

Anchored in Love: Understanding Biblical Roles and Flexibility in Marriage

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Marriage Conference / Gender Roles / Ephesians 5:22

Intro:

Youtube Video: Amazing Grace

CORI explain the video

LARRY

Step by Step vs Principles

- Step by Step tells you the “what” but Principles tells you the “why”
- Explanation for cooking steak:
- Cut of Meat: Select, Choice, or Prime
- Doneness: Rare, medium rare, medium, Medium well, and Well-Done
- Presentation: Don't cut the steak for at least 20min after pulling of the grill or oven, Cut the meat against the grain
- These are all principles of handling steak on the grill or oven. Once you know these you can then taper the recipe to your liking. Some people just like a steak with no seasoning. Some people like a steak with just Salt & Pepper, Some people like their steak well seasoned with some Garlic Butter on the side. Even with all this variance the principles for cooking the steak are the same.
- The Bible is not a step by step book on how to have a happy marriage. It is a book of principles whereby which if

you know the principles you can implement them in your house with your own seasonings.

- Some folks are young married. Married fresh out of high school or college. They will have challenges related to that situation
- Some folks got married as older adults already in the Professional World
- Some folks never lived away from home and got married
- Some folks came into marriage without any children between them
- Some folks came into marriage whereby which one person had a child and the other one had to love both
- Some folks came into marriage and had to blend two families with children, because this is there second marriage.
- For these Reasons the bible did not give a step by step because there are two many situation that require different methods. **The Bible gave principles**

Genesis 1:26–28 CSB

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful,

multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

(v.26) Management and Stewardship of the creation

(v.28) Expansion & Dominion under the authority and rule of Christ.

- This Mission was immediately deemed a failure at the Fall of Man(Adam & Eve)
- But we were recommissioned after the Resurrection:

Matthew 28:18-20 CSB

¹⁸ Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(v.18-20) The Great Commission is a recommissioning service to all believers. So this tells us that a married couple is in joint cooperation with this text as our mission objectives. Our happiness comes second to this joint mission:

- This is why the permanence in marriage is stressed by Jesus. “what God has put together let no man take asunder”

why does he does this?

Ephesians 5:31–32 CSB

³¹ **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.**

³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

- Because a Healthy Christian marriage gives the world a symbolic picture of God’s relationship to the church, which helps the world conceptualize **“the Gospel itself”**

- **The best bible track ever written is a Godly Marriage.**

Objective: My assignment is Roles and Responsibilities

- Now that we have established the Joint, Collaborative mission that our Lord has given to us we must work out how that message will be disseminated between us as a couple.

- It is on that premise we will give the first principle:

I. Chew up the meat and spit out the bones

Genesis 2:24 CSB

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Mark 10:8–9 CSB

⁸ **and the two will become one flesh.** So they are no

longer two, but one flesh.

⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

What does it mean to become one flesh?

- **Spiritual Union:** After Consummation there is an immediate spiritual union or blending. It is not progressive, it is immediate. Just like when you got saved. You were immediately united with Christ.

- **Practical Union:** This is an on-going process whereby which we learn to function as two people with separate wills, desires, past experiences, family dynamics, and communication styles which overtime get blended into one cohesive narrative(story).

(v.24) Notice the text “*man leave his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh*” This leaving is physical, emotional and practical

- **Practical-** Both the Husband and Wife have been raised in separate homes watching parents handle marital responsibilities in different ways.

- **ex:** The wife was raised in a home with two parents the father worked and the mother stayed at home and raised the kids. The Husband was raised by his mother and watched her do everything. The Husband does not really have positive example of a man who works to provide for his family.

- That is why the principles of the bible become important because our experiences must filtered through the bible.

- There are some principles we learned growing up that align with the bible, but there are some principles we learned that do not align with the bible. We are to hold fast to those things which are biblical, but we are to throw away those things which don't align with the bible.

Transition Statement: Now that we have established that you must build your home based on what works for you as a couple built on Biblical Principles Lets take a look at some of principles that are true for all those in the room.

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II. The Foundation: Husband Love & Wives Respect

Ephesians 5:33 CSB

³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

- **(v.33)** “To sum up” Paul in Ephesians gives his most comprehensive teaching of Christian Marriage in Chapter 5. He tells the wife “**to respect her husband**” and he tells the man “**Love your wife like christ loves the church**” What Paul gives us here is Principles, which applies to all Christian Marriage.
- **(v.33)** Paul then gives us a conclusive statement in this (v) We know that because of the prepositional phrase “**to sum it up**”
- You will remember I am giving your principles not steps:

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- **(v.33) “Each one** of you is to **love** his wife”
- Clearly Paul is talking to all the men. He says **“each one”** every Christian man is bound by this command. We are to all **“love”** Paul uses the greek word “agape” (present, active, imperative) Paul is commanding all Christian men to continually Love their wife with the same love Christ loves us with demonstrated by his death on the cross!!! A self-sacrificial love.

CORI

- **(v.33) “and the Wife is to respect** her Husband”
- That word “respect” in the greek: Phobia which carries the idea of “reverential fear/respect” this carries the idea of having such a **“respect”** for the position he holds you are able to respect him even when he does not behave according to the title he holds. Your Respect is in the title first, then secondly it moves to him, personally.

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Now let’s get Practical:

Husband when you think about the daily responsibilities involved in fulfilling the mission of God for your family what are ways you can display agape(love) to your wife and family?

- Gratitude
- Sensitivity to her daily struggles and challenges as a woman & mother
- Time off

CORI

Wives when you think about the daily responsibilities involved in fulfilling the mission of God for you family what are ways you can display phobia(respect) to your husband and your family?

- Gratitude
- Verbal Affirmation/Respectful tone
- Time Off

Conclusion: Love & Respect are the foundational principles for Husband and Wife. However you decide to delegate daily responsibilities these two principles must be maintained.

III. Husbands Role

Husbands the bible is not silent about it's expectation of you in the marriage let's take look at them:

Leader

1 Corinthians 11:3 CSB

³ But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.

• In the same way Christ provides leadership and oversight to his bride the church, Husband you are to lovingly lead your wife. Notice I put (lovingly) because she is not your slave, nor child. She should have a voice in the home, she should be your confidant particularly as you make decision for the family.

Protector

1 Peter 3:7 CSB

⁷ Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- Men testosterone, which contributes to his physical strength. Making him physical stronger than his wife. We are to deal with our wives understanding this truth. They should feel protected by us not from us. During conflicts men make sure to watch your tone, so as not to intimidate your wife.

and why?

- so your prayers won't be hindered. God says that's my baby you better not intimidate her with your strength. I gave you that strength to protect her from others not to be used against her.

Provider

- Pre-fall

Genesis 2:15 CSB

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

(EXP)(15) Notice what God gave Adam. He gave him a job and a job description. He was responsible for providing for his new family. Husband you are primarily responsible for providing for the family. If your wife has income it is part of the overflow. You are the provider.

Genesis 3:17 CSB

¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you.

You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life.

(EXP)(17) Prior to the fall work for Adam was a joy. He was a farmer, so the ground was always fertile, no weeds. All he had to do was plant and pick. And the first garden blueprint was already given to him by God. All he had to do was cultivate what God had already created. After the fall God introduce sin not only into the first couple but also the ground.

- Adam will have to labor for the sustenance for his family but now with resistance. It won't come easy

Priest

Deuteronomy 6:3–9 CSB

³ Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ “Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart.

⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you

sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead.

⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

- Husband you are primarily responsible for the discipleship of your wife and children. Your wife is a support to this process, but you are the Pastor of the home. Your wife should not be waking you up along with the kids for church you should be leading that process.
- Pet-Peeve(husbands looking at their wife's bible on sunday morning) when I see that I can tell who the spiritual head of the family is. Men not having a bible is like trying to golf without clubs.
- The greatest gift I have is the bible my Dad read with all his notes. He has my name written in his bible around scriptures that apply to my life. That is better than money.

IV. Wives Role

- Wives there is a word from the Lord related to you responsibilities as well.

Joint Ruler

Genesis 1:26–28 CSB

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea,

the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

(EXP)(26) You will notice that uses the plural pronoun “They” to describe the divine mandate or rulership. As Image Bearers of Christ both the Man and and the Women have been given authority over the creation.

(28) “God Blessed Them” it didn’t say “Him” it said “Them” and then he says “God said to them” the responsibility was given to both of them. Then he goes over the assignment. All these were meant to be done as a joint-rulers’ and joint-heir’s.

- The objective in a christian marriage is that both you and your spouse finishes well.

The Wife is a Helper to her Husband

Genesis 2:18 CSB

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”

How did the Lord solve this problem?

- ***By creating a woman!***

- The man is both like the woman, but different
- We are alike in that we share the communicable attributes of God.
- Love, Joy, Kindness, Anger, Intelligence, Goodness
- We are different Biologically, Socially, Intellectually, and Relationally.

And God wanted in that way!!!!

Genesis 2:20–22 CSB

²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.

²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

(EXP)(20-22) but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. The Man was made from the dust, and the woman was made from the Rib. The Woman is a creation of God. She is not less than the man in her essence. They do have different roles.

- You will remember the first point she is a joint-ruler with the man and has been given an assignment.
- The woman was not simply created to live in the shadow of the man. She was created to help the man complete a task given to both of them.

- The woman will ultimately be evaluated based on her willingness and faithfulness to helping the man to complete a task he could not do on his own.
- **Example:** Your condo association requires you to keep the grass cut, plant trees & flowers, also to put a deck on the house or you will be fined.
- It will be the husband responsibility to oversee this but he cannot do this all by himself. The wife will help him because the benefits will be enjoyed by both, but the consequences will also effect both.
- In that same way Wives help your Husband by helping him in this joint mission it will bring the greatest amount of glory to God. It will bring the greatest benefit to your marriage, and it will bring the greatest benefit to you as individuals when you stand at the judgment seat of Christ.
“Women were created from the rib of man to be beside him, not from his head to top him, nor from his feet to be trampled by him, but from under his arm to be protected by him, near to his heart to be loved by him and to rule beside him”

The Women is to be a crown for her Husband

Proverbs 12:4 CSB

⁴ A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown, but a wife who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

Wives what kind of testimony do you want in life?

Do you want to be his crown or his cancer?!

- I have often heard in Christian circles this quote:
A husband will say “I am the head” but my wife “is the neck!”
- This sounds profound but it is really saying the wife is the leader in the relationship. She is the most important. This is biblically wrong. Both roles are equally important and should compliment each other. Rather than use wordly quotes lets use Biblical language. Women you should be striving to be “a crown” not the neck.
The word “excellent” or “virtuous” in Hebrew means “valor”. This word is normally used in military settings of a man or army that is strong and mighty in battle. The wording of the proverb is very strong and it implies that the wife is either a crown or cancer to her husband.

Cancerous Marital Behaviors

1. Chronic criticism is cancer to the life of marriage.
2. Making fun of him.
3. Comparing him to other men.
4. Disrespecting him publicly.
5. Belittling him in front of the kids.
6. Shaming him for not being spiritual enough.
7. Always lecturing and nagging at him.
8. Complaining and being negative.
9. Controlling and manipulating with tears.
10. Withholding sex.

Wives, when you withhold sex from your husband, you are making him feel humiliated on the inside. He might not

show you but that crushes your husband's inner being. That is how serious it is. We are not advocating abuse in any way but we want women and wives to understand the incredible power they have.

Sidenote: This does not apply to situation as rape, or verbal abuse. This is when sex is used as a manipulative tool for control.

- Eve used her influence on Adam and caused him to disobey God. **(Unbiblical use of influence)**
- Abigail used her influence on David and kept him from avenging his own blood in a situation. **(Biblical use of influence)**

1 Samuel 25:32-33 CSB

³² Then David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today!

³³ May your discernment be blessed, and may you be blessed. Today you kept me from participating in bloodshed and avenging myself by my own hand.

“It is your job to love your husband. It is God’s job to make him good”

Ruth Graham

Wives Submit to your Husband

- Ladies in our culture this has become a dirty word. When women hear this they hear “subservience” they hear “no voice” they hear “I am just a womb” but that is very far from the from the biblical term:
- The greek term means: To willingly subordinate yourself

under someone else's authority.

- In the dating process you should have been surveying if this was the type of man you could follow but once you get married that ceremony is a covenant to willingly subordinate yourself.

- We do this everyday:

- Unless we are the CEO of a company; we subordinate ourselves to the Team Leader, COO or CEO.

- When we are speeding and see a cop we slowed down, because we understand their authority supersedes ours in the road

- When we enter a courtroom we stand.

- When we go to the church we subordinate ourselves underneath the Pastor.

- Yet in a marriage when we hear that word we get uncomfortable.

Wonder why?

Some say we don't need a head in marriage. Anything without a head is a dead corpse. Others might say, we have two heads in our marriage. Anything with two heads is a monster. We need a head and the Bible makes it very clear who the head is. It is not the person who is smarter or more educated. God set these rules in relationships, not to limit and control us but to empower both women and men to be equal partners with a chain of command to live in a perfect community. We don't know better than God.

Marriages fall apart when we don't submit to God's original design for it...

Vladmir Slavchuch

Government: President and Vice-Pres

School: Principal and Assistant Principal

Sports Team: Coach and Assistant Coaches

Corporation: Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer

- The World understands this yet we fight this process in a Christian marriage rather than embrace it and use it for God's glory. Remember from earlier you and your husband are on a Joint Mission. Completion of the Mission is the objective not your ego.

“Shared submission does not imply an inferiority of a person but only subordination in rank. As a person, you will be no more inferior to your husband than a citizen is to their government or Christ is to God. Yea the citizen is subordinate in rank to the governor. Christ was in His humanity subordinate to God. A wife who obeys without respect is not in submission. The church's reverence for Christ is our pattern. You may not agree with the decision in his position as the head, but the mother who enforces her husband's rules and disciplines but lets her children know that she does not agree with her husband is not respecting her husband before her children.”

Martha Montgomery

The Wife is the general contractor of the home

Titus 2:4-5 CSB

⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children,

⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God's word will not be slandered.

- The wife is striving to make the home run like a well-oiled machine. The husband is not exempt. He is to be her support in every way. There are a lot of moving parts in the home. The wife first place is the home. There are some women who are able to stay at home, there are some women who work outside the home. Whether you work outside of the home or stay at home your primary responsibility is the same.

- Ladies this means that while the children are young and growing if you do work outside the home it might not be good to take promotion if it will require more work from you and take you away from your primary job.

- The loudest voice in the ear of your children particularly infants, toddler's and elementary age should be Momma. Not the daycare, preschool or elementary school.

Benefits of staying at home

- increase in the child's school performance
- the child has less stress and aggression
- parent feels greater involvement in the child's day-to-day life
- parent feels good about the choice to stay home when they see the value in their child's life.

– have less stress about the job

Note to men: If your wife stays home and leaves the workforce. She is raising your children, she is keeping them safe physically & emotionally, and she is saving your household thousands of dollars. Do not hold it over her head that you are the breadwinner. The money you bring home is both of yall's. And when you get home from work you ain't off from work you are just doing a different job now.

A 2018 study conducted by Welch found working moms clock an average of 98 hours per week. That's about the same as working 2.5 full-time jobs. Husbands, you might not be able to pay your wives that kind of salary but please say thank you and appreciate your wives.

Conclusion:

Proverbs 14:1 CSB

¹ Every wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.