

# LOVING MY WIFE



HOW SHOULD A HUSBAND LOVE AND  
PRAY FOR HIS WIFE?

*Insights from Scripture*

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## Author's Preface

Most all societies, religions and cultures would agree that marriage between a man and a woman is good and important for many reasons. Further, they would probably all agree that the keeping of marriages together is a challenge, again for many reasons.

Christians believe that the Bible, which is God's Word to mankind, has spoken specifically to us about marriage. The Bible speaks of marriage as a vital human relationship for society, child raising and the advancement of God's purposes here on earth.

Most of the ideas and thoughts are packaged to help husbands and wives love each other more and have that love be a reflection of the love Jesus has for his church.

The apostle Paul wrote, within the content of the Bible, a passage within a larger book to a church in Ephesus, a part of modern day Turkey, around 62 AD telling us about how the marriage relationship can work, and work well. This passage (Ephesians 5:22-35) has two components, addressing first wives (v. 22-24) and second husbands (v. 25-35). This is the longest section in the Bible addressing husbands in marriage.

This booklet has divided this passage (Ephesians 5:25-35) into three parts: first, What the husband **does** for his wife in a general introduction; second, What the wife **becomes** as a result of what the husband does for his wife; third, What the husband **does** for his wife. This part is more specific than part one.

Below each of the three main topics are detailed sections. Part one has three sections, and parts two and three have eight sections each. Within each section are passages from the Bible, which help provide clarity to the meaning of the passage.

So how can meditation on this passage about marriage be used? First, the main purpose of this booklet is to encourage husbands to use this as a guide to pray for their wives, which hopefully should help them develop a right and correct love for their wives. Second, one can simply read it and glean a clearer and deeper understanding to the passage on marriage. Third, as a result of reading this, one can do a broader study on marriage in the Bible. Fourth, one can memorize and meditate on the passage.

The assumption that a man and a woman normally know how to love has some truth but it also has potential limitations. In one sense it is probably no more true than a normal person knows how to treat diabetes or build a bridge or parent their children. Loving in marriage is a skill to learn and—like any exercise—makes the end goal more easy to obtain. The goal here is a happy and loving marriage, which honors God and allows a married couple

to really enjoy being with one another. A beautiful marriage has been compared to a beautiful piece of art and it takes that level of skill to make it work.

Teenagers, young adults, college students, singles, both male and female should also consider reading this to gain some insights into what kind of person they should marry. Someone they are considering marrying should at least have a bent to wanting these values in their potential spouse.

Finally, parents (both mothers and fathers) can read this to their younger children and teenagers, giving them insights into what the Bible says about their marriage relationship. These same parents can also use this as a prayer guide as they pray for their children and grandchildren in relation to their marriages.

It is hard to imagine that a husband who has the sacrificial attitude to become as this passage says he should be and who prays for his wife cannot help but to have a stronger, happier, and more God honoring marriage.

**Solo Deo Gloria.**

*To God be the Glory.*

# Part One: What the Husband Does for His Wife

EPHESIANS 5:25 | HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER...

## Love Your Wife

The declaration that husbands should do this (love your wife) is not just an optional exercise, but a mandate.

- I Corinthians 13:4-8

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

This passage is a list of what is love and what isn't; what it does and doesn't do.

- Galatians 5:22-23

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

This details specific virtues and values that love does, is, and has.

## As Christ Loved the Church

The love Jesus Christ had was totally sacrificial, and he gave up everything for the church. This was a totally selfless love and a love the husband should have for his wife.

- Ephesians 1:3-23

This shows God's all-encompassing love of His Son, Jesus Christ, and later in us total sacrifice. This is the love a husband is to have for his wife.

- Ephesians 3:20-21

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

This passage shows how, through Jesus Christ, we have the ability and power to love our wives as Christ loved the church.

### **Gave Himself Up For Her**

- Philippians 2:5-11

This is possibly the best passage in the whole of the Bible detailing out the example of sacrifice by Jesus Christ for us. As such, this is a good example for husbands as how to sacrifice for their wives.

## Part Two: What the Wife Becomes

EPHESIANS 5:26-27 | THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY HER, HAVING CLEANSED HER BY THE WASHING OF WATER WITH THE WORD, SO THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT THE CHURCH TO HIMSELF IN SPLENDOR, WITHOUT SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY SUCH THING, THAT SHE MIGHT BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.

### To Make Her Holy

Holy means to be distinct from a world that is selfish and self-absorbed. A husband who loves his wife, like Christ loves the church and sacrificially gives up for her, helps his wife be holy to God and distinct from the selfishness of the world by his acts. The subsequent seven points show how this holiness evolves. A husband should both model and pray for this value of holiness for his wife.

- Leviticus 11:44-45

*For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

This is a foundational verse in the Bible. The concept of the holiness of God is an important attribute of God that He possesses and wants us to possess. The focus of the whole of the book of Leviticus is holiness in man's life and specifically, as we are talking here, about a husband and wife's life together in marriage.

- I Peter 1:15-16

*But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

These two verses are taken from Leviticus 11:44-45 and show the New Testament emphasis on life before God, which is to be holy.

## Cleansing Through the Word

The first clarification of holiness is that it comes through God's Word, which serves as a cleanser to our lives physically, morally, ethically, and spiritually.

- II Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

This passage provides clarity as to how God's Word cleanses us. It first teaches us in God's ways, then rebukes, then corrects, and finally trains us in how to do what is right before God. Does the husband model and pray this for his wife?

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to model the use of Scripture in my life before my wife so that it results in her holiness.

- Hebrews 4:12

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

The Word of God here shows its ability to go into our thought processes and physically give life and help us to learn to discern right from wrong, which is one aspect of holiness.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to live out a life before my wife that shows the Scripture working to help me more clearly discern right from wrong.

## Present Her to Himself As a Radiant Church

After the Word cleanses us, we are to present our wives as radiant to Jesus. This would be radiant both internally and externally.

- Matthew 5:14-16

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others,*

*so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

The discussion here is about being the light of the world before people so that they may see your good works and glorify Jesus. A wife's radiance should be a reflection of God's glory and be a testimony to the world of a loving, stable marriage.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to assist my wife in becoming this radiant person you want her to be.

- Psalm 34:4-5

*I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look for him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.*

David, the author here, notes that those who look to God become radiant and have no shame. This encourages husbands to model and pray consistently, looking to God to aid their wives to be more radiant.

- Exodus 34:29-30

*When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking to God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.*

Moses on Mt. Sinai spoke with God. As a result he was radiant. He was not aware of his radiance, but others were. The radiance our wives reflect will be real and seen by others. What an answer to the prayers of a praying husband.

- II Corinthians 3:7-18

This passage expands on the Exodus 34 passage, showing in the New Testament that radiance comes through Jesus Christ in our lives. The prayer is for us to be more like Jesus Christ, to model that which our wives would want to have, and thus they become more radiant as we model and pray for them.

## Without Stain

The concept here is not to be polluted by the world or the sin in our life, which reaches to all areas of life whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, but to be free from that stain of sin in our lives as much as we are able to accomplish with the help of Jesus.

- Jeremiah 2:22

*Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord God.*

Men and women can clean themselves on the outside so that they shine. However, what causes them unhappiness is the guilt they have before God. That stain is what needs to be changed.

**Prayer:** Lord, for my wife and me, keep our hearts stain free toward you.

- Isaiah 63:1

*Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."*

Not all stains are bad in life, especially the stain which can save us from the wrongdoings of life: the stain of the blood of Jesus Christ which forgave us our sins.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to be thankful for that salvation through your blood daily; I pray my wife and I can know this ever more clearly.

## Or Wrinkle

This word 'wrinkle' is from an obsolete Greek verb 'rhuo', signifying 'to draw together', describing the flawlessness of the complete church, as the result of the love of Christ in giving Himself up for it, the purpose of presenting it to Himself thereafter.

- I Peter 3:1-6

This does not mean that God does not like beauty, for He does, as He is the creator of beauty. But in a world that is dying, and because we live in a world that is in

the realm of death, physical beauty fades, no matter how hard we try, and doesn't satisfy the soul. Furthermore, the satisfaction of the heart is from knowing Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help us to know you. Let that love and beauty satisfy our hearts and do not let it fade. Let my wife know of the complete joy and satisfaction in you alone.

## Or Any Other Blemish

Again, the goal here is to be radiant, or to be like Jesus in contrast to the stains, wrinkles, and blemishes we have, and to gain anything else which might limit radiance. Lord, help me to see how to help myself work out the blemishes in myself in such a way that my wife will see the importance of eliminating those blemishes in her life.

- I Peter 1:18-19

*Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot...*

Being without blemish is what we want to strive for. Only Jesus was without blemish. Understanding the blood of Jesus in our lives (what Jesus did by dying in our place) helps us to move more and more each day toward becoming without blemish.

**Prayer:** I pray that I will model this for my wife, and I pray that she will more and more understand what being without blemish means in her life through Jesus.

- Hebrews 9:14

*How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

The unblemished Christ allowed His blood to cleanse our consciences so we may serve God.

**Prayer:** God, I pray today that my wife will be unblemished and that her conscience will more and

more become cleansed so she may love You more and serve You better.

### **...But Holy**

*See Holy above.* The second mention serves to place emphasis on holiness. Also, this is in contrast to having stain, wrinkles, or other blemishes.

**Prayer:** I pray that I understand that in possessing Jesus, You have for my wife all she needs to be holy and that You will also help me to model this for my wife.

### **...And Blameless**

- I Corinthians 1:8

*Who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We all need strength, as life can be a challenge at times. To be able to make it through life and be blameless is a challenge.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray for my wife, that You will give her strength through life each day and to the end of her life to be blameless. Help her to encourage that strengthening process.

- Ephesians 1:4

*Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

This passage shows God's great love throughout eternity for us. He chose my wife a long time ago to be holy and blameless. It also says that our hope in being blameless is God's work, and not so much our work. He will bring us to be and make us blameless.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I praise you that my wife is to be holy and blameless. Help me to daily encourage and foster that process that you choose.

- Philippians 2:14-15

*Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without*

*blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...*

Being without blame is predicated on not having a complaining and arguing life. I need to model that and pray that for my wife.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I pray for myself and for my wife that I will not have a complaining and arguing spirit in all I do. I pray that I will model this life before my wife.

- I Thessalonians 2:10

*You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.*

Paul's life mirrored this quality of being blameless. He did this by acting as a father does toward a child. He specifically encouraged, comforted and urged the Thessalonians to live a life worthy of God.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray that I will encourage, comfort and urge my wife to live a life worthy of You, that I will do this in a way that is loving and sacrificial and not being coercive. I then pray that as a result, my wife will become more and more blameless in her life toward you.

## Part Three: What the Husband Does for His Wife

THIS FINAL SECTION SWITCHES BACK TO WHAT THE HUSBAND DOES FOR HIS WIFE. IT IS TRUE THAT TO HELP HIS WIFE BECOME AND DEVELOP ALL OF THESE ATTITUDES AND VIRTUES MENTIONED IN THE PRIOR SECTION, A HUSBAND MUST MODEL THESE SAME ATTITUDES AND VIRTUES. HOWEVER, IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION MORE PRECISION IS GIVEN AS TO WHAT THE HUSBAND SHOULD DO FOR HIS WIFE FOR HER TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS.

### **Love Wife as Own Body** – Ephesians 5:28a

*In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.*

- Romans 6:13-14

*Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

My physical body, as well as my emotions, thoughts, and spirit should be offered less and less to sin and more and more to God so that I will be able to love my wife more and more as my own body.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to offer my body more and more to you as an instrument of what is right in all that I do, whether physical, spiritual, or emotional, and as a result love my wife more and more.

- Romans 12:1

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

Our physical bodies are to be offered as living sacrifices to God. If this is so, I need to honor my body in a way, which reflects this sacrifice of worship to God with both attitude and actions. I should also have the same reverence of sacrificial love for my wife (though not in the sense of worship).

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray that I will love my wife more and more in daily sacrifices of life.

- I Corinthians 6:13-21

This is an important passage in the Bible relating to a man loving his wife as his own body. The goal is to honor God with my body, especially in the physical realm and particularly in the sexual realm. How can I love my wife if I do not have control in that aspect of my life in thoughts, actions, and words?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray that I honor with my body, especially in the sexual realm, and as a result have a deeper love for my wife as I love her as my own body.

- Ephesians 5:30

*Because we are members of his body.*

I and my wife—as believers in Christ—are members of Christ’s body (Jesus’ Church), and by not loving my wife as I do my body, I do a disservice not only to her but to the body (church) as a whole in not loving her in a correct manner.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to see that how I treat my wife, especially in the physical and sexual realm, have strong implications for the rest of believers in the body, i.e. Jesus’ church.

- Matthew 5:27-30

This passage helps us to see that physical involvement with another woman (i.e. sexual intercourse) besides my wife before marriage begins in the thought life.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to have a pure thought life by being disciplined in what I see and thereby honor you and my wife (or my wife to be).

## **He Who Loves His Wife Loves Self – Ephesians 5:28b**

*He who loves his wife loves himself.*

This phrase goes back again to the Second Great Commandment to ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ (Leviticus 19:18). However, this phrase flips the thought over and starts by saying and showing that if we love our wife, we also show love for ourselves and thus complete the loop of thought. In other words, by loving our wife we show a healthy love for ourselves.

- Philippians 2:1-11

Our interest should also be of others. Key to this passage is verse four (*“Let each of you look not only to his own interests...”*). The next six verses after verse four show the humility Jesus had for us. He sacrificed everything for us. I should do the same for my wife.

**Prayer:** Lord, I pray that I will both have and move toward such a level of humility and service in my own life toward my wife.

### **No One Ever Hates His Own Body** – Ephesians 5:29a

*For no one ever hated his own flesh...*

One may think this phrase is incorrect at face value. However, Paul (the author) goes on to show that people feed and care for themselves in some way. His point is that even in some simple way a husband would care for himself and thus should care for his wife.

- Romans 12:9

*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*

Our own love must be more than mere sentimental outpourings; it must be sincere, real with meaning. As a result, good and bad are clearer: the good we cling to and the bad we hate, knowing the difference is at times hard, but the wisdom of the scriptures helps us sort this out.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I pray that I will hate any evil—which either through pride or lack of knowledge allows my body to be used in a way which dishonors God or my wife—and thus love my body in a healthy way.

- Psalms 119:113

*I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.*

Double-minded men do not use their bodies rightly precisely because they are in two minds and struggle with where to go with these thoughts. It is God’s word which helps and prevents us from being less double-minded and more focused on what is right and good.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray that I will love God's Law (His Word) so much so that it will eliminate hatred for my body in an unhealthy way and thus bring honor to God and to my wife.

### **But He Feeds** – Ephesians 5:29

*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church...*

Note that this is distinct from caring for, which is the next listed value. This would include physical, emotional, and spiritual feeding and the time and responsibility needed to make this happen. Also note that while important, this concept is also buried within other values of the husband-wife relationship.

- John 21:15

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."*

Jesus desires for me to feed my wife in a physical, emotional, and spiritual manner. This verse probably has more emphasis on spiritual feeding. How can I do this? Encouragement in a daily quiet time, allowing her time away, praying with her and the family, etc. How can I daily be encouraging to my wife to feed spiritually and emotionally? What steps do I need to take so that she is secure in all three of these areas?

- Matthew 6:26-34

Ultimately the feeding of my wife and family (either in a physical, emotional, or spiritual means) is by our heavenly Father. My wife is valuable to the Father and He will feed her in these areas. God in His own timing and way can provide the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for my wife. This verse should also free me from worry, given God's promise of provision.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray that you will help me to rely on the fact that you are the ultimate provision for my wife and family and for my wife to rest secure in this as well.

- I Thessalonians 4:11-12

*And to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.*

Our ambition in the realm of work should be to mind our own business and work hard and provide for the needs of our family as husbands and fathers. This does not mean that our wives are not able and skilled to work and make money as well (see Proverbs 31:10-31). However, it does mean that the backbone of provision is with the husband as long as he is able to provide (See Genesis 1:26-31 and 3:17-19).

### **Cares For** – Ephesians 5:29

*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church...*

The difference between feeding and caring can be a fine line, but it is different. When a farmer feeds his cows or sheep or chickens, that is important. But he also does other things for their well-being. For example, he builds fences so wild animals will not attack them. He builds barns to protect them from bad weather. He provides care to protect them from disease, and so on. This is the concept here for husbands with their wives.

- I Peter 5:2

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly...*

While it is true that this passage applies to leadership in the church, the same concept applies to life in the family. Shepherding is merely caring for others, and as heads of their homes the husband needs to have this attitude. The attitude of a shepherd is that of constantly learning how to care for those under my care.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me in my daily life to continually see how I can be more understanding and caring for my wife in her daily life.

- Psalm 23

Certainly, of all places in the Bible, this passage dwells in a more focused and clear manner on the concept of

caring, using a shepherd as an example of this. This passage focuses on God as the shepherd, but it does acknowledge that the shepherd is a real life analogy for which we as humans can use to understand how God cares for us. As such, since this analogy is human, meaning that the shepherd in it can be applied to fathers in caring for their family as a shepherd cares for their flock.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, this is a rich passage, which shows me how to care in a variety of ways. Help me to learn how to care for my family as God cares for me and as a shepherd cares for His sheep in this passage.

### **Man Leaves Father and Mother – Ephesians 5:31**

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

- Genesis 2:24

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

This section of Scripture from the book of Genesis was written about events 4-5,000 years ago, and like all of God’s Word are as relevant today as the day they were written. The idea is that of a husband leaving his parents. This leaving is not just a physical leaving, but emotional and spiritual as well. Why is it just the man given this command? Perhaps they have a harder time leaving their home and taking the responsibility of family leadership. Regardless, the command is a total leaving to form a new family unit. Further, the leaving is not over time but at once, though in reality this leaving does not occur over time as the husband and wife grow into a family unit over time with its unique identity.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to know the reality of leaving my family I was born into and looking to lead the family You have allowed me to start with my wife.

### **United to His Wife – Ephesians 5:31**

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

The leaving is not just to allow a man leaving to go hunting or be involved in a sport or work or being with just any or many women or anything he would like to do, but it is focused on his wife and uniting with her. This is a very singular minded focus.

- Malachi 2:10-16

The LORD desires from me to have faithfulness to my wife in this concept of uniting more than offerings or sacrifice to God or anything else in the world, for that matter (except for my relation to God himself). It is permanent and once and for all uniting, as long as one of us is still alive. That unity is not to be broken, and that commitment and unity is taken seriously by God.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to see the importance of this unity in my marriage with my wife and the seriousness of that covenant relationship, which not only brings you honor but gives my wife and me joy.

- Matthew 19:4-6

*He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

God created humans and the ability for a man and a wife to be joined, and then joined the man and the woman. This unity is at the heart of marriage and should thus be absolutely protected. Further, this unity is at the core of marriage and not just the creation of a new unity with two people (though it is that), but a unity, which should not be broken until the death of one of them takes place.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to see what this unity in marriage means over time, what it means to you, and how I can daily strengthen the unity with my wife.

## **Two Become One Flesh – Ephesians 5:31**

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

- Genesis 2:24

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

'One flesh' is a mystery, but also a state and a process at the same time. The Bible mentions this statement four times. It is mentioned here in Genesis at the Creation of the world and man, but also three times in the New Testament. This standard was given before the fall of man, and then repeated after the fall. It is important, as it is mentioned for man and woman to give absolute clarity about Adam and Eve's sexual relationship before God and the world even before their covenant relationship in marriage began. This concept of oneness is not static, but a dynamic ongoing process where the husband and wife become more and more one over time.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to understand as a husband the depth of meaning this has for my wife and me.

- Matthew 19:3-6

*And the Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*

This passage is Jesus repeating the exact statement mentioned in Genesis 2:24. This has several important points of emphasis. First, Jesus' support of oneness as being correct. Second, things have not changed since the beginning; in other words, one man and one woman. Third, oneness is supported by Jesus in place of divorce.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me to see more clearly how to help my marriage be not two people, but growing into oneness.

Finally, by way of summary, we believe the Bible to be the way God has chosen to speak to mankind and help him know how to live life. That would include the important institution of marriage. Since we believe God through Jesus Christ to be the source of all knowledge and wisdom, knowing what He has to say on this subject is important. The Bible says that there are two things a wife should do to her husband, which is to respect and to submit. The husband has 19 things he should do or be towards his wife, mirroring the example Jesus set for his church, which is total sacrifice. This small booklet is meant to help husbands especially to know and understand this important role in life, as well as for single men and women, the wives of husbands, and their children. It is my hope that this it will help the church to be a shining example of what a beautiful marriage is before the watching world, and help marriages thus to bring glory to God.