

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

Permanent partnership & relationship; covenant/contract before God and man; partners have become as "one flesh"; we should not separate what God has joined together; God did not intend for divorce, and hates divorce (Gen 2:18-25; Mat 19:3-8; I Cor 7: 10, 27,39; Prv 2:16-17; Mal 2:13-16).

BIBLICAL ROLES

HUSBAND: LOVING LEADER (family provider, protector, spiritual leader/teacher).

A husband should love his wife like Jesus loves the church; a husband should love his wife so much that he is willing to die for her.

WIFE: SUBMISSIVE HELPER/PARTNER (home manager; husband & children a priority).

A wife should submit to her husband's authority like the church submits to the authority of Jesus.

Practical Principles

- 1) For a marriage to thrive and reach it's full potential, both spouses need to fulfill their biblical roles.
- 2) We should unconditionally fulfill our role, even if our spouse does not fulfill their role.
- 3) We can not force our spouse to fulfill their role; we should fulfill our role and pray for our spouse to fulfill their role.
- 4) If we do a good job in fulfilling our role, then:
 - God is pleased
 - We are blessed
 - Our marriage is strengthened
 - Our children are blessed and see a positive role model

- It is easier for our spouse to fulfill their role

(Selected Biblical references: I Cor 11:3; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; I Pet 3:1-8; Titus 2:3-5; I Tim 5:14; Pv 14:1; Pv 31:10-31)

QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) What is my philosophy regarding divorce? Does my philosophy line up with scripture? Am I committed to stay married irregardless of whatever problems/challenges come my way?
- 2) Have I started teaching my children God's design for marriage?
- 3) How am I doing in fulfilling my biblical role as a husband or wife? Am I accepting of the role that God has given me? If not, what is blocking my acceptance and what can be done to correct the problem? What are areas that I need improvement?

- 4) Have I started teaching my children God's intended marriage roles?

- 5) How is my spouse doing in fulfilling their role? What can I do to make fulfilling their role easier (nagging them is not an acceptable answer!)?