

Preparation for Godly Marriage Part 3

“25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” (Ephesians 5:25-33 KJV)

We continue in this message to speak about the preparation for Godly marriage and we will continue our discussion in point **V. God gave responsibility and authority to the man:**

Husbands should love their wives and care for them, the same as they care for their bodies. Men prepared for marriage should be aware of this ministry toward their wives. We read that in the letter of Paul to the Ephesians:

“28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.” (Ephesians 5:28-29 KJV) Loving the wife is not only by words but by actions. The husband should have a good thought toward his wife. He needs to love her as he loves and cares for himself, for the wife is his body. The man should be sensitive to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of his wife. The husband should care for his wife and work out to meet such needs. The man after marriage should stay beside his wife and study her well so he will know how to care for her properly, *“5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.” (Deuteronomy 24:5 KJV)* What a great God we have that have great consideration for what love is all about inside the family; an awesome God who instructs us in His Word that the husband should be after marriage free for one year so he can be at home beside his wife to cheer her and make her happy. Here we can understand why the man should be stable financially before marriage so he can be free after marriage to be beside his wife. The purpose of the presence of the man near to his wife for one year is to study her closely so he will know her in a better way and know the details of her attitude and character to satisfy her and supply her needs as much as he is capable to do. The man needs to study the wife carefully and comes to know what the things she like so he will make it available to her and the things that she does not like so he will avoid that. In the same way, the wife also needs to study her husband and will come to know what are the things that he likes so she will make them available to him and the things that he does not like so she will avoid disturbing him.

The man needs to study his wife closely so he can teach her and direct her with God's Word. *“29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.” (Ephesians 5:29 KJV)* The husband should cherish his wife that God gave to him. The word cherish, has the following meanings: ‘treasure’, ‘value’, ‘prize’,

‘appreciate’, ‘relish’, ‘take pleasure in’, ‘esteem’, and ‘attach importance to her’. Man will be able to love his wife properly and in a Godly manner, only when he starts to cherish and value what God had given to him.

So here we can see that man would know well the wife that God gave to him, not before marriage but after marriage. The practice of the world today with dating and courting and to have intimacy with the woman before marriage is invalid. Some people will ask about the time the man will love the girl. Love should be after marriage. The law of God in this regard states that the husband and the wife will celebrate love for one year, as we had read, *“5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.” (Deuteronomy 24:5 KJV)* So the Bible does not speak about a one-month honeymoon, but speaks about a one-year love celebration between the man and woman who are newly married. So, love is not before the wedding but after the wedding. The New Testament also tells us the same; love is after marriage: *“25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” (Ephesians 5:25 KJV)* Notice, the Bible does not say love your girlfriend, but to love the wife and that entails after marriage.

The man should trust God that He will give him the woman that will meet his needs. The man should be aware that God will give him a woman that carry talents and gifts that is complementary and completing what he has, and when both of them united and become one they will function as a complete body, as one unit to function in harmony with one another to fulfill God's will and plan for their family.

The more the husband knows how to cherish his wife, the more the wife will be fruitful in his home and family. The husband's responsibility is to provide the right atmosphere for the wife to excel inside the house and become fruitful. *Psalm 128* gives us a good clue about how the husband can do that. *“1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. 3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. 5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.” (Psalm 128:1-6 KJV)*

The fear of God is a mandatory requirement for God's blessing to fall on us and to reach us. *Psalm 128* speaks about the source of the blessings for the families, and it gives us a clear and profound picture of the gracious future that God had ordained for our families.

In *Psalm 128*, we are taught that the prosperity of our families depends upon the blessing of God; in this, we are taught that the only way to obtain that blessing which will make our families comfortable is to live in the fear of God and in obedience to Him. Therefore, as a marriage concern, first, the man should live in the fear of God, and second, he should desire and pray to God that He will give him a woman who fears God.

“1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.” (Psalm 128:1 KJV) The blessings of God will reach and are ordained for those who fear Him. Husbands who are prepared and ready to be united with their wives need to fear God and revere Him. The marks of those who fear God are those who endeavor to walk in His ways. Blessed are

those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways, who have a deep reverence of God upon their spirits and evidence it by regular and constant conformity to His will. To fear God is to make conscience both of keeping to His ways and not to draw away from Him. God blesses those who fear Him. They are blessed now; they shall be blessed still, and they shall be blessed forever. ***“4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.” (Psalm 128:4 KJV)***

This blessedness of God to those who fear Him are secured and to all the saints universally: Blessed is every one that fears the Lord, whoever he be; in every nation he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted of Him, and therefore they will be blessed whether they are high or low in this world. ***“Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” (Acts 10:34-35 KJV)***

Husbands who are prepared and ready to be united with their wives need to fear God and revere Him. Those that do so, in general, shall be blessed further and as the following:-

1. They shall be prosperous and successful in their employments: “2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.” (Psalm 128:2 KJV) By the blessings of God, they shall get an honest livelihood and live comfortably upon it and provide for their families. It is not promised that they shall live at ease, without care or pains, but, ***“You shall eat the labour of your hands.”*** In the promise of God, husbands will have a work to do; that they will not live a lazy life, for an idle life is a miserable and uncomfortable life. When it says that ***“You shall eat the labour of your hands,”*** means you will have the health and strength to labor, and a capacity of the mind to do it. ***“You shall eat the labour of your hands,”*** means you shall not be forced to go to others and ask from them food and other needs, as the disabled poor do and who live upon the labors of other people.

“You shall eat the labour of your hands”: It means it is more mercy to work and eat from the labour of your own hand, ***“12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.” (2 Thessalonians 3:12 KJV)*** As we mentioned earlier husbands should be aware that they need to work and provide for their wives and children.

“You shall eat the labour of your hands”: It means those who fear God shall succeed in their works, and they and their will enjoy what they got; others shall not come and eat the bread out of their mouths, nor shall it be taken from them either by oppressive rulers or by invading enemies. God will not blast it and blow upon it as He did, ***“9 Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.” (Haggai 1:9 KJV)*** It is pleasant to enjoy the fruits of our works; as the sleep, so the food, of a laboring man is sweet. Husbands who fear God should know and accept that they should labor to reproduce the food for their wives and children; and as they fear God, the Lord shall protect what they are laboring for and they will enjoy it.

“4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.” (Psalm 128:4 KJV) If you fear God and walk in His ways then happy, blessed, and prosperous you will be and it will go well with you. Those who fear God will be employed and had hard work, labor, satisfactory income, good and adequate resources, abundance, the fluidity of money, a good

amount of savings, and that will pave the next step of God’s blessedness in their lives. In such a way, such husbands who fear God shall be of great blessings to their wives and children. God is faithful, and He will bestow favor, happiness, prosperity on you as you fear Him and walk in His ways. Learn it now, as a husband who is going to have a wife; as you fear God and walk humbly before your God, then you will be prosperous.

2. That they shall have an abundance of comfort in their family relationships and their relations shall be agreeable and in harmony: “3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.” (Psalm 128:3 KJV) Godly wife, Godly husband, and Godly children are the next promotion of God to those who fear Him. Husband, wife, and children are much a man’s desire, so, if by the grace of God they are such as they should be and are obedient to God and His Word, then they are very much in delight, comfort, and peace.

“Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house.” (Psalm 128:3 KJV) Husbands who fear God, their wives will be fruitful vines in their houses. Not only as a spreading vine which serves for an ornament of decoration, but as a fruitful vine which is for profit, and with the fruit of the vine both God and man are honored, ***“13 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?” (Judges 9:13 KJV)*** The vine is a weak and tender plant and needs to be supported and cherished, but it is a precious and fruitful plant. The wife’s place is the husband’s house; there her business lies, and that is her castle. Her place is by the sides of the house, not under foot to be trampled on, nor yet upon the house-top to dominate (for if she is so, she is but as the grass upon the house-top that will soon wither). But the wife is to be on the side of the house, being a rib out of the side of the man. She shall be a loving wife as the vine that cleaves to the house side.

An obedient wife is as the vine, which is pliable (bendable, flexible, supple), and grows as it is directed. Wives should be willing to be directed by their Godly husbands so they will be fruitful. The wife shall be fruitful as the vine, not only in children bearing, but in the fruits of wisdom, righteousness, and good management, where the branches of which run over the wall.

Jacob talked about Joseph: ***“22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall.” (Genesis 49:22 KJV)*** The wife is the same; shall be like a fruitful vine, not crowd the ground, nor bring forth sour grapes, or grapes of Sodom, but good fruit. The responsibility of the man is to give her support where she can work and move and find support from her husband to what she is doing. When the husband does his part in supporting his wife, then he will reap a harvest out of the good works that his wife is doing.

“Thy children like olive plants round about thy table.” (Psalm 128:3 KJV) The children of the man who fear God shall be as olive plants or shoots, which later on, and on God’s time they will be olive trees. It is so pleasant to parents who have a table spread, to see their children round about it. It is marvelous to have children enough to surround the dining table. It is a blessing to those who fear God to see their children are with them, they are not scattered, and even the parents themselves are not forced to move away from them.

Job makes it one of the first instances of his former prosperity that his children were about him, ***“5 When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me.” (Job 29:5)***

KJV) Parents love to have their children at the table, to keep up the pleasantness of the table talk, to have them in health, to have them like olive plants, straight and green, sucking in the sap of their good Godly education, and in due time to be employed in Godly services. Olive plants are multiplied by the planting of the shoots that arise from around the main trunk of the tree; the farmer in due time will cut those grown shoots and will plant them in new places to be new trees. **The blessedness of God to those who fear Him is to give them out from their children's new families who fear God. Therefore, Husbands and wives who fear God will see their children blessed with prosperous families.**

3. They shall live to see the families of their children's children are brought up in a Godly way: **"6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."** (Psalm 128:6 **KJV**) Those who fear God they shall live long enough, to enjoy the comforts of the rising generations: **"Thou shalt see thy children's children,"** (Psalm 128:6 **KJV**) As Joseph saw his children's children, **"23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees."** (Genesis 50:23 **KJV**) As you fear God your family shall be built up and continued, and you shall have the pleasure of seeing your children's children. These good children are the crown of old men, **"6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."** (Proverbs 17:6 **KJV**) It is a great pleasure to see Godly grandchildren, therefore if you are a Godly man or a Godly woman who fears God, then these are my wishes to you, **"Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon you."**

4. Those who fear God shall have the satisfaction of seeing the Church of God in a flourishing condition: **"5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."** (Psalm 128:5-6 **KJV**) Husbands and wives who fear God will have a great concern to build up the Church of God; their marriage will be also directed to strengthen the church with Godly children, and in return Godly church who fear God will contribute to the blessing of God to the families that are part of the church. **"5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life."** (Psalm 128:5 **KJV**) The Blessings out of Zion are the best-blessings, which flow, not from common providence, but from special grace of God, as God's promise says, **"2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion."** (Psalm 20:2 **KJV**)

My Dear and Beloved: Therefore if you fear God you shall have these things which God had promised and which you had prayed for: The Lord shall bless you out of Zion, where the Ark of the Covenant was, and where the Church of God is today. That you shall see the welfare of God's church growing and improving, and the ministries of the church are improving, advancing, and spreading. You who fear God will be not only aim for the prosperity of your family but also the prosperity of the Church of God that God had placed you in to build it up with Him. As you continue to fear God, then you will find that God had prospered your family and you will enjoy seeing your children's children, as well as you shall be blessed in Zion's blessing. In fact, **"thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life."** (Psalm 128:5 **KJV**) You will be a Godly family and a Godly church and ministry; not only you but as well as your children and your children's children.

Come now to God, check yourself and reflect on the message that we received today: Do you fear God? Are you doing your responsibilities, toward Him, toward your family and toward your work and toward His church? Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me about the fear of God and about Godly marriage and my responsibilities inside the family. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received from you.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of the fear of God, your laziness and your non willingness to work to provide for your needs and the needs of your family. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your involvement in dating, courting, boyfriend, girlfriend, and other immoralities. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your mismanagement for finances. Confess and renounce your pride, unfaithfulness, lack of concern for the things of God and His church, non willingness to serve Him, non willingness to discipline your children and raise them in the fear of God. Repent of your worldliness, selfishness, love of money, telling lies, cheating, etc. Confess and renounce your lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to keep love, peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, humility, patience and perseverance. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Confess your lack of reading God's Word, your lack of prayers, and your lack of daily family worship. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to fear you and to live my life according to your plan and will, and according to the teaching that we received in this message. Lord I commit myself to go along your will and to lead my family and children in the fear of yours and to set good example to others to follow you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to walk in the fear of yours and applying what we received in their lives, marriages and in their families. Lord provide for them to finish the task that you entrusted to them to do.

Lord, bless us as your church, and continue to perfect your people and make them willing to apply your Word and your will in their marriage and family life to have Godly families and Godly children. Lord lead us to reach new people with your Word, to evangelize and make new disciples. Lord bring new trained workers who are faithful and who fear you to serve with us, to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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