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# MARRIAGE & FAMILY

VOLUME 1



**BUILDING  
THE RIGHT  
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**MARRIAGE**  
**&**  
**FAMILY**

**VOLUME ONE**

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**BUILDING THE**  
**RIGHT**  
**FOUNDATIONS**

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## MARRIAGE & FAMILY – Volume 1

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## *INTRODUCTION*

**F**or any marriage to work, it must be built on the correct Biblical foundations.

Marriage was designed by God Himself and not by man. Therefore a marriage requires God's input and guidelines if a husband and wife are to live in harmony. Volume One of this TOPIC SERIES of Marriage & Family focuses on equipping us on what is required to build the right principles and foundations for a good marriage.

# Foundations of a Good Marriage

What are the tips for a good marriage? What are the foundations of a good marriage?

Every marriage needs a good foundation for such a union to stand strong through the tests and trials of life. Below are at least 7 areas that are important to having a good marriage.

## 1. LEAVE & CLEAVE

**Genesis 2:24 NKJV** – *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Have you ever had problems with your in-laws despite of the fact that your in-laws lived in a different home? Well, imagine the kind of problems you would have if you lived with your in-laws in the same house.

**Genesis 2:24** says that a man shall leave his mother & father to live with his wife and they shall become one flesh.

Therefore 2 things are important in this scripture in order to establish a good foundation for marriage:

a) A man (and wife) must LEAVE his/her parents. This means leaving your parent's home so that you and your spouse can live under a different roof.

b) A man (and wife) must CLEAVE to his/her spouse.  
This speaks of becoming united and inseparable.

Therefore it is difficult for a married couple to leave & cleave if they are still under the roof of their parents or influence of other family members.

## **2. A HUSBAND WHO LOVES**

**Ephesians 5:25 NKJV** – *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*

According to **Ephesians 5:25-33**, husbands are required to love their wives. The kind of love described is an unfailing and unconditional love.

The husband is required to love his wife in 3 ways:

- a) Love as Christ loves the Church & gave Himself for her (vs 25)
- b) Love his wife as he loves himself or his own body (vs 28,33)
- c) Love by nourishing & cherishing her as Christ does the church (vs 29)

Nourishing is defined as: *providing with food or other substances necessary for growth, health and good condition*

Cherishing is defined as: *to protect and care for someone lovingly*

## **3. A HUSBAND WHO LEADS**

**Ephesians 5:23 NKJV** – *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

*Husbands are to lead their families. The scriptures describe the husband as the one who is head just as Christ is Head over the Church.*

Every institution, including the institution of marriage must have a leader. God in His infinite wisdom has declared that a husband is to lead the wife. Leading one's family does not mean becoming a dictator or autocratic in the home. A husband is ultimately accountable to God for how he leads his wife and family. Just as Adam was ultimately accountable to God for the fall of man and for allowing Eve to be deceived (**Genesis 3:17**), the husband is responsible to God and the husband provides a covering for his wife.

#### **4. A WIFE WHO SUBMITS**

**Ephesians 5:22-24 NKJV** – *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything*  
Submission does not mean that a wife cannot disagree with her husband. Submission does not make the wife a slave or a servant of the husband. Neither does submission suggest that the wife is in any form less equal to her husband. Both husband and wife are equal before God, however it is only their functions within the marriage which differ.

Submission is the act of yielding or consenting to the authority of another. Submission incorporates voluntary



obedience and respect.

According to **Ephesians 5:22-24**, wives are required to submit to their husbands in the following ways:

a) Submit to your *own* husband

b) Submit as unto the Lord

Why are wives required to submit and not the husbands? The answer is found in **Ephesians 5:23**, *“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church...”*

The Church is the bride of Christ whilst Christ is the bridegroom. Therefore the marriage between a husband and wife parallels the marriage between Christ & the Church.

## **5. A WIFE WHO RESPECTS HER HUSBAND**

**Ephesians 5:33 NKJV** – *Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

It's interesting to note that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul does not also ask wives to love their husbands. Love of course is an important foundation of any relationship and both husbands and wives must love one another in their relationship. However, the Scriptures emphasize that wives must respect their husbands. Why? The male personality in a marriage apparently yearns for respect from his wife. Men tend to respond better and feel more appreciated when they are respected by their wives.

Submission and respect are like 2 sides of the same coin.

A wife who respects her husband will automatically submit to him. Also a wife who submits to her husband does so because she respects her husband.

## **6. TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION**

**Ephesians 4:25-26 NKJV** – *Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. 26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,*

Secrets and lies are never a good foundation for any relationship, including a marriage. Every relationship is built on trust. If a couple cannot trust one another, it is difficult for that relationship to stand or grow.

It’s therefore imperative for couples to always be transparent and open in relation to one’s feelings, one’s thoughts, and one’s perspectives.

A couple should not keep grudges between each other nor should they allow issues or problems to remain unresolved or uncommunicated.

Therefore leaving issues unresolved is dangerous to the relationship.

## **7. GOD AT THE CENTRE OF THE MARRIAGE**

Marriage itself is not an institution that was created by man. Marriage was created by God. Therefore God is the One who set the guidelines as to how a marriage should function & what roles the husband and wife play in the relationship.

A marriage that is without God and without the mind of

God in it is bound to fail.

Therefore God is the most important foundation for any relationship, including marriage.

### **Genesis 2:21-24 NKJV**

*And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

*23 And Adam said:*

*“This is now bone of my bones*

*And flesh of my flesh;*

*She shall be called Woman,*

*Because she was taken out of Man.”*

*24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

## **LIFE QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it important to build a marriage on Biblical foundations?
2. Is the Biblical concept of marriage and the roles of the husband and wife still relevant in our world today?
3. In your own life how do you intend to build the right foundations for your marriage or which areas do you need to improve?

# 5 Things That Ruin Marriages

There's no doubt that the divorce rate around the world continues to grow and it shows no sign of slowing down. You find a couple seemingly falls in love, gets married and then before you know it, their marriage is ruined and they are filing for divorce.

So what are the things that ruin marriages? **Below are at least 5 major factors that can destroy a marriage.**

## 1. FINANCES

This is always a big issue in a marriage. Maybe the husband isn't earning as much as his wife and so there's tension in the home.

Or perhaps there are disagreements on how to budget and spend the money in the home.

Another reason could be that both husband and wife are not earning enough income and so it's difficult to meet the financial requirements in the home.

Couples are therefore bound to fight and even divorce if measures are not taken to address the financial aspect of a marriage.

The Bible however teaches us that we should be good stewards of all that God gives us and therefore this includes how we use our money. God expects us to spend our money wisely and righteously.

Furthermore, we are not to worry about money **(Matthew 6:25-34)** – but we should learn to trust in God that He will supply all our needs **(Philippians 4:19)**. Therefore in a marriage – a couple shouldn't focus on fighting each other over money – but the couple should collectively look towards being good stewards of what they have and to trust that God will provide increase and supply every need of the family.

## 2. UNFORGIVENESS

Have you ever had those fights with your spouse where something you did many years ago which you thought was long forgiven and forgotten is brought back in the fight – and you're like *"Hey – I thought that issue was long forgiven & forgotten"*

Well – unforgiveness – if not properly dealt with- it grows like a cancer and it festers bitterness, resentment and an underlying rage which may eventually destroy a marriage.

So it's important that when a couple fights, that they attempt to quickly and amicably resolve an issue as soon as possible.

The Bible says that we should not allow the sun to go down whilst we are still angry **(Ephesians 4:26)**. In other words – try not to go to bed without amicably resolving a problem with your spouse.

## 3. DISHONESTY & LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Poor communication or lack of transparency will

undoubtedly lead to lack of trust within the relationship. The Bible encourages us to be honest and to speak the truth in love. Hiding the truth is a form of deception but speaking the truth encourages trust between spouses. Where there is dishonesty there is lack of trust, and where there is lack of trust, a marriage may end up in divorce.

#### **4. ADULTERY**

Adultery is clearly wrong and it destroys the trust of a spouse. The Bible teaches that if you marry someone – it is for life and you are to remain faithful to your partner till death do you part.

Biblically, marriage is more than just a human contract. It is the joining of a man and woman in order to become one flesh.

Adultery destroys trust, creates unforgiveness and it can destroy a marriage.

#### **5. NOT FULFILLING GOD-GIVEN DUTIES / ROLES**

A marriage can be ruined because spouses do not understand or fulfill their God given spousal roles in the home.

The Bible teaches that the husband is the head and his roles is to love, provide, lead, nourish & protect his wife just as Christ does the same for the Church (**Ephesians 5:22-31**).

The wife is to respect & submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ (**Ephesians 5:22-24,33**). The

wife should also be like the wife mentioned in **Proverbs 31** in that she is excellent, respectful to her husband, industrious and manages the home.

So it's important to note that every marriage goes through testing. The important thing as a couple is to learn HOW to resolve problems together and to put God at the centre of the relationship.

## LIFE QUESTIONS

1. In your own life experiences and observations, what has been the major causes of divorce in society?
2. What can be done to reduce the divorce rate in society in general?
3. The Bible says in Malachi that God hates divorce. Why does God hate divorce?

# How Can I Make My Marriage Work?

Why are so many marriages falling apart? How does it happen that 2 people fall in love, get married and then divorce a few months or years later? Did these people not understand the meaning of love? Did they not understand the meaning of marriage? Did they not understand the commitment required to make a marriage work?

Marriage is a good and divine institution. However, like many good things it requires work, commitment and of course TRUE love to keep it alive.

Am I ready for marriage? How can I make my marriage work? If you've asked yourself these questions, **below are at least 11 things you should know about marriage if you intend to get married or if you are already in a marriage relationship.**

1. **Are You Willing To Understand That There Are Certain Things About Your Spouse's Character That You Might Never Ever Change?**



Let's face it. If your spouse had certain habits or certain undesirable characteristics 20 years before you got married, it's unlikely that your spouse is going to change those undesirable habits or characteristics overnight. Many people whilst dating assume that when they get married it will be easier to change some of their spouse's habits because they'll be living together. Sometimes it's not the case and habits or characteristics that have been engrained in a person's personality do not change easily. If a person will not change – don't focus so much on strategizing how to change the person. Rather just love the person as they are – yes, with their bad habits. Don't be too critical or judgmental. You might discover that you're also not so perfect yourself and that there are things in your own personality that need to change too.

**1 Peter 4:8NKJV – And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins”.**

## **2. Are You Willing To Realise That Love Is Not A Feeling – But It's A Mindset & A Doing-Word?**

Love is not a feeling. Love is not an overwhelming strong “force” that takes over 2 people who are meant to be together. Feelings are temporary. Feelings come and go depending on the external situation or circumstance. True love however, remains the same irrespective of the

external circumstances. True love is a mindset. You love a person whether they deserve to be loved or not. You love a person even when they are at their worst state. Love is a choice. You don't feel it but you choose to love. Many people get married without understanding the difference between love and lust. Others get married without understanding the difference between infatuation and love. Some get married without understanding the meaning of love at all.

**1 John 3:18 NKJV – My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**

### **3. Are You Willing To Forgive Your Spouse For The Same Mistakes Over & Over & Over & Over Again – And Still Love Your Spouse Anyway?**

One of the reasons why many marriages eventually fail is because of lack of forgiveness. Spouses cannot forgive each other for past errors or faults. Having a forgiving attitude will help one's marriage to last but having a vengeful and unforgiving approach to marriage will destroy the marriage. Unforgiveness will also cause communication problems and resentment.

**Matthew 18:21-22 NKJV – Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to**

**him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.**

#### **4. Are You Willing To Stay Married Till Death Do-You-Part?**

Contrary to the worldly culture and standards, marriage is not a human contract. Marriage was created by God and marriage is defined by God. Part of God’s rules for marriage is that divorce is not an option.

Marriage is a lifetime commitment to love & live with your spouse. This commitment does not change because your feelings change. This commitment does not change because your spouse no longer has a well-paying job. This commitment does not change because your spouse no longer looks beautiful. According to God, marriage is for life.

**Malachi 2:16 NKJV – “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the Lord of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”**

#### **5. Are You Willing To Lose A Fight or Argument Even If You’re Right?**

There are many reasons why couples fight and argue; bad habits; money; sex; communication and the like are one of the many reasons. In marriage, it's not about who is right and who is wrong. Humility is an important character to have in a marriage. Would you rather be right & continue to be enemies in the home – or would you rather be peacefully reconciled and in humility agree to disagree?

In a marriage where 2 people come from 2 different family backgrounds & have had 2 different life experiences there is always the likely chance that as a couple you will not always agree on every topic or issue. Differences will always arise even in the best marriages. The question is, how do you handle your differences as a couple?

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5NKJV – Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;**

## **6. Are You Willing to be Faithful & Never Cheat Including During the Worst of Times?**

There is no good excuse for cheating on a spouse. Adultery is a sin no matter how bad your marriage becomes. There are many reasons why a spouse may cheat but none of those reasons are good enough before God's eyes. God honours faithful people. Faithfulness is

a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**Hebrews 13:4 NKJV – Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**

### **7. Are You Willing To Discover New Surprising Things About Your Spouse BUT Still Love Him Anyway?**

Before couples get married they always make the mistake of assuming that they know their partner very well. The truth is, no person truly knows their spouse until they begin to stay together. Before you're married you may know a small percentage of your partner's personality, but the truth is you will learn more of who he is and what type of person he is during your marriage. You can be married to your spouse for 15 years and still discover that there are many things (good and bad) that you did not know about your spouse.

However, whatever surprising new things you find out about your spouse – are you willing to continue to be committed and to love that person? Remember – love is not a feeling.

**1 Corinthians 13:7-8 NKJV – (Love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.**

## 8. Are You Willing To Love An Imperfect Person?

Are you a perfect person? If you're not perfect, would you still want someone to still love you?

None of us are perfect in this world. We are all a bunch of imperfect people falling in love and getting married to other imperfect people.

Therefore if 2 imperfect people get married, you're going to have an imperfect marriage that might be full of disagreements & differences.

In marriage, don't focus on the imperfections – but focus on the strengths; focus on the good things in the marriage; focus on the things that can make the marriage stronger and better.

**John 15:12 NKJV – This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**

## 9. Are You Willing To Realize That Love, Sex & Romance Isn't What Celebrities & The Hollywood Films Teach?

Celebrities and Hollywood is the last place that any serious couple should want to learn about love and marriage. Hollywood films only distort the meaning of true love and true marriage. Married celebrities themselves are not good examples to learn from about

marriage because their marriages never last. Yet Hollywood culture has had a subtle effect on how we think and view issues related to love, sex and marriage. Hollywood & celebrities have given the youth and many others the subtle perception that our definition of love, sex & romance should be as we have seen and experienced it in the films that we watch.

**Colossians 2:8 NKJV – Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.**

### **10. Are You Willing To Love & Stay With Your Spouse During Financial Challenges?**

Money is one of the major reasons why marriages collapse. The Bible says that money is the root of all kinds of evil.

Money is the reason why some people want to get married to someone.

Money is the bait that some people use to persuade someone to marry them.

However, money should not be the foundation of any relationship – especially marriage.

The foundation of a good marriage should be God & His word, love, commitment & trust.

**1 Timothy 6:9,10 NKJV – But those who desire to be**

**rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

### **11. Are You Willing To Accept Your Specific Marital Roles As Husband & Wife**

In any kind of institution, team or grouping, people will always have different functions and different roles to play. It's the same thing in a marriage. According to God's word, the husband has his role and the wife has her role. Whenever their respective marital roles are not performed or if their roles are reversed – this situation will cause problems in the marriage.

**Ephesians 5:22-28 NKJV – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having**



**spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself**

So are you ready for marriage? Or are you willing to make your marriage work?

Remember – marriage comes from God. Approach your relationships prayerfully. As long as we are on this earth, our relationships are not going to be problem-free. We live in an imperfect world with imperfect relationships. The question is – are you willing to selflessly & prayerfully do the right thing to make your relationship work according to God's principles.

## **LIFE QUESTIONS**

1. What are the differences between the world / secular concept of marriage and the Biblical / God's concept of marriage?
2. As a man, what are the qualities of a wife that you look for in a woman?
3. As a woman, what are the qualities of a husband that you look for in a man?

# Qualities of a Good Wife

Are you a single man looking for a good quality woman? Or are you a woman who is trying to be a more excellent person?

The word of God is very clear that a man who finds an excellent wife is a man who has found someone more precious than jewels (**Proverbs 31:10**). In other words: if you are a man – a virtuous woman is more valuable than any material possession and such a woman will bring more happiness to your life than any amount of money, silver or gold you could ever have.

Also if you are a woman who seeks to be virtuous or a man who seeks a virtuous woman, the Bible clearly defines in **Proverbs 31:10-31** the type of qualities of a good wife.

## **1. A GOOD WIFE IS TRUSTWORTHY & DEPENDABLE**

**Proverbs 31:10-11 – An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.**  
A husband cannot cope without a good wife because his wife is reliable, trustworthy and rock-steady.

## **2. A GOOD WIFE DOES GOOD & NOT HARM TO HER HUSBAND**

**Proverbs 31:12 – She does him good, and not harm, all**

**the days of her life.**

A good wife does not work against her husband, but she works WITH her husband. Husband and wife should work together and not against each other.

### **3. A GOOD WIFE IS HARD-WORKING & INDUSTRIOUS**

A good and virtuous wife doesn't just expect to be provided for by her husband. A good wife however is also a provider herself together with her husband. She is not lazy but she is hard-working and she does what she can to play her part financially in the home. There is not just one breadwinner in the home – but both wife and husband are breadwinners.

**Proverbs 31:13,15,18,27 – She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands 15 She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.**

### **4. A GOOD WIFE IS STRONG & DIGNIFIED**

**Proverbs 31:17,25 – She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.**

If someone is dignified it means they are worthy of respect. Therefore a good wife carries herself well. She

also has a strong personality and reflects it when she needs to.

#### **5. A GOOD WIFE IS WISE & KNOWLEDGEABLE**

**Proverbs 31:26 – She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.**

Husbands certainly don't know everything. Therefore a man always needs his wife to give him advice and to help him in areas that he and the family might be struggling or attempting to achieve.

#### **6. A GOOD WIFE IS GOD FEARING**

**Proverbs 31:30 – Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.**

One of the greatest qualities any woman could have is to have reverence for God. A good wife will always understand the part that God plays in her life and in her family. Whatever she does in the household must give glory to God and ultimately her character must reflect the nature of God.

#### **7. A GOOD WIFE HAS INNER BEAUTY**

**Proverbs 31:30-31 – Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.**

**31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.**

They say – do not judge a book by its cover. A good wife does not only just focus on making her outward appearance look good. But however, she focuses on

having a good character and personality. She is not hypocritical but she is beautiful inside more than she is on the outside.

## **8. A GOOD WIFE RESPECTS HER HUSBAND**

**Ephesians 5:22-24 – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.**

God made the husband to be the head of the family. This does not mean that the wife is less important than a man but it simply means that in God's eyes the husband has been given the leadership role in the marriage. A good wife therefore recognizes her husband's leadership and respects and submits to her husband in the Lord.

There are many articles that focus on formulas for finding the right kind of woman. However, all the answers are found in God's word of what kind of woman a man should marry and what kind of woman a wife should be.

## **LIFE QUESTIONS**

1. Is the Biblical role of a wife still relevant in today's culture and world? Why / Why not?

2. The Bible says that wives are to submit to their own husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24). Is Biblical submission seen as a sign of weakness or strength especially in today's society? Why / Why not?
3. In what specific ways can a Christian wife respect her husband who is not also a Christian believer?

# Qualities of a Good Husband

Are you looking for a good husband? What are the qualities of a good husband? Is it money; his looks; his character?

Why do so many marriages start off well and then soon end up in divorce? Before you get married – how can you discern if the person you want to get married to is Mr Right?

Below are a few important areas you can look for in a potential good husband.

## 1. Does He Love God?

Does the man you love – love God? When a husband truly loves God, then it means he is a man who is willing to submit to God's values and principles of how a family should be run and led. A husband who loves the Lord will seek to please the Lord and because he has godly values will always seek the direction of the Lord as he leads his family. A good husband is more than just a church-goer – but he is a true and obedient Christian.

**Matthew 22:37-38 ESV – And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.**

**Proverbs 3:1-2 ESV – My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2**

**for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.**

## **2. Is His Love For You Genuine?**

If you are to truly perceive whether your man loves you, then you (yourself) need to also understand the true meaning and definition of what love is.

Love is more than just feelings. Love is more than whether or not he gives you flowers. Love is more than how much money he spends on you. Love is more than the little notes and poems he writes to you. Love is more than the physical experience of sex.

In fact – love is hard work. Love is not just a feeling – it's a verb; it's a "doing" word. Therefore love is not just what you feel – but what you do. Love exists even when there are problems and challenges in the relationship.

Love is unconditional and it exists even when it is unwanted or not recognized.

**Ephesians 5:28 ESV – In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 ESV – Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends.**



### **3. Does He Understand The Role of The Husband In A Marriage?**

Would it be wise for a job seeker to commit themselves to a certain job without first knowing or understanding what duties that particular job entails? Would an employee be effective in his duties, if he did not know what is required of him? If a man is to be an effective husband then he must know what a husband IS; what a husband DOES; and HOW to be a husband.

**Ephesians 5:23-28 ESV – For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 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. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

### **4. Does He Have a Vision or a Plan for Life & For A Family?**

Do you want to marry a man who is good looking but doesn't have a plan? Do you want to marry a man who is romantic but yet has no vision? Many single mothers exist because of men who do not have a plan and men

who lack the knowledge and wisdom to lead a family. Many children will never know the identity of their fathers because of men who did not have a plan because of men who were too afraid to take responsibility in a relationship. If a man has decided that he wants to be a husband and that he wants to lead his family then that man must exercise wisdom and he must have a direction and plan in order to lead his wife and children.

**Proverbs 3:13 NKJV – Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;**

### **5. Is He Committed to You & The Relationship?**

Does he appear like a man who will bail out when there is a problem or challenge? Does he still enjoy being single? Is he likely to cheat on you? The reason why divorce cases are so high is because people are no longer willing to be committed to a relationship. People would rather separate than work out their differences. Spouses have a self-centred, “whats-in-it-for-me?” attitude when they enter a relationship. A committed relationship is never always smooth – but every relationship requires work for it to succeed.

**Matthew 5:31-32 ESV – “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”**

**Malachi 2:16 NIV – “I hate divorce,” says the Lord God**

of Israel ...”

**Matthew 5:27-29 ESV – “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”**

## **6. Does He Love Children?**

A man who loves children is a man with the capabilities of being a good father. Single mothers exist partly because of irresponsible men who do not love even their own children to the extent that such men will avoid the responsibility of taking care of their own kids. Therefore a good husband will see children as a blessing from God and not a mistake because children are never a “mistake” or an “accident”.

**Psalm 127:3 – Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.**

**Proverbs 13:22 – A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the sinner’s wealth is laid up for the righteous.**

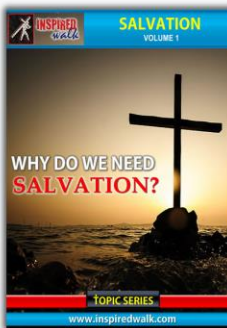
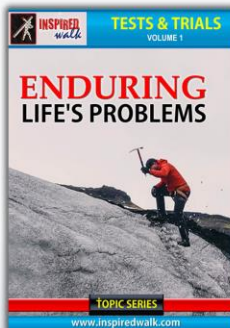
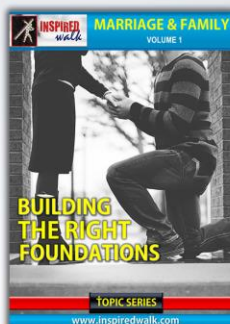
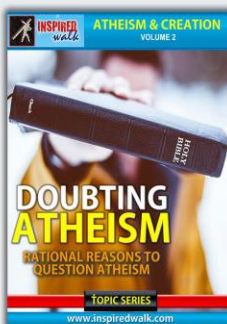
## **Conclusion**

There are no perfect men in life. A woman should never be drawn or led by the flesh when looking for the right man. If a woman is to find a good husband, she needs to rely on more than just her feelings. She must more importantly rely on the wisdom and direction of the Lord.

## LIFE QUESTIONS

1. Is the Biblical role of a husband still relevant in today's culture and world? Why / Why not?
2. In what specific ways can a husband love and lead his wife according to Ephesians 5:23-28?
3. In what ways has society changed the culture of men so that they are unable to Biblically lead in their homes?

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Hebrews 12:1

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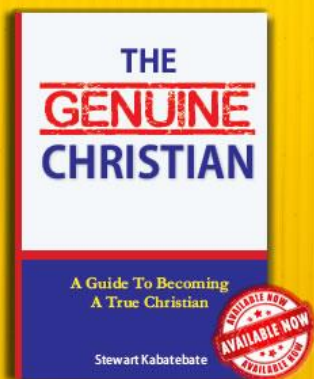


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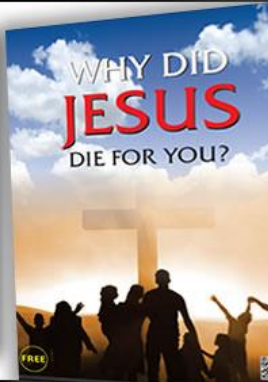
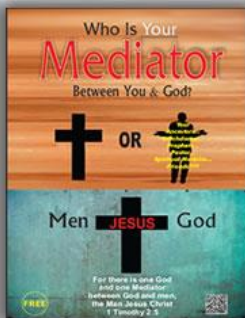
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