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a resource in:

Marriage

The Christian Home



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I. DUTIES OF THE HUSBAND

A. Cleave to your wife.

The word “cleave” means “to adhere, cling, or stick fast; to be faithful.”

Genesis 2:23-24, “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

B. Be faithful to your wife.

Proverbs 5:15-21, “Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers’ with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”

C. Be joyful.

Thank God for your wife and family. Maintain a sense of joy in the Lord, even in difficult times.

Ecclesiastes 9:9, “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labor which thou takest under the sun.”

D. Be of one flesh.

This describes the most intimate of earthly relationships.

Mark 10:6-9, “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

E. Do not consider divorcing your wife.

The marriage covenant is a life-long obligation.

1 Corinthians 7:11, “. . . and let not the husband put away his wife.”

F. Love your wife as Christ loved the church.

We can scarcely comprehend how great a love this really is.

Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

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G. Love your wife as your own body.

Certainly we would not want to do any harm to our own bodies. Remember that a wife and husband are one flesh.

Ephesians 5:28, "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

H. Do not become bitter, even during times of disagreement.

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

I. Be a Christ-like leader of your home and family.

While this verse is referring to a qualification for an elder or deacon, it applies to all fathers.

1 Timothy 3:4, "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity."

J. Honor your wife.

You must attend to the emotional needs of your wife. Honor means "esteem, respect, reverence." When a husband and wife both show honor to each other, a wonderful marriage results.

1 Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

II. DUTIES OF THE WIFE

A. Honor your husband.

Honor means "esteem, respect, reverence."

Esther 1:20, ". . . all the wives shall give to their husbands honor, both to great and small."

B. Be faithful in all things.

While this verse refers to the wives of elders or deacons, it surely applies to all wives.

1 Timothy 3:11, "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

C. Care for your household.

Each wife needs to care for her household and not be neglectful of this duty.

Proverbs 31:27, "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

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D. Marriage is a life-long commitment.

Recognize that both of you are bound by the law of God and should not divorce.

Romans 7:2, "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth;"

1 Corinthians 7:10, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband."

E. Submit to your husband, as unto the Lord.

A wife should have no fear of submitting to her husband because the husband is instructed to have the same love for his wife as Christ has for the church.

Ephesians 5:22-23, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

Colossians 3:18, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."

F. Live above reproach.

A married woman has the opportunity to be a witness of Christ's love to her family and the world. Satan wants to tarnish and impair our effectiveness as ambassadors for Christ.

1 Timothy 5:14, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

G. Those who are older are to teach the younger.

While this verse is directed to the older women, it also gives excellent instructions to the younger wives and really applies to all ages.

Titus 2:4-5, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

H. Christ's love in your heart is to be reflected in your lifestyle.

By focusing on keeping your heart right with God, your lifestyle will point your husband to a closer walk with God.

1 Peter 3:1-4, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

III. DUTIES OF BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE

A. Marriage is for life, and the laws of man cannot change the law of God.

Matthew 19:6, "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

B. Each should submit to the other.

Having an attitude of mutual submission will bless your marriage. Neither spouse is to dominate the other.

Ephesians 5:21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

C. Treat each other with mercy, kindness, longsuffering, and forgiveness.

This was not written specifically to the husband and wife, but it surely applies. If we follow these verses, there will be no problem in the home that cannot be resolved.

Colossians 3:12-14, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

D. Give attention to your sexual relationship.

God created sexuality and has given it for a blessing to married couples. He promises His blessing and presence in marriage. This is a wonderful promise if we stay true to God and to our spouse.

Hebrews 13:4, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

E. Be good stewards of what you have, and be content.

Manage your finances according to biblical principles and God will provide for you. This is a wonderful promise if we stay true to God and to our spouse.

Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

F. Treat each other with compassion, love, and courtesy.

The entire chapter of 1 Peter 3 provides good instruction for both husbands and wives.

1 Peter 3:8, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"

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IV. DUTIES OF PARENTS

A. Instruct your children that they are not to forget the teachings of God.

Deuteronomy 4:9-10, "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children."

B. Remind your children of God's laws.

Do this consistently, every day and even several times each day. Remember that one of the most effective teaching methods is being an example.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

C. Discipline your children. Be firm but gentle; do not abuse them.

They will learn to respect us if we set boundaries for them.

Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Colossians 3:21, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

D. Focus on training your children to know Christ.

Your most important role as a parent is to teach your children the truth of the Word. Do not become discouraged if your children have not responded to your training. With God's help, continue to plant seeds that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

E. Maintain the importance of family worship.

Sometimes we are so busy that we don't take time to pray or read the Word. This is why Paul was critical of the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 10:7, "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

F. Set a proper example.

How can we expect our children to repent and support the body of Christ if we become lax and are not obedient? We must be consistent examples in our individual walks with the Lord.

Isaiah 28:9-10, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."