



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



DEVELOPING MARRIAGE ONENESS

I. GOD'S DESIGN FOR ONENESS (GENESIS 2:18, 20-25)

Companionship: A universal need for oneness

- It is not good for man to dwell alone. Adam needed someone who was equal in creation, someone who was spiritually alive and created in the image of God, someone like himself (Genesis. 2:18).
- We all have a need for love, acceptance, security and significance. After the Fall of man and his perfect communion with God was lost, sin, fear, rejection, and insecurity entered mankind (Genesis 3).
- We must understand that only Christ can meet my need for oneness completely. A relationship with Christ and a healthy identity in Him enables me to love myself properly and express that love to others (I John 4:7-11).

A Covenant Relationship: The basis of oneness

- Marriage was designed by God to fulfill the needs that He created within a person and to accomplish His will in the world. It was the first and most important act of God following creation. Therefore God designed marriage as a covenant to reflect both the unchanging and unconditional love that Jesus Christ has for each one of us.

Covenant vs. Contract Marriage

In today's society, marriage is often regarded as a legal contract between a man and a woman. While this certainly is true, God regards the marriage relationship as more than just a legal contract between a man and a woman. It is a covenant relationship between God and the couple. It cannot be broken. Notice some of the decisive distinctions between a contract marriage and a covenant marriage:

Covenant Marriage	Contract Marriage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established with God • Based on trust • Parties commit in spite of circumstances (vows) • Honoring commitment in spite of breach (unlimited responsibility) • Unconditional commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established between people • Based on distrust • Protect parties in case of default • Can be broken because of breach (limited liability) • No obligation to keep

Criteria For A Successful Marriage: Maintaining oneness

- Both the husband and wife need to leave Mom and Dad- physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and financially (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7-9).
- They need to bond together in such a way that they become one.
- They must have no unresolved issues between themselves and God, so that intimacy and transparency are the norm for their relationship (Acts 24:16; 1 John 1:5-9).

II. LEVELS OF CONFLICT IN A MARRIAGE

Marital Surface Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of understanding • Difficult time in communication • Lack of trust • Lack of genuine giving • Lack of love 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of respect • Lack of romance • Little or no desire in enjoying to be with each other • Financial problems
Surface Cause	<p>Wives Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closeness • Openness • Understanding • Peacemaking • Loyalty • Esteem <p>• <i>Reaction to Unmet Needs</i> • <i>Person Feels Rejection</i></p>	<p>Husbands Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conquest • Hierarchy • Authority • Insight • Relationship • Sexuality

<p style="text-align: center;">Root Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongholds • Blind Spots • Generational Tendencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride <i>(Jas. 4:6; Prov. 3:5-7)</i> • Rejection <i>(Matt. 5:22; 18:5-6; Jas. 3:9-12)</i> • Bitterness <i>(Eph 4:26,27,31,32)</i> • Performance-based Acceptance (doing vs. being) <i>(Gal. 2:20; John 15:1-10)</i> • Unresolved guilt, fear, anger, and anxiety <i>(1 Tim. 1:18-19; Acts 24:16)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebellion <i>(1 Sam. 15:23; Rom 13:1)</i> • Idolatry & Generational Strongholds (sexual sin, unhealthy soul ties, sinful habits, temporal values, cult, occult) <i>(Gal. 5:19-21)</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Root Cause</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Walking in the Flesh vs. Walking in the Spirit Galatians 5:16</i></p>	<p>Our flesh is selfish to its very core and always manifests itself in sinful behavior (<i>Romans 7:18</i>). Our flesh is incapable of pleasing God and bringing life (<i>Galatians 6:8</i>). Marriage like no other relationship will cause me to deny myself. For us to be doers of the Word, we must learn to live out of our new heart in Christ. Paul describes it as walking in the Spirit (<i>Galatians 5:16</i>).</p>	

III. MEETING NEEDS OF HUSBANDS & WIVES IN DEVELOPING ONENESS

Inherent within every husband and wife are God-given needs that God intended to be met, first in Himself and secondly through their spouse. As each spouse looks first to God to meet these needs in their lives, they will find a greater capacity to meet these needs in their spouse.

Wife

Needs love & security (“I am safe enough”)

- A wife who feels insecure will be greatly influenced by fear, and will begin to try to control her husband and family to help her meet her needs for security. Her controlling will never bring about what she needs and she will become very frustrated and begin to react in anger. This will only make matters worse, undermining the very thing she needs as her husband reacts to her controlling behavior.
- Because fear is a very powerful emotion, Satan will use fear in a woman’s emotions to deceive her. She must learn that not everything she feels is true. Fear is the antithesis of faith.
- Ultimately, the wife must find her needs for security by trusting in God with her fears and concerns.

It is imperative that the husband understand his wife’s needs and do his best to meet them as God intends. If he fails, he makes her vulnerable to more spiritual and emotional attacks.

Six Needs of a Wife that Helps Her to Feel Loved and Secure

Adapted from Love & Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Closeness - A wife wants her husband to be close to her.

- Deuteronomy 24:5 *“When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.”*
- Song of Solomon 3:4 - *“...but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother’s house...”*

Openness - A wife wants her husband to open up to her.

- Song of Solomon 2:10 - *“My beloved spoke, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.”*
- Ephesians 4:25—*“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.”*

Understanding - A wife does not want her husband to fix her, but to listen and understand her.

- Malachi 2:15 - *“...Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth...”*
- 1 Peter 3:7 - *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*

Peacemaking - A wife wants her husband to say, “Will you forgive me?”

- Colossians 3:19 - *“Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”*
- Ephesians 4: 29-32 - *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*

Loyalty - A wife wants to know her husband is committed.

- Proverbs 5:15-20 - *“Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers’ with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.”*
- Malachi 2:14-16 - *“Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not He make one? Yet had He the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That He might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that He hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.”*

Esteem - A wife wants to know her husband honors and cherishes her.

- Proverbs 31:11 - *“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.”*
- Ephesians 5:25 *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”*

Husband

Needs respect & affirmation (“I am good enough.”)

- A husband who does not feel affirmation will often look to success, work, money, and approval from other women to find it.
- Satan will use a man’s pride to deceive him with the lie, “It’s all up to me.” This lie, when acted upon, causes a man to live life totally dependent on his own resources instead of God. Consequently, he becomes deceived and lean on their own understanding and wisdom.
- A husband ultimately must find his affirmation in his identity in Christ and not in his performance.
- A husband needs to have a multigenerational vision for his marriage and family.

Six Needs of a Husband that Help Him Feel Respected

Adapted from Love & Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Conquest - A wife needs to appreciate her husband’s desire to work and achieve.

- Genesis 2:15 *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”*

Hierarchy - A wife needs to appreciate her husband’s desire to protect and provide.

- Ephesians 5:22,23 *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”*

Authority - A wife needs to appreciate her husband’s desire to serve and lead.

- Nehemiah 4:14 - *“And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”*
- 1 Peter 3:1- *“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives”*

Insight-A wife needs to appreciate her husband’s desire to analyze and counsel.

- 2 Corinthians 11:3 - *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

- 1 Timothy 2:11-14 - *“Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”*

Relationship - A wife needs to appreciate her husbands desire for shoulder-to-shoulder friendship.

- Proverbs 31:11,12 - *“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”*
- Genesis 2:18 - *“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.”*

Sexuality - A wife needs to appreciate her husbands desire for sexual intimacy.

- Song of Solomon 1-8
- 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 - *“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”*

PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you tend to focus on the surface problems in your marriage?
2. Do you find difficulty in meeting your spouse’s needs when you feel neglected? What can you do to change that?
3. What areas of your life do you need to improve to better demonstrate Love and Respect to your spouse?
4. Do you find it difficult to be a doer of God’s Word in how you relate to your spouse?
5. Are there some root problems in your life that hinder you from having the oneness that God designed? What are they? Are you willing to repent or go to the pain to resolve them?

