

The Ideal Marriage

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Marriage means *to be united*. Sell (1981) stated this word **united** in its Greek term is equivalent to “a voluntary, passionate, close relationship that involves a man and woman’s soul and body.” When we choose to live in strife, it creates internal scars. Joyce talks about the importance of healing troubled relationships and staying free from strife (Meyers 2008). It reads, “If we want to defeat Satan and enjoy trouble-free relationships, we will have to exchange pride for humility, keep our mouths shut, and follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit” (20). Although I am now enjoying the glory of a peaceful life, that was not my testimony as a child and young adult. As a young girl, I used to daydream a lot. My idea of the perfect marriage was painted in my mind by Disney and Hollywood. In my home, I mostly witnessed domestic violence, betrayal, poverty, and unforgiveness. So in order to escape the reality of my real life events, I would slip away to a place in my mind where I was Cinderella, Snow-white, and other beautiful characters that brought images of love, romance, fashion...you name it.

Now that I’ve matured as an adult, experience has taught me that marriage is full of opportunities for joy and pain. Learning to love each other well and glorify God through our relationship is a challenge worth taking on each day. But we can't expect to face the challenge on our own and win. Taking time to study what the Bible has to say about communication, sex, finances and more will help husbands and wives form a strong foundation and grow. When two seek God together, He will provide them with the love and support they need to have a healthy marriage.

Dictionary.com describes the qualities of a spouse is “one whose life exemplifies godliness, integrity (i.e. honesty morality, trustworthiness).” I added a good sense of humor,

compassion for others, and legacy. My husband and I look for these qualities in one another because God created us to display His image together. Our gender differences create desire as well as conflict. The things that I know I have to work on as a wife is stress and letting go of past mistakes. Stress comes when I take on more than I should. But qualities that were a challenge in my twenties and early thirties are no challenge for me now because I have grown in my relationship with God. And as a proverbs 31 woman, I have learned that a strong wife comes about through grace—grace for mistakes and grace that empowers her, even in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

I have heard women say, “It is hard to find an example of what a godly man is.” I respectfully disagree because the Bible is very clear about how a godly husband should behave and treat his wife. That is why I believe what I believe. Some churches put a tremendous amount of time and effort into promoting scriptures about the role of women, and that is helpful. But not nearly as much time and effort highlighting the verses that illustrate how a godly man should treat his wife. See below Scriptures!

- find joy in the wife of his youth, Prov. 5:18
- praise his wife for all the good work she does, and allow her to benefit from her hard work, Prov. 31:28, 31
- love, nourish, and cherish his wife like Christ loved the church; give himself up (die) for his wife, Eph. 5:25, 29
- love his wife as his own body; and be sexually faithful to her, Eph. 5:28; Heb. 13:4
- leave his parents and be united with wife, Eph. 5:31, Gen 2:24
- love his wife as he loves himself, and do not be harsh to her, Eph. 5:33; Col. 3:19

- honor his wife, and show her understanding and consideration, 1 Pet. 3:7

References

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