

Does God approve of your Marriage?

1. Marriage is created by God, and to be honored by everyone.

A. Hebrews 13:4 warns: *“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”*

B. I Timothy 4:3 says: *“They forbid people to marry...which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the Truth.”*

2. Commands to wives:

A. Ephesians 5:22-24: *“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) Notice this command is only to a wife and her husband; not to a woman and a man in general. So, if you don't think that there is a man alive you could submit to — don't get married!

(2) Notice that the man is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. Christ sets the guidelines, but He doesn't order us around, and never makes us do anything He hasn't done Himself. Christ doesn't physically force us to do what He says, He sets the example that we should follow.

B. Why should wives be subject to their husbands? I Corinthians 11:8,9: *“For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”*

C. The Bible also gives commands to widows:

(1) **I Timothy 5:14,15:** *“So, I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.”*

(2) **I Corinthians 7:39,40:** *“A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord (Christian). In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is — and I think that I have the Spirit of God.”*

D. The Bible also gives commands to the older women about marriage:

(1) **Titus 2:3-5:** *“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they*

live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God.”

3. Commands to husbands:

A. Ephesians 5:25-30: *“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 will be united to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

(1) How did you treat her when you were dating; trying to get her to marry you?

(2) There can be no double standard. Whatever you do for yourself, you do for your wife. This means that if you get a night out with your friends, she should get a night out with her friends. If you can buy things for you, she should be able to buy things for equal value for her.

B. I Peter 3:7 warns: *“Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”*

(1) This doesn't mean women are all physically *weaker* than men. This means that the husband is to treat his wife with the same *respect* he would give a weaker partner. Why do we open the door for her? Let her go first? Respect!

C. I Corinthians 11:3 adds: *“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) God made this rule in the beginning with Adam and Eve; but both husband and wife must keep all the commands for it to work!

4. Husbands and wives must respect each other's role in the marriage.

A. Ephesians 5:33: *“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”*

(1) Husbands must treat their wives as they would treat themselves, and not take advantage of their leadership role in the marriage.

(2) Wives must respect their husbands leadership role.

B. I Corinthians 7:3-5: *“The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self control.”*

(1) You must satisfy each other’s sexual desires, so Satan doesn’t tempt your spouse to look elsewhere for that satisfaction because of their lack of self control.

(2) You must also be there when your spouse needs you for support, comfort, help, companionship, or just to listen.

(3) **Mark 10:6-8** says that you are no longer two, but one body. So, if for whatever reason, the other half of your body needs you — you must be there.

C. But remember I Corinthians 11:11,12: *“In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.”*

(1) Take seriously the fact that the two of you became one. Don’t compete against your spouse (you’d be competing against yourself). Respect each other’s role in the marriage, and look upon your spouse as part of you. Use your differences as strengths that can compensate for each other’s weaknesses. This will make your union a stronger you.

(2) You need each other for a marriage to work! It can’t work if you both have your separate lives. You must have the same life with the same goals — one body!

(3) **Galatians 3:26-28** reminds us: *“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were united with Christ in baptism have been clothed with Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*