder if he stood in the feet of King David, who had his wives taken away from him

and his infant son killed because of his sin? Did he say to himself as Joseph's brothers: we are surely locked in this prison because we threw our brother into the pit?

You see adultery brings death not only through the murders of jealousy and lust. It brings death because it is justly punished by our Lord. If the law does not pursue us, Almighty God will pursue us. He pursued Moses when he neglected to circumcise his son, as the Bible tells us – *the LORD met him and sought to kill him.* (Exodus 4:24) It was then that his wife circumcised the boy, ending the pursuit and saving her husband's life. Do not think you can say before the Almighty – I will just sin now and when I'm finished I know God will forgive me. Do not be so foolish. The Almighty brings the Avenger down on every prideful pharaoh there is, and who is the angel who struck the firstborn of Egypt? It is God Himself. *And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.* (Exodus 12:29) Do not play around with sin. Do not think being a Christian will mean there is no punishment for you or your people. The warnings in the New Testament alone are enough to chill us to bone and instill the knowledge of the enormity of sin:

*Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

*Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*

*For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."*

*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

(Hebrews 10:28-31)

And speaking to a Church awash in sexual immorality and idolatry, Jesus the Savior promises the death of children:

*"And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*

*"Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*

*"I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. (Revelation 2:21-23)*

If only this man had stopped to understand how deadly sin is. How deadly adultery is. How deadly ripping apart a marriage is. Not only do I believe his son would be alive today, but he

would also have a greater witness to Christ, and would show Christ more powerfully to the world as a public figure. He would lead more souls to Jesus. Yet he would not listen, and the Lord pursued him like an attack dog and brought justice on this earth. There's a sign in our neighborhood that says: "Beware of Dog. He can run to the gate in 2.5 seconds. Can you make it to the gate faster?" A lot of people take warning sign like that seriously. We need to take our God a thousand times more seriously. We must not mock Him with adultery. He will pursue us.

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### **Stand by Your Man**

People naturally ask what to do if they are divorced by their spouse. There a countless variety of this one horrible situation. Yet the answer is not hidden from us. The answer is to wait and pray for that person. There is no guarantee that God will restore you together, but we have to do the right thing because it is right, not because we've got a guarantee. Make it your life's goal to pray for them, and wait patiently. You can find inspiring testimonies from Christians who have remained celibate in this situation for years, some who have had their marriages restored.<sup>xvi</sup> It doesn't require a special gift. It only requires faithfulness to God.

For some souls that sounds like too hard a torture to imagine. But I want to remind you that often the most empty and painful times are the times we praise God the most and the deepest. Perhaps the most memorable passages of praise in the Bible are from the time of Lamentations. The mourning of the prophet and all Israel during its destruction. A time of scarcity. Of the trauma of war. Of famine. Poverty. Dim memories of something better. The same book that briefly catalogues this time of national suffering is also a book of praise to God. The prophet never stops trusting in God during this desolation, and never stops acknowledging God as righteous. Listen to the prophet as he weeps. This is much worse than any divorce.

*My eyes fail with tears,  
My heart is troubled;  
My bile is poured on the ground  
Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,  
Because the children and the infants  
Faint in the streets of the city.*

*They say to their mothers,  
"Where is grain and wine?"  
As they swoon like the wounded  
In the streets of the city,  
As their life is poured out  
In their mothers' bosom.*

Lamentations 2:11-12

He goes on to describe in even more detail the suffering of the children, and the cannibalism that is occurring due to poverty. Yet he does not lose hope and provides some of the most memorable words about trust in God. You may remember some from a popular hymn.

*This I recall to my mind,  
Therefore I have hope.*

*Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed,  
Because His compassions fail not.*

*They are new every morning;  
Great is Your faithfulness.*

*"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"Therefore I hope in Him!"*

*The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,  
To the soul who seeks Him.*

*It is good that one should hope and wait quietly  
For the salvation of the LORD.*

*It is good for a man to bear  
The yoke in his youth.*

*Let him sit alone and keep silent,  
Because God has laid it on him;*

*Let him put his mouth in the dust—  
There may yet be hope.*

Lamentations 3:21-29

If the prophet can say this after seeing the brutality of war, and the inhuman suffering of famine and starvation, surely we can find hope in our heart as well, if our marriage is taken from us. Similarly, it is like the loss of a whole kingdom. Or a temple. If we have faith we can say the same words as the prophet, and do what is right. Recognize God is just. There is a purpose for the hardship God gives us. Simply wait on the Lord in faithfulness. The loss of a marriage is no excuse for sinning by taking another partner. We just remain faithful as God is faithful.

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## **The Next Generation**

I want to encourage you again that the job is not as hard as people like to say. You do not need to be more hard-working than the next guy to be with your spouse for life. You don't need to have a special gifting. There is no need to be awe struck at long-lasting marriages. Billions of people do it. In fact, not only is it not as hard as you hear, there is immense joy and satisfaction in marriage, on many levels, especially if you walk the path Jesus gave us to walk. Just do things God's way. Trust in His supernatural power in your life, that exists in you every moment through the Holy Spirit. Jesus said He will live in you and you in Him. That's not just a figure of speech.

Your children don't need another generation of parents who abandoned the other. They don't need to spend their youth with one of their parents and not the other, or being passed around by bus to this or that so-called home. They don't need to be a tool in a custody battle. They don't need to be taught morality either by someone who is living in sin. Who does? They need a mother and a father who will raise them and be there for them for life. The future depends on it. God will withdraw His judgment on the Church if we repent and respect marriage. If we do not, expect worse to come upon us. God will not be mocked. He tore Israel to pieces and left only a remnant. He can do the same with us.

*For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.*

*Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*

(Romans 11:21-22)

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## **Chapter 5 – Bear and Raise Children**

### **Blessing of Children**

In an age when much of the Church wants to hyper-spiritualize its religion and pare everything down to a short Gospel presentation, it gets overlooked that a core reason for marriage is simply to bear and raise children. A marriage by its nature is intended to be fruitful and full of children. Those children must be nurtured, protected, and educated. Although no parent can impart a true and saving faith to a child, a parent can and must teach children the Word of God, bring them into the regular worship of the Church, instill good values and lead by example by living a godly

and prayerful life. The family brings new children into the Church and community, even though it takes God to bring their new souls to life. Unless they are called uniquely to celibacy, Christians reproduce.

We know that the family is the right vessel for bearing and raising children from Holy Scripture, because God ordained marriage from the beginning: *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* (Genesis 2:24) Jesus confirms the nature of this union as one woman and one man for life, even though the Old Covenant had tolerated polygamy and divorce. (Mark 10:4-9) Moreover, sexual immorality of all kinds is prohibited in Scripture, whether fornication, adultery, sodomy or incest. Therefore, we do not artificially try to replicate the marital union or the pleasure of the thing outside of God's ordained vessel. To do so is sin. We can even claim good intentions in trying to make something else the vessel for union, but it will never be the right way. Only the marriage bed is pure. (Hebrews 13:5)

Not only is marriage the only right vessel for children, but having children is one of its core purposes. This is all over the Holy Scripture from start to finish. As part of the dominion mandate, God instructs Adam, *"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* (Genesis 1:28) This is a command. It comes hand in hand with God's ordaining Adam to have dominion over the earth. Neither the command to be fruitful or man's dominion have been revoked. In fact, they go hand in hand, as is apparent in the Scripture. A fruitful people will have dominion too.

God's blessing is always to multiply His people. To provide them much seed. Part of God's covenant with Abraham includes the promise: *"And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."* (Genesis 17:2) When Abraham shows his faithfulness by bringing Isaac to the altar, and upon giving the offering of the ram instead, God again promises: *"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies."*

*"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."* (Genesis 22:17-18)

This promises not only many descendants, but that through this multitude all the nations of the earth will receive blessing. The blessing of seed brings blessing to others. Similarly, in remembering the faithfulness of Abraham and of Sarah, who are examples to all Christians, the New Testament points to the result of such faithfulness: *Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.* (Hebrews 11:12)

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*Happy are you, O Israel!  
Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD,  
(Deuteronomy 33:29)*

I relate this use of happy/blessed to the subject of marriage because as we've seen, marriage is a picture of salvation itself. Here God is calling Israel to be happy, because God has chosen them to save out of Egypt and deliver into the land. This deliverance which prefigures salvation in Christ in so many ways, is a cause of happiness. God says so. How much MORE happiness do we have in our eternal salvation in the Lord Yeshua, which our marriages point to. The happiness of the bride who is chosen, made pure, protected by her husband. The happiness of the husband who chooses his bride to be his special people and brings her under his wing. The happiness of the children who were created by their mutual love and will be loved and nourished by them. This is an act of deliverance. It is a picture of salvation. If Israel is called to be happy in its deliverance, we should more so be happy both with our spouse and the children who come into our family. We have saved a people for the LORD.

Bearing children and teaching them is one of the ways in which marriage is sacramental. It brings a physical representation of God's work in salvation. Just as Christ's love for the Church and the Church's love for Christ will bring new souls to hear the Gospel and be born of the Spirit, the love between husband and wife brings forth new children, who will be loved, taught and disciplined in the family. Having children is a part of what it means to represent Christ and the Church. The family fails as a representative of Christ if it does not. A Christian family by its nature bears new life. Similarly, it is in bearing and raising children that that marriage most represents the Holy Trinity. Just as the Father and Son's eternal communion brings forth the Holy Spirit, the man and wife's earthly union brings forth children, new life coming from the very nature of the parents.

When families don't have new life, or intentionally have only few, they are rejecting God's hand in their marriage and rejecting a part of their responsibility to represent Christ. They make marriage about something ELSE than what God gave it to us for. God gave it to bear children, to care for human life, to picture salvation and to aid each other in growing in faith. Many Christians make it about the pleasure of a partnership, the societal rituals families have, the comfort that economic stability can provide and the pursuit of high education and wealth. This is not a family according to God. It is a pale imitation. A sickened shell. God's families are there to be a spiritual lightning bolt on this earth. To sanctify. To educate. To sacrifice. We need to learn this lesson in the family as we learn it elsewhere:

*"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24)*

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One thing that many Christians today don't know about the family and children, is that for virtually all of its history the Church did not accept the practice of contraception. From the

earliest documented era until the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, virtually all of Christendom agreed that it was immoral, and that Christians should not practice it. Even non-Christians recognized its harm in being a tool to wipe out nations and in facilitating sexual immorality. Contraception was known as a tool for whoredom. Treating contraception as a sin is today known as a Catholic teaching, but the major early Protestant leaders rejected its use as well. No main branch of Christians accepted the use of contraception until 1930, when the Anglican Church at its Lambeth Conference in Lambeth, England came to the official ruling that contraception could be used in marriage under some limited circumstances. The Anglican Church soon broadened those limited circumstances, and other Protestant groups joined into the acceptance.

It was thought, in the 1960s during the Catholic Vatican II stage, that the Pope would end up going the way of the world and accept contraception now that society had. There were inside voices claiming that is what Pope Paul VI would do. However, in 1968, and you should really read this document, Paul VI came out with *Humanae Vitae* [meaning: Of Human Life] which sustained the universal Christian prohibition on contraception which had been with the Church from the earliest era. It plainly rejected it, and listed a number of reasons why. *Humane Vitae* also predicted some of the worldwide effects of using contraception, predictions that tuned out to be startlingly correct, such as the popularizing of promiscuity, the cheapening of marriage, the increase of divorce and the attempt by governments to control people's fertility. The Catholic Church acted with consistency and upheld what Christians had believed for millennia.

A fair-minded person really has to ask themselves this question: Did all of Christendom live in darkness for about nineteen centuries only to be enlightened by brilliant ethical minds in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Or could it be some other way? Could it be that all of the Church had the truth for nineteen centuries only to be seduced into a lie because they suddenly had the means to commit easy immorality and trusted much less in God than before? Could the acceptance of contraception among Christians simply have been part of the milieu that saw Christianity crumble in so many other ways? It was the same era in which the truths of the Bible were often dismissed as false. The same era that began to normalize fornication. The same era that would accept divorce and remarriage and then sodomy as normal. The same era that took to rebellion and drugs and left its children unrestrained on the street; that saw violent crime skyrocket. There was without a doubt a great turning away from Christian belief and tradition during this era, one that continues up until the present day. Isn't it always possible that changing the teaching on contraception was just part of that tide of ungodliness? I am convinced that's all it was. A convenient change of doctrine to allow further immoral living, and what appears to be convenience in life. There is no respect for God in it.

Since it is a very big subject, and I don't want to get into much more of the history of that change, I will only challenge you with the main reasons a Christian should not use contraception. I haven't made up a single one. I recommend you investigate that whole subject, as I did, back when I formerly thought differently. The truth is not so hard to see. This practice, which literally means "against the beginning" or "against conception", is an enemy of the Church.

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**Contraception is linked to great evil**, and facilitates great evil, including abortion, promiscuity, adultery, divorce, the spread of STDs and sodomy. The links between contraception and moral evil were in part predicted before they happened. They were warned about by churchmen and others. Then when Christians decided to bite the forbidden fruit anyway, those predictions came to pass. Naturally, contraception has encouraged promiscuity, and has facilitated adultery, leading to divorce. The divorce rate by couples practicing Natural Family Planning, by the way, is immensely lower than those using contraception.<sup>xvii</sup> Moreover, in encouraging promiscuity it introduced a massive array of never seen before STDs into the country. Some contraception promises to reduce the risk of STDs, but no method has been shown to do that close to perfectly, whereas celibacy and marital monogamy have. They reduce the risk to approximately zero. Both the number of sexual partners and the divorce rate increased geometrically in the middle to late 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>xviii</sup>. These two evils come together also, as it has been shown that with more sexual partners before marriage, the chance of divorce increases greatly.<sup>xix</sup> It seems contraception feeds into mankind's vilest desires; those to live in a whorehouse and an orgy, and enough people follow through on that desire that the life-shattering consequences are very easy to measure.

Sadly, speaking of harlots, it has in part been contraception that created the "dating" culture. This is a culture which allows and encourages the female to do for free what the harlot did for money for many centuries. Historically, in the western Christian world, an ordinary woman doing that would simply be called a name that specified the dirty kind of woman she was. In other cultures and religions across the globe, the same has been true for thousands of years. In almost all cases, for an ordinary girl to act like a prostitute would earn her the title of one, if not an official punishment. Christians have been taught for centuries by their fathers about purity. They have been taught about the importance of keeping a woman pure. That the woman should represent holiness, as she represents the Bride of Christ when she gets married. They have been taught the terrible dangers as well. Yet with the introduction of contraception, and the overall lessening of faith, Christians let it be normal for their women to behave like harlots, without even earning an income by doing so. At least the harlot might have been forced into it. At least the harlot might be feeding her children through it. For the Christian to practice harlotry for free is as big a degradation of Jesus' name as anything in the world. It was contraception that helped normalize this whoredom, and the West has then spread it across the world. A young woman is to be pure. Contraception debilitates her body, and then trains her to be a harlot.

### **The Unavoidable Connection to Baby-killing**

Contraception's links to abortion are many. Firstly using contraception is built on a mentality that a child is a problem, and that mentality does not easily go away. Rather, it often responds to the conception of a new child with a choice to have an abortion. Killing the child is a natural follow-through of the mentality. If the child is a problem, you get rid of the child. In one study, over half the people going in to have an abortion said they were there because of failed contraception.<sup>xx</sup> Studies have also documented a strong increase in abortions when contraception is introduced or increased in a region.<sup>xxi</sup>

This practice is also linked legally to abortion. In fact the famous Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortion in all U.S. states cited the earlier case which had legalized contraception, Griswold v. Connecticut. It drew its idea of a "right to privacy" from Griswold's previous expounding of a right to privacy.<sup>xxii</sup> Not only that, but when abortion was challenged in 1992, the

Supreme Court upheld the right to have an abortion, saying in part that Americans had come to rely on abortion as a necessity in the cases that their contraception failed.<sup>xxiii</sup> That was a part of their actual legal reasoning. America's dependence on contraception has led to a demand for abortions. This is a part of American legal history here. Sadly, the privacy clause that began with contraception also appeared in the Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell decision to force same-sex "marriage" upon all 50 states. If intimacy is a matter of privacy, and others cannot interfere with that, then they reasoned it should be true for same-sex couples as well. If you can't tell a man and woman what to do in the bedroom, you can't tell a man and a man either.

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## Teaching Children

The same passage, in a fundamental teaching of traditional Judaism, goes on to teach:

*"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.*

*"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

*"You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

*"You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

(vss. 6-9)

Here we are instructed to have God's words on our heart, and teach them "*diligently*" to our children. (vs. 7) This simple teaching is a mandate to the family and to any Christian home. It may come from the Mosaic Covenant, but its truth is not limited to temple Judaism, but is eternal. That's why we see similar teachings in the New Testament. It speaks directly to our home life and instructs us to teach our children, to speak of them in our homes, and to even speak of them throughout the day in our comings and goings. We even put them up in our home. A Christian home should not lack God's words on its walls in holy pictures and scripture verses. We can easily recognize the home as a holy place in this passage. That holiness is passed along from generation to generation through teaching.

This point of passing along God's commandments and the faith through the generations is especially emphasized in Psalm 78, which says the purpose of commanding the fathers to teach God's Word is...

*That they should make them known to their children;*

*That the generation to come might know them,*

*The children who would be born,*

*That they may arise and declare them to their children,*

*That they may set their hope in God,  
And not forget the works of God,  
But keep His commandments;*

(vss. 5, 6-7)

The continuity of faith and virtue comes down from the teaching of the family, the children will learn from their fathers and then teach their own children. They learn of God. They learn of virtue. They learn not to be like the previous generation of Israelites, which rebelled against God and died in the desert. Continuity of the chosen people does not come from state institutions or godless entertainment, the current behavior of Christians notwithstanding. Christians need to learn that family is how we receive our inheritance. The Bible says so. We must stop looking elsewhere for it. No law says children must be educated and enculturated by a legion of secular methods. It is family first, then church and other close community.

Parents are also called to train up their child in virtue, and discipline them. The Proverbs many times call parents to do this job. Proverbs 22:6 teaches:

*Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

This is an instruction to train children, especially in virtue, and it promises long-lasting results. He will keep that training until he is old.

Ephesians 6:4 teaches:

*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

Here the New Testament gives the same truth and instruction as the Old. It speaks directly to the head of the home, the father, and instructs him not to try to discipline his children in anger, but rather teaching them the way of the Lord. Paul does not write this to the Roman state or to the local Ephesians school board. He writes it to families. Families much teach, train and discipline their children, yet with love and understanding. A father who teaches in anger will make his own child fearful or angry. He must correct his child and discipline him, but it must come with a calm mind and understanding.

Hebrews 12 speaks on the necessity of God's chastening as compared to the necessity of a father's chastening. If we did not receive chastening from our father, we would not be sons. Likewise, if we did not receive chastening from Christ, we would not be sons. Fatherhood and training children are in that sense also sacramental. The father's discipline reflects the discipline of God. The learning of the children reflects the learning of the Church:

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## **Leading to Faith**

Much like in ancient Israel, the role of parent can be central in the child receiving faith. Here Paul writes to the young Timothy, reminding him that he learned the Scriptures from childhood. This biblical learning, while not salvation in itself, made him “wise for salvation through faith.” (vs. 15) It prepares the mind and soul for salvation in Christ. Paul also calls Timothy to know or remember from whom he received that teaching. As we learn in chapter 1 of the same book, it is his mother and grandmother who prepared him for faith. It was not a pastor. It was not a school.

Paul immediately goes on to give one of the greatest summations of the Scriptures IN the Scriptures: that it is all inspired by God, and is good for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. (vs. 16) What parent could ask for a greater tool in teaching their children? And what greater reward could there be as a parent than preparing them for salvation in Christ? I have compared a man heading a family to an abbot heading a monastery. This is one of many reasons why. It is a spiritual environment. A child will receive in the Christian home what he cannot receive elsewhere.

In talking to many people who came to faith, I have heard stories from men and women who received the faith young, just as Timothy did. There are those who came to a saving personal faith as small children; from reading the Bible, from hearing their parents teach them the Gospel or warn them about hell, or from listening to a sermon. Others might say their personal faith came a few years later, but to the best of their recollection they had always believed. That is because the truths of the faith, the Christian habits, lifestyle and learning were all naturally ingrained. They simply followed their parents, and much of it was downloaded as it were into their heart. They may have needed to take that personal step of trust in Christ as a young adult, but they were already heading in that direction. Even those souls who rebelled against the faith of their fathers, often came back to faith as adults. Even in coming to faith years later, their knowledge of God’s Word and the basic Christian truths must have played a role. They didn’t have to dig a deep mine all by themselves as adults. The mine had been dug already, and they just had to go pick up the jewels. The way of salvation was not hidden from their eyes. Their parents had already shown them. Therefore, even in those who reject faith, its influence can last through life, and provide that opportunity to receive Christ later. It is priceless beyond measure.

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## **Homeschool**

The best and most natural way to provide a Christian education and environment is homeschooling. It does what training up should do. That includes the spiritual teaching, the environment and the learning subjects. Obviously, if we ONLY focused on the learning, we could make other choices, even though homeschoolers regularly exceed others<sup>xxiv</sup>, a case could be made to use good schools. However, when we consider all that goes into raising a child, beyond excelling in specific school topics, then it’s the best choice. As I’ve said, I do not rule out our Christian academies; however I am convinced the large majority will fail terribly on one or all of those three points. There are few I believe a Christian should trust.

Not only that, but as this information age advances, and the downloading of tools into the average home advances, I believe homeschooling will become ever more efficient, as well as easier for the parent. Perhaps we will see a drop in costs as well for some of the digital teaching you will use when the child gets older. Some people like to imagine that new technology makes God's ways antiquated, but often the opposite is true. New technology merely gives us better tools to practice God's ways. The home and family life can perhaps be TRUER to God, rather than considering themselves so enlightened that they abandon His walk. We need to view tools that way in general. They are a possible way to serve Him better. When you think of all the learning programs, professional journals, historical documents and more available online, why pay a team of professional Marxists tons of money to train you? You can just skip the Marxists and the high cost and do it yourself. No highly funded public school can ever replace the role of the real Christian educator, who is ideally a family member, and if not family, then very close community. The secular schools would love to replace them. They would even more love to stomp all over them. But they cannot do either. Christians do not change with the times, when God's ways are timeless.

To tell you a little about our experience with homeschooling, as I have mentioned, we planned this with my leading from before we were married. My wife has been homeschooling our oldest boy since around 2 (he's getting close to 7 now) and uses Abeka for most of the subjects. He has been doing great with learning, and is usually ahead of where other kids are with math, reading and writing. He also enjoys reading and writing a lot, and has been able to digest readers almost as long as novels for close to a year. He gets extra learning once a week through a local homeschool coop, and does the Bible classes at an Awana group. Once in a while my wife organizes an informal coop get together with local homeschool mothers, but it requires the right people and some planning. It will get more challenging for my wife to organize as our two young girls get older, and she will have to change her schedule somewhat to balance her time. However, by the time the two girls really get going, our oldest boy could be starting some more independent learning online or through DVDs, which will mean her time teaching him will go down, and she'll be able to spend more time with the girls. So if it sounds overwhelming – and it can be – remember some of it can be done at an older age through digital learning.

I have said that having the mother and father together and married for life is one thing we need for a good home, and a Christian home. However, it is also one thing we need to be able to provide a Christian education. When the family is intact, and together for life, it becomes much easier to provide an education in the household. In a broken home, with only one parent who has to work for financial reasons, it almost always seems necessary to send the kids to receive a totally different training from the secular world. You won't be able to fulfill the Bible's teachings alone. We have marriage for many reasons, remember. All of them are good. All of them can bless our community. Yet if we are to be free of the bondage of secular education, if we are to depart from Egypt as it were, family is essential<sup>xxv</sup>. So is the lifelong nature of it, and the woman's integral and priceless role in the home.

I don't think it's hard to answer some of the common objections to homeschooling or to Christian schooling in general. I will do my best to provide answers to a couple of them here. Perhaps the most common is that if you don't send you kids to "school" they won't be properly socialized. Let me say two things here. Number one, if the claim is that they won't be able to meet and interact with other people, that is false. Unless you truly live out in the wilderness (and

if you're in the wilderness you're kind of stuck with being isolated either way) then your children certainly will be able to interact with others while doing homeschooling. He may not get constant barrage of company, or be stuck into age-separated groups, but he will be able to interact with people of all ages. In our own family, our children meet other people at church, at homeschool coops, through extended family (and that's a big important topic for another time), through friends of their parents and through friends in the neighborhood. My boy has had a few unbelieving friends he plays with, and has been able to share about God and Jesus Christ with them. My wife has shared with them also. In one of my independent ministry projects, I was working with a young man in a wheelchair. Our boy got to come out with us and meet this young man a number of times, and have the unique opportunity to learn about the needs of the disabled, even how to help them. So there really is no problem with meeting people unless you mean meeting tons of people every day in groups divided by age. However, I don't see how that is what children need, as part of their growing, either spiritually or intellectually. I definitely understand the desire to avoid being isolated, but there's no need for a flood of people anyway.

If by "socialized" you mean learning the way of the heathen, then of course it is good that homeschooling doesn't provide much socialization. We should not be learning the way of the heathen. (Jeremiah 10:2) If you throw your children into a mob full of worldly young people, the kind of socialization they will get is to learn the attitudes, language, value system, and often the vulgarity and lewdness of the mob. Why should a Christian parent want this? We should want to avoid it. We should not want that kind of socialization, because it trains the soul to worldliness and sin. We are a set apart people. We don't need to know all about the heroes and gods of the pagan world. We don't need to soak in their legends and lore. Worship their man-gods. Be fashionably Marxist. Our familiarity should be with God's Word. In this we should be expert. That doesn't mean we have zero knowledge of how the pagan lives. However, it is not something we need to have more than slight familiarity with. We have better things to do. And it will bring us down. The overall trend in young people in this nation is toward abandoning the faith, or at least accepting a watered down version of it, depleted of much of its biblical doctrine. The overall trend is that young people accept the ways of the world, not of the children of God. It is hard to imagine that secular education, along with heathen culture, has had nothing to do with it. So forget socialization as a priority, although some basic knowledge can be useful.

Another common reason people reject homeschooling, and even reject private Christian schools, is the claim that their children should be missionaries in a secular world. Therefore, they have to send them to public schools. They make it sound like a good deed, so to speak. Not to sound too condescending, but I don't believe this reasoning for an instant. Rather, I believe that (at least 98% of the time) when Christian parents send their children to public schools, they do so for two reasons: 1) they want to save money and live more comfortably and 2) they want to seem normal and their kids to seem normal. THESE are the primary reasons that believers use those schools. There may be a few people who believe it, but the idea of using young children as missionaries is absurd and anti-biblical. In the Bible, children are never used as missionaries. Rather, those who are sent out, much like those who lead and teach in the Church, are adults, one who are spiritually mature and lead righteous lives. THOSE are the people who act as missionaries. Your child is no more a missionary than he is a linebacker in the NFL. Children are not built to do that. They are not mature. They commonly are not characterized by righteousness. They do not usually know the faith very well. They have not built up strength and wisdom. Moreover, in a secular school, they will be incredibly outnumbered by unbelievers and worldly Christians. The



pressure on them to either abandon their faith or live like a demon will be overwhelming. On top of that, if they do express Christian beliefs, they are often silenced. The more unpopular Christian beliefs will get them sent to a reeducation class and earn them a punishment, such as if they express unpopular elements of biblical morality. They are in a spiritual concentration camp. Do not do it, parents. Many are the story of parents who gave in to cultural pressure, or who gave into their child's desire, sent their children to the secular schools and saw them lose their soul forever. Or at least for the foreseeable future. They are outnumbered. They are not developed. They are not strong.

If you want to be a missionary to help children, great. But there are other ways to do it. As I've mentioned, one way that we do it is that our boy has a few unbelieving friends, so he can tell them about God, and when they're over at our house, usually my wife can give them a short Bible lesson. I've done the same before also. I can take out an instrument and sing a hymn for them. You might also reach children of unbelievers through other methods. Your local church may have a youth ministry which picks up children and brings them to services. Unbelieving parents sometimes send their children to those ministries. An Anabaptist church we sometimes attend has a youth ministry that is able to invite them into their homes. You could hand out tracts or do preaching where you know youth will be gathered. You can give speeches in schools. Believe me, if you sincerely have a heart to reach young people, God will show you a way. You do not have to send you child to get brainwashed and assimilated in a secular school. Your home, your church, and your own personal ministry can do a better job of it anyway.

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### **How Lovely Are Your Tents**

You know, as a Jewish Christian I regularly do readings from the Bible that go through the Torah, or the Pentateuch as it's also known. This Sabbath, I was doing a reading I've always loved, about Balaam the wicked prophet, about how he was hired to curse Israel, but God put words of blessing in his mouth and he blessed Israel instead. It struck me how much of Balaam's prophesy speaks to us, and especially the home. Listen to this. In his first prophecy, Balaam says:

*For from the top of the rocks I see him,  
And from the hills I behold him;  
There! A people dwelling alone,  
Not reckoning itself among the nations.*

*"Who can count the dust of Jacob,  
Or number one-fourth of Israel?  
Let me die the death of the righteous,  
And let my end be like his!"*

Numbers 23:9-10

What strikes me about these words is that he can see how Israel is different. He looks out among them, the whole group of them, and he can tell they are not like other nations. Not like the

heathen. This truly should characterize the Church, which is God's people for this age. Not only should we be different, but a pagan like Balaam could easily see that we are. Not only that, but we see the incredible number of Israel prophesied, and the prophet even desires to die among them, for they are righteous even in death. We should be even more in awe at the many living souls Christ will bring forth through His Church, so many they cannot be numbered. Revelation describes a great multitude of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues. (Revelation 7:9) This springs forth from the Holy People of God. From that set apart people are blessed all the nations.

In his third blessing, God speaks through Balaam with words that would become the opening of a traditional Sabbath prayer of Judaism, marveling at Israel's tents:

*"How lovely are your tents, O Jacob!  
Your dwellings, O Israel!*

*Like valleys that stretch out,  
Like gardens by the riverside,  
Like aloes planted by the LORD,  
Like cedars beside the waters.*

*He shall pour water from his buckets,  
And his seed shall be in many waters.*

Numbers 24:5-7

Here the pagan prophet is looking out on Israel's dwelling places and sees that they are lovely. An ancient Jewish teaching points out that he wasn't seeing into the tents, but could see the interactions of people in the passages between them and the open spaces and could see the goodness of the community. This speaks to the importance of the home, the tents we dwell in, and how even a pagan can see their beauty. They are of a special people. He compares their homes to pleasant sights of nature, the language of the tree by the water echoes the language of the righteous and blessed man in Psalm 1. Then we see what will happen from the beautiful and peaceful homes – water shall come forth, and the seed will be in many waters. We should sense in this language, both the abundance of children to come from a blessed people, and also the promise of new life in Christ, for the seed of Israel prophetically is our Savior, and the water is the Holy Spirit. From our homes as a Church will come this promise. People will come to the Messiah. Those who see our community as well as those raised up within it. Out of our heart shall flow rivers of living water, just as Jesus promised. (John 7:38) The Church will be the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14-16)

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## **Teach Gender**

When it comes to teaching children, one of the most important ways to train them is to learn the roles of men and women. This is in stark contrast to the surrounding society, which either makes

men and women near equivalents or denies that the male sex and female sex exist. That's not our way. We respect God and we respect nature. So as Christians we need to help children grow into the role that they will have as men or women.

That can mean choosing girl toys for girls and boy toys for boys. It can include making sure some activities are for the boys and others for the girls. It can also include general encouragement in the right direction. We should no more treat a girl the same way as a boy, than we should treat an infant the same way as a 6-year old. They are different creations of God. Have the boys and young men learn from the husband of the family. Not only should they start learning the Bible from him at a certain age, but also learn manly work, and work that is heavier on the body. Similarly girls and young women can start helping the wife in the kitchen and with other tasks as young as possible. You should speak differently to a boy than a girl, since one is meant to be harder, and the other the gentler nurturing one.

In our house I make sure realistic weapons and war games are only for boys. I do not have boys fighting girls either. That would be absurd. I make sure the kitchen set is for girls, along with a doll house and babies. This would have been automatic for western Christians for centuries, but now it almost has to be explained, especially in light of the cultural denial of sex differences. Labor in our household is somewhat divided as well. While anyone can help out outside, I keep heavier and more dangerous work for men. If a girl wants to help with that, I refuse. The children also see clearly that I am the head of the home. They see me leading Bible study, they see me giving instructions on what needs to be done, they see my wife's overall attitude of respect for me, and deferring to my decision making. There's nothing unclear for them there. That way our children will receive what we pass down, which is wisdom from God and from His beautiful creation.

We need men and women doing what God intended us to do. Doing what they are designed to do. Naturally, we need our boys and girls learning that in the home early. It should be no more normal for parents to encourage their girls to go defend their country<sup>xxvi</sup> than it is to encourage them to have a gender reassignment surgery. They are softer, both physical and emotionally. They bear children in their womb. They are not boys. Women get a blast of feel-good hormones when they even look at a baby. Men don't. The Christian parent must go against the grain of the secular culture, and be willing to be unpopular for it. We encourage our girls to motherhood and helping a godly man, our boys to providing for the home and Church leadership. To reject this line of thinking is to reject the Bible and biology, which is exactly what the transsexual culture in the West currently does. In contrast, the Christian parent respects God and nature<sup>xxvii</sup>.

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## Chapter 6 – Free Love

In context of 1 Corinthians 7, with the purpose of abating lust, it makes sense that we have access to our spouse as we desire. It will help abate the temptation toward adultery, and give us an outlet for our desire rather than living single and committing fornication. (1 Corinthians 7:2) Yet it also makes good sense in the entire context of Scripture, especially that man and woman

become “one flesh.” They are no longer two but one. If this is true in anything but the barest and symbolic sense, then when we are one flesh in marriage we have a natural right to what previously belonged to our spouse. Their body is in a sense our body. We two are one. To speak of “rights” in a legitimate sense, we can recognize a right to affection from the other, due to the obligation the other has to share it. In today’s terms, it’s fair to call it a human right in marriage.

This beautifully flows from the scriptural teaching that man is to be fruitful and that children are a blessing. This teaching puts no barriers between man and woman physically to limit their fruitfulness, but allows they come together any time they wish. A family in which husband and wife come together at will is going to be a family full of blessings, those children that fill up the home. Intimacy is life giving. Our God is a God of life. A home in which husband and wife come together without refusal is a home where many souls will hear the Word of God, because the family is also the natural place to teach and sanctify children. It’s not the nursery room at your church. It’s the family, and if we do things God’s way, barring injury or illness – there will be much intimacy and there will be many children. It doesn’t take an MD to see how these truths fit together.

There is also the peace and happiness it brings. As a Christian husband, I don’t come home every day wondering if maybe I’ll be able to seduce my wife, or talk her into intimacy. I come home knowing that I will have my desire if I wish to. That is the natural way in marriage. I’m not bragging by the way, but saying something that should be normal among us. We share freely of ourselves in marriage, and that’s a good thing. God says it’s good. In a Christian marriage we don’t have anxiety about whether we’ll be able to “earn it.” We don’t need to think of clever ways to get it. We simply have it because it’s ours. I wouldn’t even want to imagine what it’s like in marriages that are any other way. I think you’ll find that couples who have intimacy freely – as I call it “free love” – are happy and content and have peace in their marriage. I also think you’ll find that when one spouse is refusing the other, and withholding his body, you’ll find a lack of satisfaction, as well as bitterness and resentment over this refusal to give what is rightfully owed. Someone is going to be miserable. Rightly or wrongly, they are going to have hard feelings as well. That kind of refusal is against God’s design for us. Marriage is free love.

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### **Why Some Deny**

There are various reasons why a spouse might wrongly deny their body to the other. The woman especially learns to use her body as a tool of manipulating men, and if she is unhappy with her man, a tool of hurting men. She learns it naturally as her body is an ever-ready convenient weapon, and she learns it culturally as society often uplifts women who treat their bodies as means to an end or weapons. Historically, using her body has been arguably the woman’s easiest way to get what she wants. Get what she wants by giving it. Get what she wants by withholding

it. Yet this is wrong. The body is not a weapon in marriage. Rather, the Bible teaches that a woman's body belongs to her husband, and she cannot deny him, except for temporarily with his consent.

It is interesting how God's path for us conflicts with what our flesh desires. For many women that teaching conflicts with what their flesh desires. It makes them feel helpless. It disarms them. It lowers their pride. But notice how the Word of God disarms us. Jesus taught us to love our enemies and to do good to those who do us evil. He taught us to bless those who curse us. (Matthew 5:44) The flesh revolts at these teachings, and yet they are true nonetheless. They disarm the fallen and corrupt man and orient his soul toward the Holy One. We sometimes hate it. Yet it's part of the healing process. The redemptive process.

Though this teaching about sharing bodies is far less difficult than loving our enemies, it can grate against the flesh nonetheless. It takes away from the woman her main historical weapon. A weapon she always has handy. An upper hand she loves to raise. It makes her in her own eyes helpless. It doing so, it helps her. It heals her. It is part of the work of redemption. A woman shares of herself completely and gives of herself fully to her man, according to his desire. She is his. She belongs to him. Her body is no longer a weapon, it is a field full of life, ready to be worked. She does not manipulate with her body, but allows herself to be shaped and led by her husband's hands. This can strike at the ego at first. But that sting is only like the sting of a broken bone going back into place. God's order is being restored.

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## **Freedom**

That's worth rejoicing over. It's not a subject to scorn. We should be happy to hear how wonderful God's path is for us. As I do often in this book, I have to remind you that God does not call everyone to a hammered flat kind of freedom. Many Christians and unbelievers alike don't like the idea of satisfying a spouse because it is a job to do, but the fact is, we don't always do the right thing in life because we FEEL like it. We often do the right thing because we know we must. That may not be "absolute" freedom. But it's still a choice. God gives us countless instructions, and many of them are clearly mandates. Often, He promises either punishment or earthly suffering if we don't do them. Are you and I not free then? Doing the good out of the perfectly free love of the heart may be an ideal, but that's clearly not how God teaches us all the time. He teaches us with obligations. He chastises us when we do wrong. Even the Gospel comes with the warning of God's wrath if we do not repent and believe. So if you really want to wait and pray for months to see if your spouse will make love to you, go ahead and be my guest. You're free to do that. However, both you and your spouse have a real obligation to share your bodies with each other. Not just when YOU feel like it, but also when the other does. A woman has a real obligation according to her submission to accept her man's will when he desires her

body. Biblically speaking that is free, even if it's not the highest ideal. God's grace works through obligations you know. It doesn't just work invisibly and supernaturally. God's grace is alive in the things He tells us we must do.

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## **Love Feast**

A lot of single people like to imagine they have more and better intimacy than married couple. I used to think that way as well. Intimacy in marriage sounded like death. I didn't want to die. However, research actually shows that the married make love more often, and are more satisfied with their intimacy in general.<sup>xxviii</sup> The married have it better than the single. They also have it free of guilt. This only goes to show what a deception that sin works on the mind. A rational mind, if a person only desired intimacy, would see marriage as the better choice, because there is intimacy in great abundance. One doesn't need to waste a lot of time or money looking for it either. The intimacy is there for the taking. Sin has to work on the mind, to make fornication look attractive, and marital intimacy look unattractive for anyone to think that's the best choice. One has to be fooled by the so-called adventure of immorality and the ego-enhancing feeling of a new "conquest" to ever imagine that it measures up. It clearly does not. Why choose to have intimacy less often, waste your time and money, be exposed to illness, play emotional games that torment the soul when you know there is a good alternative which promises abundant intimacy. The mind has to be demented to even consider it. Yet this is a continued temptation for man. Fornication is sin, and you get your desire LESS often. Marriage is pure, and has more and better intimacy.

It is good to be able to unite as one flesh without guilt or shame. God promises that the marital bed is undefiled, but God will judge fornicators and adulterers. (Hebrews 13:4) By "the marriage bed," the passage refers to our physical intimacy. It is the only right and pure place for this physical union to occur. Many Christians misuse this scripture to say that every intimate act that occurs between husband and wife is acceptable, but that is not how it is being used in context. It is speaking of the marriage bed as the only place where physical union is without guilt. That's why it contrasts it with several sins of the body.

I believe everyone can recognize that guilt if they commit sexual immorality. God's law rests on the heart of all men. (Romans 2:14-15) Back when I lived a grossly sinful lifestyle, I may not have had a clear moral sense, but I knew enough that I could recognize the stability and peace that a good marriage had, and see it in contrast to the instability of fornication. I knew enough to sense the pain that comes frequently with immorality. I knew enough, that having been told the truth, and having rejected it, that I really did not have any solid argument to say fornication was acceptable. Often I could sense the aggression of the act as well, as even though fornication is consensual, there is aggression and conflict nonetheless. Furthermore, I could sense how

immorality takes us out of our natural relationship with someone, and brings physical intimacy in where it does not belong. In fact this is one big reason for that feeling of instability and lack of safety that partners in fornication have. They are doing wrong to ordinary human relationships. I could sense how selfish desire darkens the understanding and hardens the heart to love. So despite lacking a clear biblical sense of morality, I could still appreciate all the markers of evil that immorality has. And I completely lacked a strong argument for it being right. As I have said, I hear stories about people turning their backs on Jesus because they desired intimacy outside of marriage. But it was not really intimacy they desired. It was sin. If all they wanted was intimacy they would get married and soon enjoy it.

In marriage we have a feast of love and a feast of pleasure. It is acceptable before the Lord. You would think that everyone would be running out to get married, wouldn't you? Yet the sin mind tells man – people in marriage are boring and they have to eat the same hamburger every day; man needs variety and excitement. This is the big lie. Marital intimacy is not a hamburger eaten every day. It is a regular feast with many delights. Moreover, the true heart of the physical act – the real spiritual and emotional unity – is a meal that can ONLY be eaten in marriage. The fornicator does not have it. They are starving in that regard. Their life is lacking that sublime and unspeakable taste. Fornication serves up the same side dishes over and over, but it lacks the real feast. It lacks the intimacy. For the fornicator, whether they are promiscuous or whether they practice serial monogamy, cannot truly replicate intimacy. Either they don't know the person very much at all, or they claim to know them, but in reality despise them so much they will not commit to marriage with them.<sup>xxix</sup> This is not a love for the soul of your partner. It is to treat them as not worth a commitment. This is not knowledge of your partner, for if you truly knew them you would know they are worth far more than companionship outside of marriage, and you would hate the sin and the harm it causes. Living with someone outside of marriage is not real intimacy, even if it feigns intimacy. It rejects the innermost parts of our so-called beloved. The love feast in marriage is abundant, exciting, and suited to your desire. It is rooted in a growing knowledge caring protection of the soul. It is the only way to love your beloved. Marriage is love in action.

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### **Nothin' But Mammals**

When I was an unbeliever, there was a funny song they used to play in the places of pagan revelries. The chorus went like this – You and me baby, we ain't nothing but mammals, so let's do it like they do on the Discovery Channel.<sup>xxx</sup> Millions of human beings, made in the image of God but fallen, have celebrated depravity to the sound and rhythm of this song. It is a screed, as it were, of a materialistic religion. It is one giant doctrinal statement. You might say – well it's only a joke – but if it were only a joke why do masses of people behave as if it is true. If it's only

a joke, why do actual professors teach it?<sup>xxxii</sup> This song is no standup comedy, but rather a statement of faith.

If we want to respond to this dogma, one that man finds so tempting in its promise of freedom, we'd have to say this: There are other things they do in nature besides copulate. For example, primates often wage war, and slaughter each other. Primates show signs of finding pleasure in murder and the suffering of others. Some of them murder their young, and eat their brains. Do you want to do THAT like they do on the Discovery Channel? Some creatures kill and eat their mates too. Is that what you're hoping for the next time you make love? If you're a fornicator, answer the next personals ad and it just might happen to you.

If we merely follow our instincts, and we celebrate the freedom of being uninhibited by restraints, we justify every act of cruelty known to man. If we are nothing but mammals there is nothing wrong with it. Even in the modern era, during warfare there are armies that gather all of the women together and rape every one they can find. They shove them all into a big hall and practice systematic rape so their forces can enjoy this pleasure. Did they show that on the Discovery Channel? One people group gains the upper hand over its enemies, and it gasses them by the millions, or locks them in labor camps and works them to death. One killer takes pleasure in hunting down victims and torturing them to death. These things, in the broad sense of the word, are a part of nature. If we're nothing but animals there's nothing to complain about either. It might hurt. We might scream in pain. Yet there's nothing morally wrong with any of these acts. Mankind doesn't just imitate animals, but does much worse than they do since it is we who know better. We have a moral knowledge for a reason. Remember that the next time you read about a bomb going off in the middle of a school full of children. They're doing it like they do on the Discovery Channel.

Marriage, and God's law in general, protects against that. It protects against injustice and human cruelty. The man becomes the protector, understanding of his wife, treating her as the weaker vessel. The woman becomes the pure and godly woman, who is looked up to for virtue, not for her body. The physical union that man often takes by rape and that the woman has used as a manipulative tool of power becomes a free giving of our intimate self to the other. A tool for life and not for death. The children are provided with sustenance, education, discipline and training in virtue. What animal instincts bring to the dust, God's commandment brings to life. This earthly picture of deliverance, as we have seen, is a heavenly picture of God's salvation in Christ. God's law respects mankind. The law of the jungle does not. It sends young children to be drug mules and calls them expendable.<sup>xxxiii</sup> God's law uplifts all mankind. It calls him not to live in unrighteousness, but to stand against it.

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**An expression of strength**



The act of intimacy is a living expression of the invisible. It expresses many truths we cannot often touch and brings them into the actual. Most men like to think of intimacy as a chance to show their strength and manhood, to express their manhood by taking their wife. However, if the marriage itself does not show the man's leadership throughout, then this expression of strength in intimacy is nothing but theater. It is a game. For if the man does not have headship over his wife and show his strength by leading her, then any expression of firmness in bed is an act which signifies...absolutely nothing. It is mere physical brute force. It is not real strength.

Likewise, if a woman is not softly submitting to her man in marriage, she is nothing but an actress when she responds submissively in lovemaking. It becomes a farce. Rather, the woman should be letting the man lead her, shape her, open her up intimately throughout the entire marriage, so that her submissive response in bed only brings this to life in the physical. The "yes" that she gives to her man on a daily basis becomes the yes she gives to him in giving her body. There is no separating the life in marriage from the marriage bed.

Perhaps the clearest picture of a man with his wife is given in Proverbs 30:19

*The way of an eagle in the air,  
The way of a serpent on a rock,  
The way of a ship in the midst of the sea,  
And the way of a man with a virgin.*

We can see an image here of the majesty and fierceness of the bird, the warm, blissful pleasure of the snake in the sun and the ship working up and down on the sea, ploughing through its waters. The man's strength and mastery is seen in each of these pictures. So in the domain he is to be master of, the air, the flat ground (a rock) and the sea. They picture the man's mastery over the domain of his woman.

I don't know how publically this is advertised today. It's not wrong at all, and is often hated by this culture, but a woman desires the strength and fierceness of her man. She wants to be mastered. She wants to be taken, held firmly, controlled. She wants her man in charge and to be the one that he's in charge of. The air the eagle masters. The rock the serpent basks on. The sea. In a culture which preaches abstract equality of men and women, and portrays male strength as dangerous aggression, you might be led to believe she wants a boring man who will sit next to her and be equal with her. She might occasionally think so herself. Enough time in an unrealistic fantasy world of equality, and any woman will be begging for a pack of Huns at the door. She will want them to come and shake some sense into her. And men, if you ever wondered why she always calls you "Hun," it might not be for the reason you think.

The Christian man may not be a murdering pillager as the Huns often were, but he is possessing of not just the same strength, but greater. His is rooted in the eternal fire of God. His is controlled, guided by the Holy Spirit. His is for God's glory. His begins on His knees in submission to the Almighty, and His service to the King is the goal of His life. The Christian warrior is righteous.

He executes good judgment, not genocide. He uses strength to protect the innocent. He calls out fools and false teachers. His voice is firm, with the strength of God, not coolness of hatred or the fuel of rage. A woman who submits to the Christian man does not submit to be pillaged. She submits to be taken, held firm and ruled.

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Like every element of marriage I have discussed, intimacy is deeply related to each other element, in a truly living way. When we give freely in the marriage bed, the man regularly expresses his headship and the woman regularly manifests her submission to him. When we unite, we also bring about new life, become honored with children to train up and set apart for Jesus, and grandchildren who will inherit the faith and teach others. The husband and wife's unity for their life will ensure both the faithful continuance of the faith, and the care and protection of the children. The house, full of God's miracle of new life will need the woman's loving and caring work, to keep the home, help the husband and nurture the children that intimacy produces. That knowing one another produces. From a unity that reflects the triune God.

The Almighty causes us to give freely in marriage, because it brings about His purposes and uplifts man in who he is. Ephesians 5 says a man who hates his wife hates his own flesh. (vs.29) It is not speaking about physical union, but the same principle applies. To reject intimacy with the spouse God has given us is hatred of self. Hatred of our own flesh. To reject this physical union is to reject our spiritual one. It is to hate our marriage and what it represents. I truly sympathize with the many partners I've heard about who are refused intimacy in marriage. Such a refusal is an attack on marriage, and it makes Christians look like unhappy and selfish people. It has likely been the cause of much adultery as well. God's path is to give freely. His path is always right.

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## **Rebellion of Sin**

It is hard for the mind to wrap itself around the fact that no man does good. This is hard for believers also. It is hard for us to understand how even our righteous deeds are filthy before the Holy One who made us. That man, apart from Christ, simply CANNOT please God. Yet this is what the Bible teaches. Over and over. Apart from faith, we cannot please Him.

One way to understand this is the model of a rebellion. When a rebel leader attempts to knock over the government, that rebel leader certainly does SOME good deeds in his life. Yet the government isn't really impressed by this, are they? They will send their armies to crush him. Not because he never does anything ethically good. Rather because he is in a state of rebellion. In the 1850s and 60s in China, there was a rebellion led by a Confucian scholar from a provincial town in the south. His name was Hong. Not many people outside China know this, but it is a

fascinating and terrible event in history. Hong actually claimed to be the brother of Jesus Christ, and he led a rebellion of “God-worshippers,” one that claimed a territory about the size of a large province, and which could have knocked over the ruling Qing dynasty. Now this rebel leader had done many ethical reforms. He was known as a reformer. He passed laws against polygamy. He passed laws against judicial torture. Most of us would call them “good.” Not only that, but he had associates who had lived in British territory, and learned a great deal of how their more advanced administration worked. Therefore he began to institute more efficient systems of administration, such as postal services and the like. So basically, the rebel did some GOOD THINGS. He increased ethics and efficiency.

Yet do you think that Hong’s moral laws impressed the emperor of China? Did it please him? Did the emperor say – well that rebel sure is a good man, I’m going to let his armies march across my domain and take the capital right now? Did he say – This genius sure has some good administrative systems, let’s make him our next king instead of me? No, of course not. You see, even the rebel’s righteous deeds were like filthy rags before the emperor. Nothing he could do would please the king. He could pass all the just laws in the book, and he would STILL be condemned. That’s because he was in a state of rebellion, and the emperor sent his armies down south, fought battle after battle, and crushed his rebellion forever. Hong was living in a state of rebellion. Similarly, we are in a state of sin.

You see, what the rebel leader needed to do before the emperor was not pass just laws in his stolen land. It wasn’t to create efficient administration in his stolen land. Rather, it was to surrender, make peace with the emperor, and live submissively in his kingdom. THAT is what he needed to do to please the king. No righteous laws would ever do that. He’d still be under the emperor’s wrath. Only surrender. Submission. Peace. That would please the king. That’s what you and I need to do too. Not pat ourselves on the back for some good deeds. We just need to surrender to the King, accept the peace offering of His Son, and live obediently in the kingdom of God. The rebellion has to end. Then we’ll talk about our deeds possibly being good before God. Not while we are still in rebellion.

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## **I Do**

Remember this when you read that the man and the wife in marriage represent Christ and His chosen people. Remember that when you think of the wedding. There is a man saying “I do” to lifting his bride up from anything common or wicked and protecting her from the devil; protecting her from impurity and from being simply one of the crowd. There is a people saying “I do” to receiving the protection, and sacrifice and guidance of a redeemer, one who lives and speaks and walks the truth. There is an “I do” to mankind being lifted up from the mire of the relentless violence and fornication, the pursuit of money, vanity and fame that characterizes the

mass of our flesh. Behind both the man and wife, I see a crowd of people, not just the extended families being joined through their marriage, but all of humanity, which will be blessed by the power of their union, and which follows with unions of their own.

*You shall no longer be termed Forsaken,  
Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate...For as a young man marries a virgin,  
So shall your sons marry you. (Isaiah 62:4-5)*

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## **Save the World**

Loving someone who dies is a gift. It is a love that should overflow onto other souls besides our loved one. It should be a well of water that we can gift to others. It should enlighten all relationships. Seeing death personally teaches us to care for and protect our fellow man, to see the importance of his nourishment, his strength, his mind and all he can do in this universe. It makes us want him never to be degraded.

If you feel the same way, you should also know the sacredness of God's family. Of marriage and childbearing. It is how God cares for, protects, nourishes, educates and blesses the earth around us. We often say to ourselves, I wish society would care for the poor better. But we ARE society, and when we have a family, we ourselves care for the poor. We often say, why doesn't someone educate the children better. But in the family we have our own chance to do that without turning to anyone. People complain, why don't parents discipline their children, why are they out committing crimes all night. Well, we can answer that complaint ourselves, by raising our own children and disciplining them so they know right and wrong, so that they respect God and respect the law. We complain about all the children without homes, but we are the ones to give them a home ourselves, and make sure it's a safe one. So who are we complaining about? If you want to love God and man, have a family and save the world. It's in your hands.

Forget about the years acquiring the highest financial platform in life. Forget about the decades of hedonism which you think are your birthright as a westerner. Forget about the drink, the parties, the sports and your travel plans. Get married. Have a family. Save the world.

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## **Scriptural Teachings**

*This scriptural outline is meant to provide the main instructional teachings on each chapter subject. I will not provide every teaching that possibly offers insight into the subject or all that I used in the chapter. It*

*is simply for the main teaching scriptures, to show the framework of the elements of marriage I have discussed.*

## **Marital Headship**

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.

1 Corinthians 11:3

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:25-32)

## **Marital Submission**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Colossians 3:18

Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel—rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

1 Peter 3:1-6

### **The Role of Homemaker**

the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Titus 2:3-5

Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

1 Timothy 5:14

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1 Timothy 2:14-15

### **A Lifelong Union**

The Pharisees came and asked Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce *his* wife?” testing Him. And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?”

They said, “Moses permitted *a man* to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss *her*.” And Jesus answered and said to them, “Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘*made them male and female.*’ ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

“Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same *matter*.

So He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.

“And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Mark 10:2-12

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”

And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female,*’

“and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’?”

“So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”

He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality,<sup>[fn]</sup> and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry.”

But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given:

“For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*.”

Matthew 19:3-12

“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from *her* husband commits adultery.

Luke 16:18

Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.

So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Romans 7:1-4

Now to the married I command, *yet* not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from *her* husband.

But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband. And a husband is not to divorce *his* wife.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:39

### **Vessel for Bearing and Raising Children**

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:28

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So *are* the children of one’s youth.  
Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;  
They shall not be ashamed,  
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Psalms 127:3-5



Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,  
Your children like olive plants  
All around your table.

Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
Who fears the LORD.

Psalms 128:3-4

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.  
Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness,  
with self-control.

1 Timothy 2:14-15

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.  
“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your  
house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

For He established a testimony in Jacob,  
And appointed a law in Israel,  
Which He commanded our fathers,  
That they should make them known to their children;

That the generation to come might know *them*,  
The children *who* would be born,  
*That* they may arise and declare *them* to their children,

That they may set their hope in God,  
And not forget the works of God,  
But keep His commandments;

Psalms 78:5-7

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified  
by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

1 Corinthians 7:14

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 20:12

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

*“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

*For whom the LORD loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:5-11

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*“Honor your father and mother,”* which is the first commandment with promise:

*“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”*

Ephesians 6:1-3

Correct your son, and he will give you rest;  
Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

Proverbs 29:17

My son, hear the instruction of your father,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother;

For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head,  
And chains about your neck.

Proverbs 1:8-9

### **Free Love**

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

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### **Faith Statement**

*Without attempting to get into every doctrine, I include this statement of faith to let you know I accept orthodox Christian theology, from the Protestant arena*

The Bible is the word of the living God, and is infallible and inerrant in its autographs

God is by nature spirit, is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable and infinite in glory

God has made all creation ex nihilo, and is distinct from His creation

God is perfectly one in His nature and exists eternally in three Persons, the Father, Son and Spirit. They coexist and commune eternally and are equal in glory.

Mankind through his fall is alienated from God, suffering death, the moral corruption of his nature and being under condemnation of the Almighty

God became incarnate in the womb of the virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit

Jesus the Messiah is fully human and fully God

Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross as an atoning death for man's sin

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, appeared to His disciples and to the multitudes and ascended into heaven

Jesus is the only way to the Father, not one of many ways

The Holy Spirit dwells in the believer in Christ, leading him in truth and sanctifying him

Repentance from sin must come together with faith in Jesus

The dead will be raised, both the just and the unjust, before the final judgment of mankind

The Lord Jesus will return again in glory to judge both the living and the dead

The soul will reside eternally either in heaven or in hell

Moreover, the moral law has not changed, either in the prohibition of sodomy or the nature of marriage being one man and one woman for life.

While I respect other historical views, my understanding of the working of God's grace is Reformed.

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## **Obedience in Christ**

Jesus commands obedience and repentance. The book of Acts commands obedience and repentance. The Epistles command obedience and repentance. Revelation commands obedience and repentance. The fact that a single act is not the source of our justification is irrelevant. Good works are a necessary part of our life in Christ, and we fool ourselves if we think we do not need to do them. The Christian must live a holy life. He must live the way God has called him to live. The idea that one can sin freely as a Christian, and without repentance, is as anti-biblical and anti-Gospel as you could imagine. A Christian who sins without shame refutes his own faith. He denies his faith. He denies that Christ does what He says He does. A born again soul must live like one born again. If not, then no one in the world has a real reason to believe he is actually a Christian.

Some churches today like to teach that you can be born again, then end up sinning shamelessly for many years, and choose to dedicate your life to Christ later one day. This is a complete lie. A person who is born again is ALSO dedicated to Christ. That is the nature of the new birth. We are a new creation and God will be our God and we will be His people. (Jeremiah 31:33) We live in the newness of Christ's life. It may be true there is a learning process, but that learning process is actually uphill. It involves actively seeking the good we should desire on our heart. It means hating and staying away from the sins and temptations which could rob us of our goal. It means sorrow and repentance when we sin. That's an upward climb. The idea that a born again soul can flat-line for years is in great conflict with Scripture. For the Bible teaches that good fruit comes from a good tree. Bad fruit comes from a bad tree. A good tree cannot put forth bad fruit. A bad tree cannot put forth good fruit. (Matthew 7:16-20) The Christian who thinks he can flat-line and sin without repentance for years is not a Christian. His fruit is not Christian. His fruit is the fruit of the damned. The lost. It is bad fruit from a bad tree. The REAL Christian is already dedicated to the Savior, even if it takes some time to learn and grow. He is already doing that.

For those Christians who like to imagine their own sins as very small things, not like murder and rape, remember that is a false and overly convenient categorizing of sin. It is not just murderers who die and end up for eternity in hell. The Bible says that liars do not enter the kingdom of heaven. It says that fornicators and adulterers and sodomites do not enter. It says those practicing idolatry, drunkenness and other sins are not going where Christians end up going. There is no rest for the wicked. The Christian life should not just be free of murder. God forbid. It should be as stainless as our persistence and hard work can make it. Paul spoke about how he pressed into perfection, although he had not attained it. (Philippians 3:12) So should we. Don't forget, the same arguments the Christian make about how he can be saved and sin freely can likewise be made by the murderer, rapist or pedophile. Anyone can play that game. I'll just do evil for now,

and I'll dedicate my life to Christ later. Well, you could die tomorrow. How about that? And God says if you do, you are not entering into His kingdom. To believe in God is also to obey God. Any Christian who doesn't know that needs to pick up his Bible again and read it through. You're not going to miss it.

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<sup>i</sup> *Brag About Your Abortion*, by Sebo Marketing at [www.unitedfamiliesinternational.org](http://www.unitedfamiliesinternational.org)  
"Almost half my life ago, #ihadanabortion. I'm not sorry. I've never been sorry. I will never be sorry. Just very, very grateful."

*Cecile Richards Urges Women to Boast About Their Abortions*, by Rachel Stoltzfoos; Feb. 8, 2017 at [www.dailycaller.com](http://www.dailycaller.com)

<sup>ii</sup> *Effects of Music on the Mind*: at [www.psychologenie.com](http://www.psychologenie.com)

*The Surprising Science behind what Music does to our Brains* at [www.fastcompany.com](http://www.fastcompany.com)

*Sex, violence, & rock n' roll: Longitudinal effects of music on aggression, sex, and prosocial behavior during adolescence* by, Sarah M.Coyne Laura M.Padilla-Walker at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

*Does Rap Put Teens at Risk? Study: Association Found Between Video Viewing Time and Risky Behaviors*  
By Sid Kirchheimer at [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)

*Does Watching TV Damage Character* by B. Fitzpatrick; July, 2007 at [www.humanevents.com](http://www.humanevents.com)  
"The National Cultural Values Survey reveals a striking correlation between greater exposure to television and permissive moral views. Heavy television viewers (four hours or more per evening) are less committed to character virtues like honesty and charity, and more permissive about sex, abortion and homosexuality."

*The attitude of today's youth are affected by television programs*; March, 2015 at [www.ukessyas.com](http://www.ukessyas.com)  
"In a nutshell, television programs do affect the attitude of youth's today as it enhances negative social development amongst youths, which may lead to aggressive or violent behavior, and they tend to affect self development and self esteem."

<sup>iii</sup> It's a silly cultural habit, when you think about it. And it's anti-natural. Women spend on average \$10,000 dollars on razors and shaving products in their lifetime: *Razors and Blades for Shaving: Do Women Pay More?* by Anu Hastings; October 18, 2016 at [www.indix.com](http://www.indix.com)

<sup>iv</sup> We have heard an endless parade of people try and reinterpret Ephesians 5 so that a woman doesn't REALLY have to submit to her husband. How many have we heard reinterpret the same chapter so that a husband doesn't really have to love his wife? Not many. I wonder why.

<sup>v</sup> *The Nation; Women Doing Crime, Women Doing Time*, by Clifford Krauss, 1994 at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

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Author's note: Although this writer has all kinds of excuses for women in crime, and even seems to praise them for "branching out" of traditional crimes like prostitution, the evidence is not ambiguous that women are much more involved with crime than before, including violent crime.

*Women and the Criminal Justice System: Gender Matters*, by Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D. at [www.gvsu.edu](http://www.gvsu.edu)  
*Towards a Feminist Theory of Violence*, by Monica Pa, 2002 at <http://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu>

*Theories of Female Criminality: A criminological analysis*, by Mohammed J. Islam et al; International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory, Vol. 7, No. 1, December 2014,1-8  
"For example, Adler cited statistics from UCR that show that between 1960 and 1972, women's arrest rates for robbery increased 277 percent compared with a 169 percent increase for men (Curran and Renzetti: 2001). What is more, Adler argued that females were not only engaged in greater criminal activity than previously, but their crimes were assuming a more serious and violent character."

<sup>vi</sup> *Homicide Trends in the United States: 1900-74*, by A. Joan Klebba, MA at <http://europep.mc.org>

<sup>vii</sup> *The invisible domestic violence – against men*, by Nicola Graham-Kevan; June 7, 2011 at [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

"That women accounted for 7% of all convictions for domestic violence last year will come as a surprise to many. But what is not clear is whether the growing numbers of women convicted – a 150% increase in five years – represents a rise in actual cases of female-perpetrated domestic violence."

<sup>viii</sup> *Children from broken homes 'nine times more likely to commit crimes'*, by Andy Bloxham; November 4, 2010 at [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

<sup>ix</sup> *United States abortion rates, 1960-2013*, compiled by Wm. Robert Johnston at [www.johnstonarchive.net](http://www.johnstonarchive.net)

<sup>x</sup> *U.N. Complicit in Forced Sterilizations*, by Wendy McElroy; December 23, 2002 at [www.independent.org](http://www.independent.org)  
"Some Peruvian health workers reportedly received bonuses ranging variously from \$4 to \$12 U.S. for each woman they "persuaded" to have a tubal ligation. Doctors and hospitals were pressured to meet sterilization quotas. It's not surprising that reports and testimonials of forced sterilizations abound."

*Sterilization of Women and Girls with Disabilities*; November 10. 2011 at [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

*China's one-child policy itself leads to forced abortions*, PRI Staff at [www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org)  
"The draconian campaign that I witnessed began by ordering young mothers to have abortions, arresting them when they refused, and incarcerating them under conditions of extreme psychological pressure. Those who still refused were physically dragged into the local medical clinic, where they were held down on the operating table while they were aborted and sterilised. Many of these women were in the third trimester of pregnancy. Indeed, some were already in labour."

<sup>xi</sup> *The History of Christian Thought Upon Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage*, by Daniel Jennings at [www.danielrjennings.org](http://www.danielrjennings.org)



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<sup>xii</sup> Both 1 Corinthians 6:9 and Hebrews 13:4 are good examples, using the person form of the words: fornicators and adulterers. They are two different things. You also see them next to each other in Galatians 5:19. 1 Corinthians 7:2 speaks of having your own spouse in order to avoid fornication, so here it logically refers to avoiding immorality before marriage.

<sup>xiii</sup> *The Gospel of Matthew, Purpose and Audience* at [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com)

It is quite obvious and widely accepted that Matthew was written to the Jews. For one, he focuses on the fulfillment of the Old Testament, even quoting from it sixty-two times, which is more than any other Gospel writer. Secondly it is interesting that Matthew does not explain Jewish culture like the other evangelists ... which also adds to the argument that he is writing to Jews. Matthew uses the phrase, "kingdom of heaven," (the only author, in fact, to use this phrase) which can be considered as a "reverential Jewish expression" a term appropriate to a Jewish audience.

<sup>xiv</sup> *Infidelity Statistics 2017*; February 1, 2017 at [www.trustify.info](http://www.trustify.info)

“According to the Associated Press and the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 22% of men say that they've cheated on their significant other at least once during their marriage, and 14% of wives admit to straying.”

<sup>xv</sup> *Ben & Jerry's Hubby Hubby ice cream celebrates same-sex marriage*, by Eric Wahlgren; Sep 1, 2009 at [www.aol.com](http://www.aol.com)

<sup>xvi</sup> *Faith Reunited Them*, by Michelle Stewart; May 1, 2005 at [www.guidепosts.com](http://www.guidепosts.com)

<sup>xvii</sup> *Divorce Rate Comparisons Between Couples Using NFP & Artificial Birth Control*, by Brian Kopp DPM; July 23, 2010 at [www.freerepublic.com](http://www.freerepublic.com)

“The results presented from the three surveys analyzed revealed that compared to other women in general and to Catholic women of similar age, NFP users:

- have a dramatically low (0.2%) divorce rate;
- experience happier marriages;
- are happier and more satisfied in their everyday lives;
- have considerably more marital relations;
- share a deeper intimacy with spouse than those who contracept;”

<sup>xviii</sup> *Historical Divorce Rate Statistics*, by Jennifer Betts at <http://divorce.lovetoknow.com>

<sup>xix</sup> *Report: To Divorce-Proof Yourself, Don't Have Premarital Sex*, by Joy Pullman; June 6, 2016 at [thefederalist.com](http://thefederalist.com)

“In other words, having *any* premarital sex partners is positively correlated with much higher divorce rates (on a magnitude of a more than 300 percent increase, in the 2000 data!).”

<sup>xx</sup> *More than half of women who got an abortion last year were using contraception*, by Emma Court; August 11, 2017 at [www.marketwatch.com](http://www.marketwatch.com)

<sup>xxi</sup> *Studies: Birth Control / Contraception Do Not Cut Abortion Numbers*, by APFLI; Mar 3, 2012 at [www.physiciansforlife.org](http://www.physiciansforlife.org)

*Contraception Linked to Massive Rise in Abortion Rate*, by Patrick Craine; January 5, 2011 at [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com)

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<sup>xxii</sup> *How the Supreme Court's gay 'marriage' ruling is tied to abortion and contraception*, by Ben Johnson; July 9, 2015 at [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com)

“In his 5-4 decision, Justice Kennedy says the newly discovered constitutional right to enter into a homosexual “marriage” is granted, in part, by the “right to privacy.”

That right, first propounded by the court in 1965's *Griswold v. Connecticut* ruling, also conferred a woman's right to abortion-on-demand, according to the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.”

<sup>xxiii</sup> *Nebraska bishop: Contraception laid groundwork for Gosnell's 'House of Horrors'*, by Patrick Craine; May 1, 2013 at [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com)

“The justices wrote that ***Roe v. Wade*** could not be overturned “without serious inequity to people who, for two decades of economic and social developments, have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society, ***in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail***” (emphasis added).”

<sup>xxiv</sup> *Homeschool Fast Facts*, by Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.; Jan. 13, 2018 at [www.nheri.org](http://www.nheri.org)

- The home-educated typically score 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests. (The public school average is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile; scores range from 1 to 99.) A 2015 study found Black homeschool students to be scoring 23 to 42 percentile points above Black public school students (Ray, 2015).
- Homeschool students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents' level of formal education or their family's household income.
- Whether homeschool parents were ever certified teachers is not related to their children's academic achievement.

<sup>xxv</sup> Exodus Mandate is a good organization that helps lead families out of the bondage of secular education. I recommend going through all of their resources at [www.exodusmandate.org](http://www.exodusmandate.org)

<sup>xxvi</sup> *Study finds Women Don't Belong in Combat*, by Gil Ronan; November 6, 2014 at [www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com)

<sup>xxvii</sup> One point on respecting gender in our home, and this may seem a side issue, is to avoid the gender neutral Bibles. Modern Bibles take the gender neutral concept to varying degrees, but I would stay away from any of them if you want to be able to communicate about gender clearly. Even the milder versions, which at least describe God with a male pronoun (as the Hebrew does unanimously) will still use terms like human or person or someone where the male term ought to be used. There is a reason we refer to mankind and to man when speaking of the human race and use he to refer to a person who might be of any gender. This is out of respect for the fact that humanity come from...guess who...man. All people came from Adam, so male terms are appropriate for mixed groups. All people in the new creation come from Jesus of Nazareth, also a man.

When you see Bibles start to use terms which do not specify gender, you can be confident they have an agenda. They are weakening what is a traditional recognition of man's headship, and in doing so, they weaken doctrine on

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this subject. The worst, which refuse to call God “he” even though the Bible does, are a reflection of the extraordinary attack on biological gender and gender roles we see in this era. Moreover, there are times when gender neutral terms certainly are misleading. Sometimes the original used a gender specific term and it distorts that to replace it with a gender neutral one. Readers can easily figure out, as they have for millennia that terms like man, mankind or brothers refer to mixed groups. If you go with the agenda of Bibles that erase these terms, you are going with those who have a LOW respect for the Scriptures, and typically do not respect the Bible’s gender teachings to begin with. Using male terms for mixed groups respects the headship that man has.

<sup>xxviii</sup> *Poll Shows Sex within Marriage is More Fulfilling*, by Walt Larimore at [www.imom.com](http://www.imom.com)

*Who Has the Busier Bedroom: Single People or Married Couples*, by Dr. Justin Lehmler; August 18, 2011 at [www.scienceofrelationships.com](http://www.scienceofrelationships.com)

*A Cross-National Study of Subjective Sexual Well-Being among Older Women and Men: Findings from the Global Study of Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors*, by Laumann et al, [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

<sup>xxix</sup> I remember once when I was an unbeliever spending time with my partner in fornication. We were also spending time with another young couple living in sin. All of us were on hallucinogenic drugs. It struck me, as the drug powerfully affected my mind and heart, that the natural thing to do would be for me and my partner to stay together, and naturally children would be produced from this union. I could see it was the nature of things. I could also see powerfully how violent and unnatural it would be to separate us apart. I could see there was no reason to do this. Now I never acted on that profound feeling, yet it goes to show that people on drugs actually think more clearly than people on sin. Sin distorts the mind incredibly. More so than drugs. I don’t say that to justify drugs of any kind, only to point out the depravity of sin and what it does to the human mind. A man on drugs sees the world more clearly than a man on sin.

<sup>xxx</sup> Bloodhound Gang Lyrics, “The Bad Touch”, at [www.azlyrics.com](http://www.azlyrics.com)

<sup>xxxi</sup> Richard Dawkins Quotes About Evil, at [www.azquotes.com](http://www.azquotes.com)  
He contradicts himself here though, as he claims there is no good or evil in some statements, but then affirms their existence in others. That is the constant contradiction of the unbeliever.

*About Us*, Speaker Bios at [www.sexualityeducation.com](http://www.sexualityeducation.com)

While these are not actually professors as far as I can tell, they are alleged educators who speak to college age students and train them in fornication and sodomy. It is spiritually sick reading. I don’t recommend it.

<sup>xxxii</sup> *Mexican Drug Cartels Woo Texas Kids*, by Sarah Childress; October 17, 2011, at [www.pri.org](http://www.pri.org)

A Texas law enforcement official said that Mexican drug cartels have lured young children into the drug business.

Cartels call the kids "the expendables," Reuters reported.