



THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HUSBAND AND WIFE

A strong, blessed, and fruitful family is not built merely by finding the right person; it is built when husband and wife faithfully become the people God has called them to be. Our marriages will become stronger when we stop focusing only on what our spouse owes us and start focusing on what God requires of us.

Genesis 2:21–25 | Psalm 127:1

God is the architect of marriage. It is a covenant where two people become one under His governance—a relationship defined by mutual submission, love, and shared purpose rather than a competition for authority.

Between husband and wife, a strong and fruitful family requires three commitments.

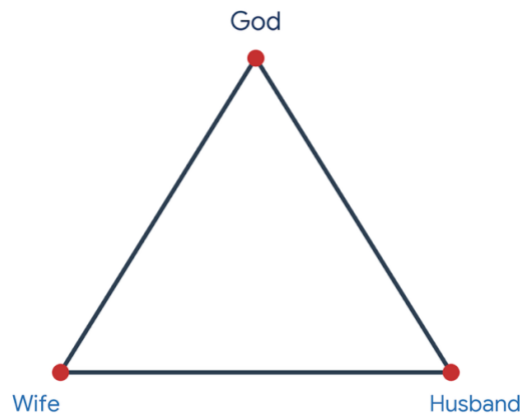
1. God must be honored
2. The husband must honor his biblical responsibilities
3. The wife must honor her biblical responsibilities.

Both the husband and wife must understand that their marriage is not primarily a competition for authority; it is a covenant of love, service, faithfulness, sacrifice, honor, and shared purpose.

The Primary Joint Requirement: Put God First

Joshua 24:15

Before fulfilling marital duties, both husband and wife must surrender to Christ. A marriage operates at its highest potential when centered on God, forming a strong spiritual foundation where both partners seek His wisdom and leadership above personal desires. The strongest triangle in marriage is God at the top, with the husband and wife beneath Him.



Responsibilities of the Husband

1. **Love Sacrificially:** Husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church. This standard calls for selfless service, protection, forgiveness, and care—never selfish domination or emotional neglect.

Ephesians 5:25–29

How did Christ love the church?

1. Christ served the church
2. Christ sacrificed for the church
3. He forgave the church
4. He protected the church
5. He gave Himself to the church



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6. Even when the church was not faithful to Him, He remained faithful to the church.

2. **Provide Servant Leadership:** Biblical headship mirrors Christ's leadership through humility and service. A husband provides spiritual direction, establishes godly standards, and values his wife's wisdom and counsel.

Husband leadership is a godly responsibility. You are to provide spiritual direction for your household. Always be ready to pray. Constantly encourage the Word of God to flow in the house. Consistently establish godly standards and participate in difficult decisions rather than abandoning responsibility to his wife.

Ephesians 5:23 | Mark 10:43–44

3. **Care and Provide for the Household:** Provision extends beyond finances. A husband must actively offer emotional security, spiritual coverage, physical presence, and daily affection. A godly husband should seek to provide material support, emotional security, spiritual encouragement and coverage, physical presence, protection, affection, and stability for his family. A husband can bring money home and still leave his family emotionally bankrupt.

1 Timothy 5:8

Responsibilities of the Wife

1. **Respect and Honor your Husband:** A wife is called to reverence her husband. Biblical respect means treating a husband with dignity, honoring his role, and avoiding public humiliation or contempt.

Ephesians 5:33 | Proverbs 12:4

Respect does not mean pretending a husband is always correct. Neither does it require tolerating abuse, coercion, or sin. Biblical respect means treating



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your husband with dignity and honor rather than contempt. You don't constantly belittle him. Don't publicly humiliate him. Don't weaponize his weakness. When correction is needed, speak truth with wisdom and love.

2. **Be a Godly Partner and Helper:** Created as a suitable counterpart, a wife serves as an essential companion who strengthens the home through prayer, discernment, and shared vision.

Genesis 2:18 | Psalm 121:1–2

A godly wife can strengthen her husband's life through her wisdom, discernment, prayers, faithfulness, and partnership.

3. **Practice Biblical Submission:** Submission reflects an ordered partnership under God, not inferior status or tolerance of harm. It is a willing alignment with God's structure, complementing her husband's sacrificial leadership.

Ephesians 5:21

Submission must always be observed in its biblical context. Biblical submission is not inferiority. It does not mean a wife has less value, intelligence, spiritual gifting, or importance. Nor does biblical submission mean obeying sinful demands or enduring abuse. Submission expresses an ordered partnership under Christ. The husband is simultaneously commanded not to exploit this responsibility but to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.

When both husband and wife obey Scripture, marriage becomes less about power and more about Christlike love.

Shared Responsibilities for Both Spouses

- **Discipline and Raise Children Together:** Parents must actively model faith, unity, and conflict resolution, discipling their children to know and serve God.

Proverbs 22:6

Parents are not merely raising children to become successful adults. Christian parents are discipling the next generation: the next leaders, presidents, governors, and entrepreneurs. Children should see Christianity practiced at home. They should witness God's love practiced at home. They should watch father and mother resolve disagreement in a godly manner. Your marriage is preaching a sermon to your children every day.

- **Support Each Other's Purpose:** Marriage should elevate each partner's potential. Spouses must encourage and assist one another in fulfilling their God-given callings.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Two are better than one. Marriage should not become the burial ground of one spouse's God-given potential. They should ask each other, What has God placed in your heart? How can I pray for you? How can I help you achieve your God-given assignments? And how can we accomplish God's purpose together?

- **Maintain Mutual Intimacy:** Physical intimacy belongs within the marriage covenant and must be approached with mutual affection, respect, and faithfulness, avoiding manipulation or neglect.



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1 Corinthians 7:3–5

Physical intimacy should not be weaponized or monopolized. Neither partner should allow outside relationships to destroy marital intimacy. Continuing to pursue one another is the best way to build a strong family.

Conclusion

A strong family is built when two imperfect people consistently surrender to a perfect God. Husband, love your wife. Wife, respect your husband; both of you forgive one another. Both of you communicate, and both of you remain faithful to each other and to God. Through sacrificial love, mutual respect, open communication, and forgiveness, a marriage becomes a fruitful light for future generations.



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STUDY NOTES