

CHRIST, HUSBANDS, WIVES, & CHILDREN

THE MOST AVOIDED SUBJECT FOR FEAR OF OFFENSE

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The following series of four messages is to those who are born of the Spirit; to those who are indwelt by the Spirit; to those who are led by the Spirit; and to those who are sealed by the Spirit until the day of redemption. Let the Spirit of the living God reveal to you, "as unto babes" (MATT. 11:25 & LUKE 10:21), the **TRUTH** of God's word.

The first time the word "husband" is found in the scriptures, is in the book of Genesis when the woman Eve "...took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her **HUSBAND** with her; and he did eat" (GENESIS 3:6).

God commanded the husband that "...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **thou shalt not eat of it**; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (GENESIS 2:17). But the husband failed God; not because he was deceived, for the scripture declares that the husband "...**was not deceived**, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 TIM. 2:14).

No, the husband failed God because of his **weakness**: he "...hearkened unto the voice of [HIS] wife" (GENESIS 3:17). Satan recognized this weakness in man, and has exploited it throughout man's generations.

Satan has deterred many great men through the influence of a woman: **Abraham hearkened to the voice of Sarah his wife**, and went in unto Hagar, and the father of the Arabs was born (GENESIS 16:2); Samson told Delilah "all his heart" after "she pressed him daily with her words" and told her the secret of his strength. It cost him his sight (JUDGES 16:16-17). And King Solomon "...loved many strange women." And his "seven hundred wives...turned away his heart" (1 KINGS 11:1-3).

But God has established an "order" of submission within the kingdom of God: "...the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 COR. 11:3).

God also provided a pattern of behavior for the husband to follow, an example of "love" and self-sacrifice, which Jesus demonstrated:

Husbands are to "love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (EPHES. 5:25).

As Jesus "gave himself" for the church, husbands should "give themselves" for their wives. God is very clear about this: husbands ought to "...love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it" (EPHES. 5:28-29).

This is the true definition of what love really is, not according to Hollywood, but according to God who **GAVE** His only Son for the world, and Jesus who **GAVE** his life for the church, and the husband who **GIVES** himself for his wife.

As we, the church, "...are members of [CHRISTS'] body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (EPHES. 5:30), even so shall the husband "...be joined unto his wife, and THEY TWO shall be ONE FLESH" (EPHES 5:31).

As the head, the husband has a grave responsibility towards his wife: he is to "nourisheth and cherisheth" her, and "not to be bitter" against her (COL. 3:19), but "...giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 PETER 3:7).

As **HEIRS** together of the grace of life, they also pray together for their children, their families, their friends and of course, each other. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (PROVERBS 31:10), and her husband knows it..

In the book of Revelation, when our salvation is complete, the 24 elders, which represents all those who have trusted in God by **FAITH**, will submit their rewards before their HEAD, even Christ. We will "...fall down before him [JESUS] that [sits] on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast [OUR] crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power" (REV. 4:10-11).

Then Jesus will submit all to his **HEAD**, "...when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him [HIS FATHER] that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (1 COR. 15:28). Amen!



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