

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Genesis 2:21-25

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²¹ 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. ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- **The first key to a successful marriage: Realize that God Himself ordained it.**

- **When that is understood and only when that is understood can we see both the value and the seriousness of the covenant that we are making with our spouse**

Mark 10:6-9

•⁶ But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation. ⁷ ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, ⁸ and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, ⁹ let no one split apart what God has joined together. (NLT)

- *God joined you together, not the preacher or the government.*
- *Your first vow is to God, even before your spouse.*

- *The second key: The man, by order of God, is the head and we both, husband and wife, must seek to fulfill our God-given roles in love*

- *First, the men:*

Ephesians 5:22-24

•²² Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as [a service] to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as Christ is head of the church, Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives should be subject to their husbands in everything [respecting both their position as protector and their responsibility to God as head of the house]. (AMP)

1 Peter 3:1

- *In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate, not as inferior, but out of respect for the responsibilities entrusted to husbands and their accountability to God, and so partnering with them] so that even if some do not obey the word [of God], they may be won over [to Christ] without discussion by the godly lives of their wives (AMP)*

Genesis 2:18 & 20

•¹⁸ And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him...²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. (KJV)

- *Help meet is one word in Hebrew: Ezer – ay-zer – which means: aid or help*
- *The root word in Hebrew is Azar – aw-zar – which means: to surround, protect, aid, help or/and succor (relief; that is something or someone that furnishes relief)*

• Dr. Matthew Henry said, “God didn’t take Eve from the head of Adam to be his superior, nor from his foot to be his inferior, but God took Eve from his side to be his equal”

• J. Vernon McGee puts it this way, “Adam was only half a man until Eve came along. She completed him.”

- *Marriage is about two equals that recognize their different spiritual roles, yet they look continually for ways to serve and lift up one another*

Ephesians 5:25-30

•²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives [seek the highest good for her and surround her with a caring, unselfish love], just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify the church, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [of God], ²⁷ so that [in turn] He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy [set apart for God] and blameless. (AMP)*

Ephesians 5:25-30

•²⁸ *Even so husbands should and are morally obligated to love their own wives as [being in a sense] their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *For no one ever hated his own body, but [instead] he nourishes and protects and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,³⁰ because we are members (parts) of His body. (AMP)*

Ephesians 5:33

- *³³ However, each man among you [without exception] is to love his wife as his very own self [with behavior worthy of respect and esteem, always seeking the best for her with an attitude of lovingkindness], and the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear] (AMP)*

1 Peter 3:7

•⁷ In the same way, you husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way [with great gentleness and tact, and with an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship], as with someone physically weaker, since she is a woman. Show her honor and respect as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered or ineffective (AMP)

- *We must note however that being the head comes the greatest responsibilities and the greatest accountability (Ephesians 5:24)*

The Husband's Vows

- *I will be the protector and acknowledge my responsibility to God as head of the house.*
- *I will love my wife [seek the highest good for her and surround her with a caring, unselfish love], just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*
- *I will love their wife as [being in a sense] my own body; understanding that he who loves his own wife loves himself.*

The Husband's Vows

- *I will love my wife as my very own self; with behavior worthy of respect and esteem, always seeking the best for her with an attitude of lovingkindness*
- *I will live with my wife in an understanding way [with great gentleness and tact, and with an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship], as with someone physically weaker, since she is a woman. I show her honor and respect as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that my prayers will not be hindered or ineffective*

For the Wives:

- *Wives, how precious were and are you to God? Love your husband the same way*
- *Men need to feel values and appreciated (Eph. 4:33 & 1 Peter 1:2)*

1 Peter 3:1-2

• In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate, not as inferior, but out of respect for the responsibilities entrusted to husbands and their accountability to God, and so partnering with them] so that even if some do not obey the word [of God], they may be won over [to Christ] without discussion by the godly lives of their wives, ² when they see your modest and respectful behavior [together with your devotion and appreciation—love your husband, encourage him, and enjoy him as a blessing from God]. (AMP)

The Wife's Covenant

- *I will be subject to your own husbands, as [a service] to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as Christ is head of the church, Himself being the Savior of the body. I will respect both his position as protector and his responsibility to God as head of the house.*

The Wife's Covenant

- *I will be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate, not as inferior, but out of respect for the responsibilities entrusted to husbands and their accountability to God, and so partnering with them].*
- *I will respect and delight in my husband [noticing him and preferring him and treating him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear]*

- *Remember your spouse belongs to God before they belong to you*
- *What makes a good spouse? Someone who a love for God and love for their spouse and family and it must be in that order*
- *Your spouse will never love you completely and correctly until they first love God completely and correctly*

- *Above all keep Jesus at the center of your marriage and family.*

