**Relationships in the Home – Husbands**

A marriage consists of a man and a woman. They each have roles and responsibilities to fulfill. It seems that more marriages fail due to neglect of the man rather than the woman. This suggests that man is either ignorant of his role or does not care. I believe many have never considered the great responsibility they have in marriage. Let us study some of the passages addressing to the man in the Bible.

“For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” (Ephesians 5:31)). As two people enter into a marriage, they are establishing a new home separate from their parents. While the man still has responsibilities toward his parents, the first person in his life should be his wife.. Sadly, some men want to let “Mom and Dad” run their homes. His parents should realize that they are outlaws as far as meddling is concerned and Junior should be ready to stand on his own two feet. He wants to have his friends and pal around with the “boys” while the wife stays home. Getting married is a commitment toward building a life **together**. She is the one he builds a home with; she should be his best friend and pal.

“Husbands, love your wives,” just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it.” (Ephesians 5:25). Being the head of the home has many responsibilities. Some men only know one passage of scripture, “Likewise, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands” (1Pwer 3:1). They think they are lords and whatever they say goes. Ephesians 5:25 is conveniently left out. This passage teaches the duty of the husband is to truly love his wife; to place her needs ahead of his and to submit to her desires. Yes, there may be times the husband will have to an unpopular decision but this should be done with love and not lordship. Jesus loved the church and died for it. Husbands should have that same degree of love. That may mean keeping the kids or washing the dishes, or spending time with them instead of going hunting. You may wonder why? “so husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife, loves himself.” (Ephesians 5:29). A happy wife will make a happy husband. I have noticed that most women are as good as their husbands let them be.

“Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7). The relationship a man has with his wife affects his relationship with God. This passage mentions at least three points. One is the instruction to dwell with understanding. Men need to realize that women are different! Emotionally, physical, biologically, and sexually she functions differently than a man. She may cry while watching a movie or feel irritable at times. Secondly, she is the weaker vessel. This does not refer to her soul or intelligence but to her physical features. Women are generally smaller and not as rugged as men. This should be considered. Thirdly, she deserves to be honored. To be valued for her role as a companion and for her work I the home. “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her; many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.” (Proverbs 31:2-29). Too many men take their wives for granted and regret it later. Tell her you love her and praise her, it maybe the only pay she will get for her efforts.

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8). God placed the role of provider on the man. In society man expects and demands that his wife work yet the Bible places that duty on him. There are times of illness, emergency or other circumstances that may demand or allow the wife to work. But in many homes, it is due to over spending and/or laziness on the part of the husband. “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). If a you man is not ready to work and provide for his family, he is not ready to have a wife. The better the husband fulfills his duties, the better the home will be. D. T.