

# Becoming A Better Husband

Notes by Franklin

## I. The Christian Husband

Be on the **alert, stand firm in the faith, ACT LIKE MEN**, be strong. **All that you do, do it in LOVE.** 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

- STOP! Read it again, slow. Think about it. Memorize it and say it to yourself throughout each of your days.
- DO NOT read through this study quickly, take small bites each day, chew on it slowly, swallow each bite and let it become part of you.
- **ACT LIKE MEN** Not like other men! But like "The Man Christ Jesus."
- **do it in LOVE** To understand what this means read: 1Cor.13:1-8a

## Eight Basic Qualities of a Man of God

### A. He is a Spiritual Leader.

#### 1. First and Foremost for His Family.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 If a man does not know how to **manage** his own **household well**, how will he take care of the church of God?

Some translations use the word "**rules**" instead of "**manage**."  
The original word in the Greek means: "**stands before**."

This gives the meaning of: "**A LEADER**" **Being an example.**

A MAN'S **First** Ministry is to His WIFE / and then to His Children . . . and then to his occupation or job.

#### 2. Example: NOAH BUILDING AN ARK

Hebrews 11:7 By **faith** Noah, being **warned** by God about things not yet seen, moved with fear, **prepared an ark** for the **salvation of his family**, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

❖ **By Faith Noah Obeyed**

Genesis 6:9 . . . Noah was a **righteous man, blameless** in his time; Noah **walked with God**. This is The Goal men must continually strive for. We will continually become better and better as a husband only as we keep walking with JESUS every day.

Matthew 6:33 **But SEEK FIRST His kingdom** [His Lordship] **and His righteousness, and** [the Promise] **all these things will be added to you.**

Luke 6:46 **Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?**

- To be a good husband and please the LORD and your wife, begins with Obeying HIS Word. The Bible is The **Instruction Manual** our Creator gave us for how to build and live a blessed and prosperous life.

❖ **Noah was warned by God:**

Genesis 6:11-13 The LORD told Noah exactly **what to do** and **how** to build the ARK for the **salvation of His Family**. If he did not be careful to obey, his family could be seriously hurt.

One flood that overtakes and destroys many men and their marriage is the Devastating Destruction of LUST.

1 Peter 2:11 **Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.**

**RUN from sexual sin!** No other sin so **CLEARLY AFFECTS THE BODY** as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit**, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. **So you must honor God with your body.** 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NLT

Joseph RAN: Genesis 39:7-12

**RUN from anything that stimulates youthful lusts.** Instead, **pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace.** Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with **pure hearts.**

2 Tim 2:22 NLT

Acts 21:25 AMP. . . we have sent them a letter that they should **keep themselves FREE** from . . . **all impurity** and **sexual immorality.**

John 8:34-35 Truly, **everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.**

- o Lust will wrap you in chains and make you it's SLAVE.

Acts 15:29 **You must abstain . . . from sexual immorality.**

Hebrews 12:16 **See that no one is sexually immoral**

The Bible is explicit about the DANGERS and DESTRUCTIVE HARM of sexual immorality. It will destroy you / your wife / your children / your marriage.

#### ❖ **Moved with fear**

The word "fear" in the Bible also means **reverence** and **respect**

Proverb 1:7 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of **knowledge**; but **fools** despise wisdom and instruction.

Genesis 22:12 Abraham obeyed The LORD even though he did not understand. And the LORD said: **for now I know that you fear God,**

- o It was fear, reverence and respect for the LORD that moved Noah and Abraham to do great and mighty things for the **salvation of their families.**

Exodus 18:21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able **men who fear God**, men of **truth**, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them **as leaders** of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

- o A man who Fears The LORD is the man every woman needs as a husband and leader, and The LORD blesses, promotes and gives favor to this man in every area of his life.

#### ❖ **And Built an Ark** The word means: a sacred ark; or **treasure chest**

A **Treasure Chest** keeps your **most valuable possessions** safe.

Men are builders, and as a husband we **MUST** build a strong ARK, a Treasure Chest to keep our Family safe.

Here are some good instructions for building:

1 Corinthians 3:9-14 For **we** [husbands] **are God's fellow workers** . . . **The foundation is Jesus Christ**. And each one should **be careful how he builds**. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones [That which is precious and valuable] or wood, hay, straw, [that which is not precious and valuable] **his work will be shown for what it is**, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the **fire will test the quality of each man's work**. **If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward**.

- As a Husband, every one of us will face this test.
- To build an Ark, a Treasure Chest **YOU NEED WISDOM**

Proverb 24:3 By **wisdom** a **house is built**, and through **understanding** it is **established** <sup>4</sup> through **knowledge** its rooms are **filled** with **rare** and **beautiful treasures**.

Here is a Word from the LORD to YOU:

Proverb 2:1-8 **My son, if** you will **receive my words** and **treasure** my commandments within you, <sup>2</sup>Make your **ear attentive** to **wisdom**, incline your **heart** to **understanding**; <sup>3</sup>For if you **cry** for discernment, **lift your voice** for understanding; <sup>4</sup>**If** you **seek** her as silver and **search** for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>**Then** you will discern **the fear of the LORD** And **discover** the **knowledge of God**. <sup>6</sup>For **the LORD gives wisdom**; from His mouth **knowledge** and **understanding**. <sup>7</sup>**HE** stores up **sound wisdom** for the **upright**; **HE** is a **shield** to those who **walk in integrity**, <sup>8</sup> **Guarding** the paths of **justice**, and **HE preserves** the way of **His godly ones**.

- **STOP!** Read it again. Read it often. Think about it . . .

Luke 11:21-22 When a **strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe**. <sup>22</sup> But when someone stronger [the evil one] **attacks and overpowers him, he** [the evil one] **takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils**.

- You **MUST be Strong** in The LORD, NOT in your own strength. What is a man's armor? If You DO NOT KNOW, the evil one will easily take it from You.

Ephesians 6:10-17 Finally, **be strong in the Lord** and in the **strength of His might**. <sup>11</sup>**Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil**. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against

the world **forces of this darkness**, against the **spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly places <sup>13</sup>**Therefore**, take up the **full armor of God**, so that you will be **able to resist** in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with **truth**, and having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, <sup>15</sup>and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which **you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one**. <sup>17</sup>And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **Word of God**.

Before proceeding with this study, read through all of the above (pages 1-5) every day for several days.

❖ **For the Salvation of his family**      Luke 11:21-22

- As a LEADER the man is the **HEAD** of the family → A Position given by God and therefore held Responsible.

1 Corinthians 11:3 **But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man**, and the **man is the head of a woman**, and God is the head of Christ. **This is The Divine Order.**

- A Leader is a **SERVANT** This is a MUST! **This is The Divine Order.**

Mark 10:42-45 **You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.** <sup>43</sup>**But it is not this way among you, whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;** <sup>44</sup>**and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.** <sup>45</sup>**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life** a ransom for many.

- A Leader is a **TEACHER** This is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY NOT YOUR WIFE's. The LORD HOLDS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS WIFE AND HIS CHILDREN. She can help but YOU must be THE LEADER.

2 Timothy 2:15-16 **Study to show yourself approved** unto God, a **workman** that does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the Word of Truth**. <sup>16</sup>But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

The Husband – YOU - are to be the Spiritual Leader / Teacher of your family. Find time to read the Bible by turning the TV OFF. YOU take you Family to Church regularly. Pray with your wife and children daily.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be **upon your hearts**. **7 impress them on your children. Talk about** them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**

Ephesians 6:4 **Fathers**, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

Proverb 13:24 **He . . . who loves** his child is careful to **discipline** him.

Proverb 22:6 **Train** a child in **the way he should go**, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverb 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Proverb 23:13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

It **MUST** be done **in LOVE** and **NOT IN ANGER**. If you are angry about their behavior tell your child to go to their room and you will talk to them in a minute. Cool Down. PRAY. Think about the best way.

Proverb 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his demise.

Proverb 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Proverb 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

- A Leader is A MAN OF **VISION**  
Proverb 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained

Help your children **discover their purpose in life** and accomplish their full potential.

B. He is a MAN She can Respect. Titus 1:6-10

RESPECT CAN NOT BE DEMANDED, IT IS EARNED from your wife, children and others as you live and demonstrate Godly leadership.

1. Loves the Lord → A man of Prayer Matthew 6:5-13
2. Loves the Word of God → Bible Study Psalm 1
3. Filled with the Holy Spirit Ephesians 5:18
4. Led by the Spirit Galatians 5:18
5. Fruit of the Spirit in His life Galatians 5:19-25
6. Partaker of the divine nature 2 Peter 1:4-11

C. A MAN who LOVES His Wife.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **LOVE YOUR WIVES, just as Christ loved the church and GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER**

LOVE GIVES and without hesitation makes SACRIFICES

John 3:16 For God **so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**

- The BEST GIFT that could be given. The Greatest Sacrifice

Example of Jesus: Philippians 2:5-8

**HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES** which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be held on to,** <sup>7</sup> but **EMPTIED HIMSELF,** taking the form of a **BOND-SERVANT,** and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> He **HUMBLED HIMSELF** by becoming **obedient** to the point of **DEATH,** even death on a cross.

**Have this attitude in yourselves**

- Marriages are destroyed because men DO NOT have this attitude.

**did not regard equality** with God a thing to be held on to,

- **Do NOT hold on to your position as “head” over your wife. Give it up.** whoever wishes to **become great** among you shall be your **servant** Matthew 20:26

but **emptied Himself**

- **As husbands we MUST empty ourselves of pride and position** in reference to your former manner of life, **PUT OFF the old self**, which is corrupted . . . <sup>2</sup> and **PUT ON the new self**, which is righteousness, holiness and Truth. Ephesians 4:22

taking the form of a **bond-servant**

- **You MUST become and be a Servant to your wife and family. Marriages and families are destroyed by men “lording over” their wife rather than being an example.**

Matthew 20:27-28 whoever wishes to **be first** among you shall be your **slave**; <sup>28</sup> just **as** the Son of Man **did not come to be served**, but **to serve**, and to **give His life** a ransom for many.

As a husband, as a leader, **WE MUST** become a **servant to our Wife** and Family. WE MUST give up, **Sacrifice our life** so that our Wife and Children will be **CHANGED by LOVE** seen and demonstrated by a Christ-like servant-leader. THIS IS THE ANSWER !

He **humbled Himself** **Take a lower position. How?** by becoming **obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross.

- There is no resurrection life unless there is **FIRST a DEATH. THEN THERE IS LIFE.**

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat **falls** to the earth and **dies**, it remains **alone**; but **if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

- **falls** – Humble ourselves **dies** – death to self / sacrifice **bears much fruit** – The fruit of the Spirit: love – joy – peace – patience – kindness – goodness – faithfulness – gentleness – self-control.

The Result:

A Transformed Marriage and Family.

## 1. Jesus Established a Covenant with his Bride.

The LORD GOD is a Covenant Making & KEEPING God. Isaiah 54:10

Eight Covenants Made by God in the Bible.

A Covenant is Entered into to by:

- a) Agreement of terms or Vows: Genesis 12:2-3, 7 "I Will . . . "
- b) Shedding of blood. Genesis 15:9+
- c) Sign of the Covenant Genesis 9:12 rainbow; 15:7 the land / (ring)
- d) Name change Genesis 17:5 (wife takes husband's name)
- e) **Two become One** / Joint Heirs / Stand together, work together.

**MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT** and Entered into in the same manner AND ORDER, as the Lord God set forth in His Word (see above).

Malachi 2:14 *Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your **companion** and **your wife by COVENANT**.*

The word "covenant" in Hebrew means: "*cutting*" and therefore blood.

Our marriage covenant is Patterned after the "Covenant" JESUS CHRIST made with HIS BRIDE the Church.

### ❖ The Sexual Act is a Blood Covenant-Making Act.

The Lord designed the female body in such a way that the first sexual act is a blood covenant act (a small amount of blood is shed when the hymen membrane is broken).

- Pre-marital sex & Adultery defiles the covenant Exodus 20:14
- The **MOTIVATION** Is **LOVE** not lust.

The **PROVISIONS** of Covenant:

- a) SACRIFICE - *gave Himself up for her* Ephesians 5:25
- b) LOYALTY - *I will never leave you ....* Hebrews 13:4
- c) PROVISION - *All these things will be added unto you* Mt.6:33
- d) PROTECTION *Nothing shall by any means hurt you* Luke 10:19
- e) PROPERTY *joint heirs* Romans 8:17

## 2. The Result of the Covenant:

Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall (1) leave his father and his mother, and (2) be **joined** to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

❖ Joined (Hebrew – dabaq) meaning: to cling or adhere, **bonded**

Matthew 19:5 For this reason a man shall (1) leave his father and mother and (2) be **joined** to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

❖ Joined (Greek – kollao): to glue or stick together; **bond together**

Matthew 19:6 So they are **no longer two**, but **one** flesh. What therefore **God has joined** together (bonded together) **let no man separate**.

### STEPS:

1. LEAVE → Depart From / Separate.

The man should be mature enough and able to support and provide for his wife. And only then enter into the covenant of marriage by exchange of vows - name change - and the covenant act.

2. CLEAVE or JOINED → Permanence / joined like skin to bones / **Bonded** Together / glued together

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Science has shown that powerful hormones are released in the brain during the sexual act that in fact create a '**bonding experience**' between the two individuals.

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❖ **Bonding** between a couple is defiled, diluted and weakened if committed with another person or persons (adultery). Instead of one mental / emotional / physical bond, there are two or more, adding to the dilution of the bond or bonds mentally & emotionally.

❖ Pre-marital sex establishes the same mental / emotional / physical bonds that weaken and dilute the future marital bond.

a) Meaning of One Flesh:

- Man is a THREE PART being. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Adam & Eve had TOTAL UNITY: SPIRIT - SOUL & BODY  
They were ONE Ephesians 5:28
- OPEN / TRANSPARENT / NO SHAME / HONEST  
IN AGREEMENT Matthew 18:19

b) Satan recognized the power of this relationship.

- He set out to destroy it. He wanted their authority.
- Still today through every means possible (i.e. pornography, etc.) he destroys the sanctity of the marriage covenant.
- What the Lord loves most, satan attacks to destroy.
- Genesis 3:7 Became Self-Centered. "Covered Up" from each other – Separating themselves from one another.  
**Same Today!**
- Genesis 3:8 Hid From GOD who MUST BE IN THE MARRIAGE  
**Same Today!**
- Genesis 3:12 Failed to recognize who the enemy was and Justified their sin. **Same Today!**
- Genesis 4:1 Only the physical union was left.

c) Jesus Christ Came to REDEEM & RENEW the ORIGINAL STANDARDS.

- Before Redemption:  
Divorce permitted when hearts were hard.  
Jesus came to change our Hard hearts. Jeremiah 32:39
- Original Plan did not include SEPARATION or DIVORCE

JESUS gave NO EXCUSE for divorce when talking to His disciples.  
*"except for immorality"* Which breaks the covenant.

Matthew 19:3-9 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" (4) And He answered and said, Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, (5) and said, 'for this reason a man shall **leave** his father and mother and be **joined** to his wife, and the two shall become **one** flesh'? (6) "So they are **no longer two, but one** flesh. What therefore **God has joined together, let no man separate.** (7) They said to Him, Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away? (8) He said to them, Because of your **hardness of heart** Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; **but from the beginning it has not been this way.** (9) And **I say** to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery."

- The Lord's position is: **What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.**
- It is in response to their question, [vs.7 **Why did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away**] that the Lord explains that it was because of the "**hardness of heart.**" And, goes on to explain that there is **no reason for divorce today "except for immorality"** which defiles the marriage covenant.
- Before the "**hardness of heart**" came up, that "**Moses permitted**" there is no mention from the Lord of any exceptions, as seen in the following verses. They all refer to the original design. The Matthew passage alone has the "exception clause."

Mark records this same passage and does not include the "exception clause."

Mark 10:11-12 **And He said to them, Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; (12) and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.**

Luke 16:18 **Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.**

Romans 7:1-4 **Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? (2) For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. (3) So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man. (4) Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.**

These three passages all refer to the "Original Design" and intent of the Lord which is the high standard we all should reach for.

**HOWEVER** – due to the condition of our hearts, **Paul** gives **his opinion** (like what Moses allowed) that if your partner obtains a divorce, then you are free to marry.

1 Corinthians 7:25-29 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but **I give an opinion** as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy. (26) I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. (27) Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are **you released** from a wife? Do not seek a wife. (28) **But if you marry, you have not sinned**; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

The above NASU translation is closer to the original Greek language than the NIV, as the Greek word "released" specifically refers to divorce (Strong's Concordance #3080).

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#### D. A Husband that "LIVES" with His Wife      1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, **live with** your wives in an **understanding** way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her **honor** as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- "**live with**" - Life Together, enjoying, sharing everything TOGETHER. She is not a maid for laundry, meals, etc. only.

#### SHARING LIFE TOGETHER INCLUDES:

1. **ACCEPT her** just as she is. **Do NOT try to change her**. Her God-given personality is different from yours. She learned at home how to do things different than you did. To try to change her shows Rejection
2. **APPROVAL** (vs. Disapproval) Words !!! tone of voice  
1 Cor.16:14 **Let all that you do be done in love.**
3. **AFFECTION** (vs. Withdrawal) Song of Solomon  
You wife, being female NEEDS TENDER LOVING CARE, hugs, holding hands, and as the song says "touch my hair when you pass my chair, little things mean a lot."

It is fact that **touch**, personal contact, conveys acceptance which is desperately needed by everyone to fill the **void** in every heart. This void, in our wives and children, **must** be filled by the husband or father and NOT BY ANOTHER, like by a young man to girl on a date.

4. **RECONCILE** → Restore to a Right Relationship      Matthew 5:21-24  
The Husband / Leader is responsible to do all that is necessary to Restore and Maintain a Right Relationship with his wife.

## 5. FORGIVENESS

1 Cor.13:5 Love **does not** take into account a wrong suffered.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all keep fervent in your love for one another, because **love covers a multitude of sins.**

Definition: To give free pardon of, and forget any offense or debt.

Do Not Speak to Others About the Offense: Proverb 17:9

Forgiveness is a Command of God.

a) If we forgive - we are forgiven

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

b) Unforgiveness holds us in BONDAGE Matthew 18:23-35

Can be the root of demonic strongholds

Matthew 18:34-35 . . . delivered him to the **tormentors**, till he should pay all that was due. <sup>35</sup>So likewise shall my Heavenly Father do also to you, if you from your hearts do not forgive everyone their trespasses.

c) Blocks the Promises of God

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your offering there before the altar and go; **first be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Mark 11:25 Whenever you stand praying, **forgive**, if you have **anything** against **anyone**, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

d) Repentance of our spouse is not necessary before we forgive them

Luke 23:34 But Jesus was saying, Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing. And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Stephen Acts 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!"

- e) No Limit to the number of times we are to Forgive  
Matthew 18:22 Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
- f) **Love** Keeps No Record of Wrongs  
1 Corinthians 13:5 Love is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered
- g) **Love covers** a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- h) If Spouse is Committing Repetitive Sin: **Forgive** AS God does  
  
Isaiah 43:25 I will not remember your sins.  
Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- i) Forgiveness Is An ACT OF THE WILL, Feelings will follow
- j) Need To Examine Ourselves, Not Our Spouse

Matthew 7:1-5 **Do not judge**, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>**Why** do you look at the speck of in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, **first** take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- k) Companionship and Intimacy with God is hindered:

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

- l) We Will Not Prosper  
Proverb 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.
- m) BITTERNESS  
Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no **root of bitterness** springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Bitterness Destroy Us - Affects Other People - Gives Birth to Other Sin - Hardens Our Heart - Crush and Kills Love

E. A MAN that UNDERSTANDS and KNOWS His Wife.

1 Peter 3:7 [live with your wives in an \*\*understanding\*\* way](#)

1. **Work** to Understand Her. **Show Her** by:

a) **Listen** to her carefully. What she is really saying.

Try to find a time every day to LISTEN to your wife. Ask her "how was your day" then LISTEN giving Eye Contact and doing NOTHING ELSE. DO NOT INTERRUPT her. It is BEST to show UNDERSTANDING and COMPASSION and NOT GIVING HER ADVISE.

b) **Be Sensitive** to her attitude, is she angry, frustrated, happy because this will determine her need and how you respond.

c) **Know** her **strengths** and **weaknesses** and protect her by helping her not to overwork and to get enough rest.

d) Know her **gifts** and **abilities**. Your Wife has a God-given personality type that determines how she approaches everything in life. And it is probably opposite your personality type. This personality CAN NOT BE CHANGED, SO DO NOT TRY!

She also will do everything around the house as her mother did. Be patient with her, let her do it her way. If there is a better way occasionally suggest she try it. But be PATIENT.

e) **Give her your ear and arms and not your mouth.**

2. **Understanding** Requires: **AGREEMENT**

[Can two walk together except they be agreed?](#) Amos 3:3

Without agreement as husband and wife, there is lack of peace.

James 3:16 [For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find \*\*disorder\*\* and every \*\*evil practice\*\*.](#)

a) Disagreement Opens the door to enemy attack.

b) Disagreement Keeps us out of God's will.

c) Disagreement Leads to blaming each other for failures

"I told you so."

"You always think you are right."

AGREEMENT GOD'S WAY. Agreement means HARMONY

Matthew 18:19 *Again, I tell you that if **two** of you **agree** about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.*

WE MUST AGREE, not on MY will, but GOD'S WILL.

If YOU BOTH seek The LORD'S WILL it will be easy to agree.

THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH:

- His Word
- Prayer *Whatever they shall ask...* Matthew 18:19

Both husband and wife need to Hear Him

Luke 11:10 *For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds*

PRINCIPLES:

- The time it takes to come into agreement is far less than the time it takes to unravel a wrong decision.
- The HUSBAND is LEADER in reaching agreement.
- Determine not to make any major decisions without Agreement.

WRONG WAYS TO REACH AGREEMENT:

- Expert Opinion
- Compromise
- Survival of the strongest between husband and wife
- Manipulation
- Logic (husband) vs. Emotion (wife)
- Open Doors and/or Closed Doors

Bringing God's Will to Pass on Earth *it will come to pass and be done for them by my Father in Heaven* Matt.18:19

- Waiting to make sure you have God's will allows you to proceed in confidence
- It enables His will to come to pass on earth.
- A Couple consistently seeking agreement in this manner will begin to focus on the will of God as a way of life.

F. A MAN that "HONORS" His Wife. 1 Peter 3:7 "**Giving Honor**"

1. Place her on a Pedestal – as your Queen. Always use good manners at the table, pull her chair out for her, open doors for her . . .
2. Be Sure She feels that she is "NUMBER ONE" in your life.
3. If you treat Her as a Queen – She will treat you as a King.

G. A MAN that "Nourishes and Cherishes" His Wife.

Ephesians 5:28-31 Husbands, **love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her,** <sup>26</sup> that He might **sanctify and cleanse** her with the washing of water **by the word,** <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> **So husbands ought to love their own wives** as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but **NOURISHES and CHERISHES** it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body,\* of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

**nourishes:** That which strengthens and promotes health & happiness.

**cherishes:** Treat her very special - Alert, sensitive, protects

Examples: The way a man takes care of his new bike as compared to his old bike.

H. A MAN that Communicates Intimately with His Wife

- Ephesians 5:26 **sanctify** - to set apart to ones self. Privileged position.
  - Words are Powerful! Proverb 18:21 (death & life)
  - Our Words are like seed sown in her heart. Mt. 13:3, 19

If we **SOW** Right words we **REAP** INTIMACY.

If we **SOW** Wrong words we **REAP** SEPARATION.

• Sowing and Reaping Galatians 6:7-9

Galatians 6:7-10 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; **for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.** <sup>8</sup> For he who **sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption**, but he who **sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.** <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary doing good, for in due season **we shall reap** if we do not lose heart.

1. Spiritual Law

- a) Like Natural law - will be fulfilled.
- b) Ignorance does not stop it from producing fruit
- c) We are guaranteed a harvest.
- d) We will reap exactly what we sow

2. Seed Sowing James 3:9-10

James 3:8-11 But no man can tame **the tongue**. It is an unruly evil, full of **deadly poison.** <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> **Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.**

- Seed selection: either from God or from satan.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.** Now **CHOOSE LIFE, SO THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN MAY LIVE.**

JESUS ALWAYS SOWS LIFE. He Is Life.

John 14:6 **I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

satan ALWAYS sows DEATH.

John 10:10 **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy**

No seed is Neutral.

We are ALWAYS SOWING; therefore we are ALWAYS REAPING.

When we are Born Again we are directed to choose only **Live-Giving Seed.**

Romans 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who are **according to the Spirit**, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For **the mind set on the flesh is death**, but **the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace**, <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, <sup>8</sup> and **those who are in the flesh cannot please God**.

Old HABITS cause us to choose seed from the wrong bag.

### 3. Types of Seed We Sow

a) WORDS

"Our children are so rebellious." / "Our children desire to obey God"  
"I can not do that" / "I can do all things through Christ ..."

What you continually tell your children they are – they become.

b) ATTITUDES Humility vs. Pride / Gratitude vs. Bitterness

c) ACTIONS Accepting or Rejecting / Freely Giving or selfishness

### 4. How We Sow

a) WE are Always Sowing Into: Our life, our wife, our children

b) The HEART Is SOIL

Jeremiah 4:3-4 The LORD says to . . . Plow up the **hard** ground of **your hearts!** Do not waste your good seed among thorns. Surrender your pride and power. **Change your hearts** before the LORD, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins. NLT

c) Types of SOIL: Rocky or Thorny.

The WATER of the WORD and PRAYER helps Soften the soil.

Matthew 13:3-9 A sower went out to sow. Some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds ate it. Some fell on stony places, and they withered away. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns choked them. Others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

## 5. Factors of the Harvest

- TIME: Wait & Water. Fertilize with Actions - Do Not Dig Up.
- MULTIPLICATION Will reap "whatever a man sows that..."
- Will Reap More Than we Sowed
- Each Crop Provides Seed for Future Sowing
- Satan gives us a Single Seed: We Plant It and Reap Even More. We then plant even more Seed and reap a Larger Crop

## 6. Recognizing Crops

- Good Crops: Discover What Seed Was Sown and Select more good seed.
- Bad Crops: Repentance is like a Weed Killer.
- It may take time. 1 John 1:9

## 7. Sowing Good Crops

- CHOOSE SEED From God's Seed Bag / The WORD of GOD
- Choose your Word's Carefully

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

- PREPARE THE SOIL Prayer and Spiritual Warfare
- SPEAK FORTH THE WORD TO SOW IT

Proverb 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Job 22:28 You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you

- FERTILIZE with Appropriate Actions  
James 2:26 faith without works is dead

REALIZE THE ENEMY SEEKS TO PLANT HIS SEEDS IN YOUR  
THOUGHTS      2 Corinthians 10:5      Philippians 4:8

2 Cor.10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Phil 4:8-9 whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.

## 8. Avoiding Strife

James 3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

Proverb 20:3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.

- Takes two to have strife.      **Just Refuse.**  
A merry-go-round or strife is hard to stop.

Proverb 15:1-2 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. <sup>2</sup>The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

- More Important to AVOID than to JUSTIFY SELF.

Matthew 23:12 **And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**

- SOW LOVE when the other Sows Strife

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Galatians 5:14-15 You shall love your neighbor as yourself but if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- Your Spouse IS NOT THE ENEMY

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies.

- AVOID BY: TAKING UP YOUR CROSS - You ARE DEAD

Galatians 2:20 **I have been crucified** with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**

Whenever you feel **anger** rising up inside of you to “fight back” and defend yourself and your position . . . **STOP RIGHT THERE.**

FIRST: **Quote Galatians 2:20** to yourself and allow The HOLY SPIRIT to respond IN LOVE.

This is what JESUS meant when He said:

Matthew 16:24 **If anyone wishes to come after Me, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, and TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.**

1 Peter 2:21-24 For **to this you were called**, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that **you should follow in His steps**: <sup>22</sup>Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; <sup>23</sup> and **when He was reviled, HE DID NOT REVILE IN RETURN; when He suffered, HE DID NOT THREATEN**, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

This WILL TOTALLY **TRANSFORM YOU**, YOUR **WIFE**, YOUR **MARRIAGE**, YOUR **CHILDREN**, and YOUR **FAMILY**.

YOU MUST BE THE LEADER IN THIS AND SET THE EXAMPLE.

- If you FAIL to allow The HOLY SPIRIT to RESPOND IN LOVE Call A STRIFE BREAK.

PRAY SILENTLY FOR THREE MINUTES.

NEVER SAY: “You Always..” TAME THE TONGUE

James 3:6 & 8 And the **tongue** *is* a **fire**, a world of **iniquity**. The tongue **defiles** the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and **it is set on fire by hell**. . . It is an unruly evil, **full of deadly poison**.

CONFESS AND ASK FORGIVENESS.

1 John 1:6-10 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## I. The Result

- 1 Peter 3:7 A Powerful, Mountain- Moving Prayer Team
- Matthew 18:19 If **two of you agree** on earth about anything that they may ask, **it shall be done for them** by My Father who is in heaven.
- John 13:35 **By this** shall all men know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another**.

*And they lived happily ever after.*

The end