

# Stewardship 101

## Lesson 2

### Marriage

#### PART I EXPLANATION

**Introduction:** The home is the institution created by God to preserve purity in the human race. It is an institution that prevents society from utter confusion. Imagine what the condition of society would be if there were no such thing as the home. There would be no marriages, nobody would know who their parents were, who they were related to, children would be left to raise themselves, etc. Actually, that is almost a description of our society, because we have forsaken the biblical pattern for the home. The home allows Christian people to separate from society and rule themselves according to the Bible. The home is to be a refuge for the family to enjoy in retirement from the world, where the Word of God is constantly reinforced and regarded. For this reason, the home of the Christian should closely follow the teachings of Scripture and seek to be glorifying to God. There is serious opposition in this society to the biblical model. The home is a primary battleground in the contest for the souls of men. Every aspect of the biblical model is attacked by the philosophies of this world.

Nothing is more disputed in our society than the marriage relationship, which is the foundation of the home. Marriage is a covenant relationship for life between a man and a woman. In a marriage, each spouse is making a vow before God to fulfill their particular role. The key to a successful home, one that is glorifying to God, is a marriage that understands and conforms to the biblical roles of marriage. Failure to fulfill these vows and follow the biblical pattern is the cause of rampant divorce, no matter how outdated and unreasonable these roles seem to be.

The role of the husband is to be the head of the home. The primary commitment made by the husband is to love and cherish his wife and family and to be a loving authority in the home. With this authority, he is given the responsibility to provide, guide, and decide for the home. He is also responsible for the oversight, instruction, and training of the children and for maintaining the spiritual atmosphere. As the head he will ultimately give account to God for his home.

The role of the wife is to help the husband fulfill these many aspects of managing a home. The primary commitment made by the wife is to submit to the leadership of the husband. She is not expected to submit to the leadership of every man, just her husband. The woman is not obligated to any man until marriage. Therefore, the primary decision for a woman to make when deciding to marry is whether she can and will submit to his head-ship over her.

Failure in this commitment by either party will result in a home that is dysfunctional. A husband who abdicates his God given responsibility or that rules with an iron fist is disastrous to a healthy home. He must take into consideration the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of his wife and children by following the biblical model. So also a wife that refuses to submit to her husband and hinders instead of helps is contributing to the breakdown of the home.

One need only look at the state of marriages and children in society today to recognize the absolute failure of the home since it has departed from the biblical model. However, the world's model for a home is so deeply entrenched that it requires a serious commitment to follow the biblical pattern and 'swim upstream' in order to turn the destructive trends that the home is taking in the world.

**Definitions:** *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Home** -

**Family** -

**Marriage** -

**Head** -

Greek: (3614) **oikia** *oy-kee'-ah*

Hebrew: (1004) **bayith** *bah'-yith*

(4725) **maqom** *maw-kome'*

**Quotation**:

“As God by creation made two of one, so again by marriage He made one of two.” Thomas Adams

“The wife was made of the husband’s rib; not of his head, for Paul calleth the husband the wife’s head; not of the foot, for he must not set her at his foot The servant is appointed to serve, and the wife to help. If she must not match with the head, nor stoop at the foot, where shall he set her then? He must set her at his heart, and therefore she which should lie in his bosom was made in his bosom.” Henry Smith

“Woman takes her being from man, man takes his well-being from woman.” Thomas Adams

“To direct thee to a right choice...the Holy Ghost gives thee two rules in the choice of a wife, godliness and fitness...if they be not like, they will not like.” Henry Smith

“Look not for better within that thou seest without, for every one seemeth better than she is; if the face be vanity, the heart is pride.” Henry Smith

“First, he must choose his love, and then he must love his choice.” Henry Smith

“A prudent wife commands her husband by obeying him.” John Trapp

“A gracious wife satisfieth a good husband, and silenceth a bad one.” George Swinnock

“If he cannot reform his wife without beating, he is worthy to be beaten for choosing no better.” Henry Smith

“Knowing once a couple which were both choleric, and yet never fell out, I asked the man how they did order the matter that their infirmity did not make them discord? He answered me, When her fit is upon her, I yield to her, as Abraham did to Sarah; and when my fit is upon me, she yields to me: and so we never strive together, but asunder.” Henry Smith

“If thou art a man of holiness, thou must look more for a portion of grace in thy wife, than a portion of gold with thy wife; thou must look more after righteousness than riches; more after piety than money; more after the inheritance she hath in heaven than the inheritance she hath on earth; more at her being new born, than at her being high born.” Thomas Brooks

“When Adam was away, Eve was made a prey.” Henry Smith

“I believe that, when the house and the church pull together, things are right; but when religion is made to be a thing of the church, and not of the house, when the priest is looked to instead of the father, when men cease to be priests in their own houses, then the very sinews of vital godliness have been cut. If I had to give up all week-day services, and shut up every place of worship in Christendom from Sunday to Sunday, I would prefer to do that rather than lose the morning and evening gathering of devout households worshipping God. Charles Spurgeon

**Confessions** (Look up and read these articles)

### **London Baptist Confession of 1689**

Chapter 25: of marriage - paragraphs 1-4

## **PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. Why was the institution of the home created by God?
2. How is the home a refuge from the world?
3. What is the foundation of the home?
4. What is a marriage?
5. What is the role of the husband in the home?
6. What is the role of the wife in the home?
7. What commitment is the husband making in marriage?
8. What commitment is the wife making in marriage?

9. How do you build a home?

10. Why is the home in such disrepair today?

**Key Scriptures:** *(Look up these verses and fill in the blanks)*

Genesis 1:27-28 God created man in His image \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ created He them. His blessing and command to them was that they be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the earth and that they were to have \_\_\_\_\_ over it.

Genesis 2:18 God declared that it was not good for man to be \_\_\_\_\_ so He made him a \_\_\_\_\_ sufficient for him.

Genesis 2:24 When God created the home he declared that in marriage, a man was to \_\_\_\_\_ the home of his parents and establish his own home and that they becomes \_\_\_\_\_ flesh.

Genesis 3:16-19 The curse for woman is \_\_\_\_\_ in conception, that her \_\_\_\_\_ would be to her \_\_\_\_\_ and that he would \_\_\_\_\_ over her. The curse for man is that the ground was cursed and it would require \_\_\_\_\_ to produce a crop.

I Timothy 3:4-5,12 One of the qualification for a bishop and a deacon is that they \_\_\_\_\_ well their own house.

I Timothy 5:4,8 God expects man to show \_\_\_\_\_ at home and to \_\_\_\_\_ for his own, especially they of his own \_\_\_\_\_ and that the failure to do so is equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_ the faith and being worse than an \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 2:1-7 The Bible gives clear instruction for the roles of each age group in the home. Men are to speak \_\_\_\_\_ and be an example in all areas. Older woman are expected to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ women to be sober, to \_\_\_\_\_ their husbands, to love their \_\_\_\_\_, to be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at home, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ to their \_\_\_\_\_ husbands that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God be not \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is \_\_\_\_\_ and the marriage bed is \_\_\_\_\_ but whoremongers and adulterers God will \_\_\_\_\_.

I Peter 3:1-7 Wives are expected to be in \_\_\_\_\_ to their \_\_\_\_\_ husbands, that if they are not a Christian they may be \_\_\_\_\_ by the lifestyle of their

\_\_\_\_\_ which is chaste. They will not be won by the \_\_\_\_\_ adorning but the \_\_\_\_\_ man of the \_\_\_\_\_ even a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ spirit which is of great \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. They are to follow the example of \_\_\_\_\_ women who \_\_\_\_\_ in God and adorned themselves by being in

\_\_\_\_\_ to their \_\_\_\_\_ husbands. Husbands are expected to dwell with their wives according to \_\_\_\_\_ giving \_\_\_\_\_ unto the wife as unto a \_\_\_\_\_ vessel and as being \_\_\_\_\_ together and that your

\_\_\_\_\_ together not be \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

I Corinthians 7

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** Joshua 24:15

**Personal Definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Marriage -

**Personal Application:** Ask your spouse what one thing you can do to improve your marriage.

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*) How is the marriage relationship a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church?

**Extra Credit:** Read the Book “Reforming Marriage” by Douglas Wilson