

MARRIAGE GRACE

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

❖ Love each other EQUALLY

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

1. A marriage must have mutual ACCOUNTABILITY for it to SUCCEED.

“Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.”

Malachi 2:15 (NIV)

2. A married couple must accept mutual RESPONSIBILITY for HARMONY at home.

“A man should fulfill his duty as a husband, and a woman should fulfill her duty as a wife, and each should satisfy the other’s needs.”

1 Corinthians 7:3

3. A healthy marriage must practice healthy COMMUNICATION for it to SURVIVE.

“Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”

Colossians 3:19 (NIV)

“The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their needs. There are husbands who, indifferent as they are to any words about God, will be captivated by your life of holy beauty.”

1 Peter 3:1-2 (MSG)

❖ Love your husband UNIQUELY

“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

1. Recognize his RESPONSIBILITY before God to be the LEADER of the home.

"She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard."

1 Peter 3:7b (NLT)

2. Realize there is a DIVINE ORDER that God has placed in the home.

"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV)

3. Respond to his God-given role with SUPPORT, LOVE and RESPECT.

"That is the way the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands."

1 Peter 3:5 (NLT)

❖ Love your wife SELFLESSLY

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

1. Recognize that next to Jesus your wife is God's GREATEST GIFT to you.

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him...Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.'"

Genesis 2:18, 22-24 (NIV)

2. Realize every opportunity to BLESS and ENCOURAGE your wife.

"Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting."

Ephesians 5:25 (MSG)

3. Respond to your wife with HONOR and UNDERSTANDING before others.

"In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together."

1 Peter 3:7a (NLT)

❖ Closing Truth: The two CONERSTONES of a Godly marriage... LOVE & RESPECT.

"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."